



Península de Nicoya

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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Quinta Esencia (p295)
- ➔ Villa Mango B&B (p316)
- ➔ Costa Rica Yoga Spa (p317)
- ➔ Camp SuperTramp (p321)

Most Beautiful Beaches

- ➔ Playa Conchal (p298)
- ➔ Playa Junquillal (p309)
- ➔ Playa Carrillo (p324)
- ➔ Playa San Miguel (p326)

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

- ➔ During September and October, peak rainfalls swell rivers, making some roads impassable.
- ➔ The peninsula is at its most lush in September and October: the air isn't nearly as dusty, the whales are migrating and prices are cheap.
- ➔ From May to November, accommodations rates are lower. Prices rise significantly during holiday weeks (Christmas, New Year's and Easter).

Península de Nicoya Highlights

- 1 Diving down deep to spy on sea turtles, manta rays and bull sharks at **Playa del Coco** (p288).
- 2 Catching morning swells and relishing afternoon asanas in **Nosara** (p312).
- 3 Marveling at Mother Nature's ways in **Refugio Nacional de Fauna Silvestre Ostional** (p319) during *arribada*, the mass arrival of nesting ridley turtles.
- 4 Sitting beneath the palms at **Playa Carrillo** (p324) and watching a spectacular sunset.
- 5 Devouring delectable *ceviche* and ice-cold *cerveza* at **LocosCocos** (p327) on a postcard-perfect beach.
- 6 Surfing luscious breaks and feasting on farm-fresh cooking in **Mal País** and **Santa Teresa** (p328).
- 7 Kayaking and swimming in the bioluminescent waters of **Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Curú** (p343).
- 8 Hiking to a wilderness beach at the tip of the peninsula at **Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco** (p335).

