

# 10 facts you never knew about Costa Rica

Submitted by: Headwater

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To judge Costa Rica purely on its natural bounty would be a mistake. For the kindness of the people is as integral as the rainforest.

Fact 1 : Costa Rica is rated 76.1 on the Happy Planet Index making it the happiest place in the world!

Fact 2 : Instead of saying "my other half", Costa Ricans (or Ticos as they are locally known) often refer to their partner as their "media naranja" or "the other half of their orange"!

Fact 3 : Costa Rica has no military.

Fact 4 : At 7am every morning, all Costa Rican radio stations broadcast exactly the same programme. It starts with the National Anthem, and then provides the government and official authorities a way to transmit messages and information nationwide.

Fact 5 : Costa Rica has a literacy rate of 97%, the highest in Latin America

Fact 6 : The meter in a taxi is known as the Maria - apparently a loose reference to the honesty of the Virgin Mary!

Fact 7 : 12% of the total land area in Costa Rica lies within 25 national Parks, and 25% of the total land has protected status.

Fact 8 : Costa Rica is the oldest democracy in Latin America.

Fact 9 : There are few street names and virtually no addresses in Costa Rica! Directions are universally given by reference to buildings or local landmarks (even if they have been pulled down 30 years ago!). The Catholic Church (which for some reason always faces west) is the most usual point of reference, closely followed by the cemetery!

Fact 10 : Although Costa Rica is only just over 51,000km<sup>2</sup>, it boasts nearly 500,000 species, representing 4% of the world's total expected biodiversity.

We all know that visiting a country is the only way to really ever get under its skin and understand what makes it "tick". So visit our website to plan your holiday in Costa Rica (<http://www.headwater.com/holidays/walking/costarica/W12RC.htm>), or call us today on 01606 720199.

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