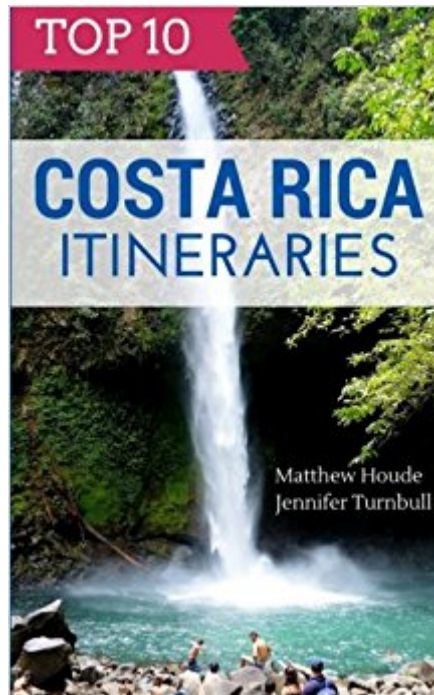




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# Top 10 Costa Rica Itineraries



## Synopsis

Make travel planning fast and easy with Top 10 Costa Rica Itineraries. Costa Rica travel experts Matthew Houde and Jennifer Turnbull show you the best of Costa Rica in ten customized itineraries.

The goal of this straightforward guide is to help you jump-start the planning process. Simply pick an itinerary based on your interests (e.g., wildlife, beaches, family travel) to discover where to visit in one or two weeks. Each itinerary (1) provides a general overview of destinations so that you know what to expect, (2) highlights the must-see activities and attractions, and (3) recommends the best order for your travels. A Transportation Guide answers your questions about how to get around and provides the main transportation options for each itinerary. The beauty of this simple guide is that it condenses what would normally be a 500-page guidebook into easy-to-read text to help you plan your vacation quickly and efficiently. What's Included: One and two-week itineraries with detailed descriptions, insider tips, and photos on: The Best of Costa Rica Authentic Costa Rica Adventure Surfing Wildlife Birding Family Fun Eco-trekking Guanacaste Beaches Costa Rica and Panama

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jennifer Turnbull and Matthew Houde moved from the United States to Costa Rica in 2013 and have been traveling the country ever since. Always on the lookout for that hidden waterfall or beach, they have lived in eight different towns so far and have explored dozens more. Jennifer and Matthew are also the authors of *Two Weeks in Costa Rica*, a travelogue that was published in 2012. To learn more, visit their website [twoweeksincostarica.com](http://twoweeksincostarica.com), where they share articles about traveling and living in Costa Rica.

I've been traveling a lot since last year, with very little time during trips to plan my Costa Rica adventure. I was stressed out because I'm a planner, but I didn't have enough time to read a big guide book before leaving for my trip. I was thrilled when I found out the authors, Matt and Jenn, were releasing a guide/itinerary book just in time for me to plan my trip and make the necessary reservations. I had already read their previous book "Two Weeks in Costa Rica" (which is an enjoyable must-read, by the way), and was excited to read this new book, especially because Matt and Jenn know Costa Rica extremely well. Not only have they been traveling there for years, they've been living in Costa Rica, permanently, since 2013. And that's exactly the kind of guidebooks I like to read, written by people who know the place I'm going to visit intimately. I leave for Costa Rica in a couple of days, and I'm totally relaxed. I used the guidebook to choose my itinerary and pick a few activities related to the areas I will be visiting. It couldn't have been easier. The guidebook is so well organized and clearly written, that I chose my itinerary in no time at all. Right from the Table of Contents, you'll see there are 10 itineraries available, tailored to what kind of trip you want - everything from a 'Birding' itinerary to 'Eco-Trekking,' 'Surfing,' 'Family Fun,' etc. I chose the 'Best of Costa Rica,' since it's my first time there. Each itinerary section lists and describes activities, whether you're planning a 1-week or 2-week trip. You also get insightful tips, highlights, and must-see attractions. Aside from being able to pick out my itinerary and activities in a relatively short time, I was also able to decide on what mode of transportation I'd be using fairly quickly. The guidebook lists transportation options for each itinerary, providing information such as what types of transportation methods are available for your itinerary, as well as cost, estimated time of travel, and even a short description of the road conditions. All very useful information so that you can compare which mode of transportation is best, based on your budget, available time, and sense of adventure. From the Table of Contents, you can also choose to go directly to the "Activities Guide" section, where you'll get additional information on the many activities available depending on where you're going to be, including (when possible) business hours, website, information on tours (cost and duration). All is easily accessible by just clicking on the links provided. If you're planning a trip to Costa Rica, I highly recommend getting this guidebook to plan your adventures. It's easy and fun to read - and best of all, you can have your whole trip planned by getting the best information from a "local couple." They even have a website, which they constantly update with new information: <http://www.twoweeksincostarica.com> - and a forum (accessible from their web page), where you can ask them questions directly.

There isn't as much detail as I'd like about actually planning the itineraries. The itin I plan to do (and

most people do) is the first one... highlights. It's maybe 10 pages, but isn't super detailed. I'd have liked some more help from this book regarding planning transportation (company names, #s, etc.) and excursions, but it was easy enough to find online. It's kind of fun to read the other itineraries though I won't be visiting the more remote parts of CR. This is a good book for people who want to do things off the beaten track, perhaps. But don't expect a lot of help with booking... you aren't provided too many details regarding companies in CR that can help. Other more detailed guides (frommers, etc.) will likely be more helpful.

I read Matt and Jenn's book before going to Costa Rica and it was really helpful in getting some feel for a general itinerary. I've traveled quite a bit and have always relied on public transportation in other countries. This trip had me leaning towards driving myself but with a lot of uncertainty about how it would be. At first, it seemed pretty daunting (especially alone) as there is a lot of talk of the bad roads and just general trouble getting around in CR. Reading through the book helped clarify some expectations quite a bit. I didn't actually follow the book's itinerary exactly but I based in around a few of the places recommended in their "Best of Costa Rica" section and filled a few in on my own around the country. I was back and forth on getting a 4x4 but the book steered me in the direction of getting one. I was glad I did because it really opened up the possibility to do basically whatever I wanted (at least comfortably in the dry season). If you are on the fence about going to CR, driving, what to do, etc, I would recommend getting a copy of this book to help you sort through it. It's easy to read and broken down the type of trip you are looking for (adventure, surf, best of..., etc) You might find that you don't need to get a 4x4 and can save \$. Or you might find that you want one. The good thing about the itinerary book is that the travel between towns is broken down for you (public transportation vs. drive your own and also what kind of vehicle you'll need if you do). Recommendations: Buy the book. Read the book. Go to Costa Rica!

Great resource, the book and website were excellent tools for our trip. Better than Fodors with more timely information about the best places.

Very helpful in planning our trip. We picked and chosed from the itineraries and came up with our own, but the information was invaluable.

Just got it but a quick flick through seems to point to a useful and nicely presented travel guide.

Loved it!

Itineraries make any trip: knowing what to prioritize & how to use every minute to savor the magic. This clear, well-categorized (best of, family, wildlife, birding, beaches..) gem let our family plan well, even fairly last-minute, and balance our dream itineraries. Delightful as a book, a bargain on Kindle. Thank you.

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