



Southern Costa Rica & Península de Osa

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Puerto Jiménez.	445
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Best Ec lodges

- ➔ Danta Corcovado Lodge (p452)
- ➔ El Remanso Lodge (p445)
- ➔ Esquinas Rainforest Lodge (p455)
- ➔ Luna Lodge (p443)

Best Off-the-Beaten-Track

- ➔ Parque Internacional La Amistad (p425)
- ➔ Reserva Biológica Dúrika (p420)
- ➔ Reserva Indígena Boruca (p420)
- ➔ Playas San Josecito, Nicuesa & Cativo (p456)

Why Go?

From the chilly heights of Cerro Chirripó (3820m) to the steamy coastal jungles of the Península de Osa, this sector of Costa Rica encompasses some of the country's least-explored and least-developed land. Vast tracts of wilderness remain untouched in Parque Internacional La Amistad, and the country's most visible indigenous groups – the Bribri, Cabécar, Boruc and Ngöbe – maintain traditional ways of living in their remote territories.

Quetzal sightings around San Gerardo de Dota are not unusual, and scarlet macaw appearances throughout the coastal region are the norm. Besides the easily spotted birds, and monkeys, sloths and coatis roaming the region's abundant parks and reserves, in Parque Nacional Corcovado there's also the rare chance to spy on slumbering tapir. Meanwhile, the rugged coasts of the Golfo Dulce and Península de Osa captivate travelers with abandoned wilderness beaches, world-class surf and opportunities for rugged exploration. This is the land for intrepid travelers yearning for something truly wild.

When to Go

- ➔ Trekking in Corcovado, and also up Cerro Chirripó is best during the dry season (late December through March).
- ➔ Surfing is at its best in Pavones during the April to October rainy season, though there are beginner waves year-round.
- ➔ The best time for quetzal sightings is during the nesting season between February and May, which also coincides with the fruiting of the wild avocado, their favorite food.

Southern Costa Rica & Península de Osa Highlights

- 1 Hiking the remote coast and rich rainforest of **Parque Nacional Corcovado** (p439), the country's premier wilderness experience.
- 2 Climbing atop Costa Rica's tallest peak to watch the sunrise from **Cerro Chirripó** (p416).
- 3 Catching a ride on one of the world's longest left breaks at the slow-paced surfing paradise of **Pavones** (p457).
- 4 Looking for resplendently feathered quetzals in the cool highlands of **San Gerardo de Dota** (p409).
- 5 Snorkeling, hiking and wildlife-spotting along the wild coast of **Bahía Drake** (p429).
- 6 Celebrating the vibrant **Fiesta de los Diablitos** (p421) at the Reserva Indígena Boruca.
- 7 Immersing yourself in rural tourism at the former gold-mining villages of **Dos Brazos** (p449) and **Rancho Quemado** (p435).
- 8 Contemplating the mysteries of the pre-Columbian stone spheres at **Sitio Arqueológico Finca 6** (p427).



Parque Nacional Isla del Coco