



Península de Nicoya

Includes ➔

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Why Go?

Maybe you've come to the Península de Nicoya to sample the sapphire waters that peel left and right, curling into perfect barrels up and down the coast. Or perhaps you just want to hunker down on a pristine patch of sand and soak up some sun. By day, you might ramble down rugged roads, fording rivers and navigating ridges with massive coastal views. By night, you can spy on nesting sea turtles or take a midnight dip in the luxuriant Pacific. In between adventures, you'll find no shortage of boutique bunks, tasty kitchens and indulgent spas to shelter and nourish body and soul. Whether you come for the thrills or just to chill, the Nicoya Peninsula delivers. You'll find that the days (or weeks, or months) drift away on ocean breezes, disappearing all too quickly.

When to Go

- ➔ 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 roads impassable.
- ➔ September and October is when the peninsula is at its most lush: the air isn't nearly as dusty, the whales are migrating and prices are cheap. Yes, even wet season is glorious here.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mamasa (p303)
- ➔ Green Papaya (p309)
- ➔ Koji's (p347)
- ➔ Playa de los Artistas (p341)

Most Beautiful Beaches

- ➔ Playa Conchal (p300)
- ➔ Playa Junquillal (p313)
- ➔ Playa Carrillo (p327)
- ➔ Playa San Miguel (p329)
- ➔ Playa Cocolito (p339)

Península de Nicoya Highlights

- 1 Catching the morning swell and relish afternoon asanas in **Nosara** (p318).
- 2 Fording rivers and navigating the coastal 4WD tracks between **Santa Teresa** (p344) and **Sámara** (p323).
- 3 Hiking to the tip of the peninsula at **Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco** (p343).
- 4 Surfing luscious breaks at **Playas Grande** (p301) and **Negra** (p312).
- 5 Delighting your sweetheart with a romantic dinner at **Playa de los Artistas** (p341) in Montezuma.
- 6 Sitting beneath the palms at **Playa Carrillo** (p327) and watching the sun set.
- 7 Glimpsing the turtles on **Playa Grande** (p301) and at the **Refugio Nacional de Fauna Silvestre Ostional** (p322).



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