



# Península de Nicoya

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## Why Go?

You don't need an excuse to explore this wild peninsula, though there are plenty. Maybe you're here to sample sapphire waters that peel left and right, and curl into perfect barrels up and down the coast. Or you could always dive, snorkel, fish or paddle in the life-affirming Pacific that will enliven your soul. Afterward, burn days and nights hiking through jungle, spot nesting leatherbacks, or bound across rugged roads, fording rivers and navigating ridges with massive coastal views. Fear not. There's no shortage of groovy boutique nests, yoga studios and tasteful kitchens to nourish and shelter you between adventures. Point is, whether you've set aside days or weeks, your excuse matters a whole lot less than what you do with it.

## Best Places to Eat

- » Koji's (p271)
- » Playa de los Artistas (p265)
- » Restaurant Mary (p272)
- » Cocolores (p265)
- » Villa Deveena (p233)
- » Rip Jack Inn (p221)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Florblanca (p270)
- » Moana Lodge (p272)
- » Hotel Amor de Mar (p263)
- » Refugio del Sol (p244)
- » Las Avellanas Villas (p232)

## When to Go

The northern Península de Nicoya has one of the driest climates in Costa Rica, although rainfall does peak during the green season of September and October when swollen rivers make some regions impassable. But that's also when the peninsula is at its most lush and the roads and sky aren't nearly as dusty. It's when whales are migrating and prices are cheap. Yes, even wet season is glorious here.

## Península de Nicoya Highlights

- 1 Catch the morning swell and perfecting afternoon asanas in **Nosara** (p239)
- 2 Ford rivers and navigate the coastal 4WD tracks between **Samara** (p247) and **Santa Teresa** (p268)
- 3 Hike to the tip of the peninsula at **Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco** (p267)
- 4 Surf luscious breaks at **Playas Grande** (p220) and **Negra** (p231)
- 5 Explore the pristine waters of **Mal Pais** (p268)
- 6 Sample **Koji's** (p271) sensational sushi in Santa Teresa
- 7 Glimpse the hulking **leatherbacks** on Playa Grande



0 20 km  
0 10 miles