



PREEMPTIVE
Feb 2019
San José, Costa Rica

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL AVE DEL PARAÍSO

- Option A: Use the orange taxis at the airport. For a better service, you can reserve in the following link (available in English):



Approximate time: 50 minutes

- Option B: Use the Uber application
Approximate time: 50 minutes
Estimated cost: ₡10.000 – ₡17.000 ≈ \$16 - \$28
(groups of maximum 6 persons)

ABOUT COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a democratic and became independent from Spain in 1821. It is known for having one of the most stable democracies in Latin America and being one of the few countries in the world that doesn't have an army. Its government is composed of 3 branches that are elected every 4 years: the

executive (president), the legislative (congress) and the judicial power. The president of the country is Carlos Alvarado Quesada, who is 39 years old and assumed the country's administration from 2018 until 2022. On the other hand, Costa Rica is geopolitically divided in 7 provinces: San José (the capital), Cartago, Alajuela, Heredia, Guanacaste, Puntarenas and Limón. Each province is divided in cantons, and each Canton is divided in districts.



Costa Rica's border countries are Nicaragua at north, and Panamá at South. The main population and economic center of the country is located in the Central Valley, where the principal cities of the provinces of San José, Cartago, Heredia and Alajuela are located. It is estimated, at June 2018, that the population of the country is 5.003.402 inhabitants (INEC, 2018). The main productive activities of the country are agriculture (bananas, pineapple and coffee) and tourism.

The highest peak of the country is the "Cerro Chirripó" (3820 meters), and is located in the Talamanca mountain range, which is also the largest in the country (SINAC, n.d.). In addition, it has an important amount of active volcanoes that constitute great centers of tourist attraction, for example: Arenal, Irazú, Poás, Turrialba, Rincón de la Vieja, among others.

The country is located in a tropical zone, where the climate has two well-defined seasons: dry (November to April), and rainy (May to October). The temperature is usually between 15 and 35 °C.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA

It is one of the main centers of public higher education in the country and is one of the most prestigious and recognized universities in Latin America. It was founded in 1940 and currently consists of 10 regional campuses located throughout the country (UCR, n.d.). It covers a wide variety of areas of knowledge from arts and social sciences to engineering and health sciences.

The main campus is located in the town of San Pedro, which belongs to Montes de Oca Canton. The main campus is divided in four different areas:

- The "Ciudad Universitaria" (University City) Rodrigo Facio, where most of the educational buildings are located
- The City of Research, which houses various research centers and has currently been used for the expansion and transfer of many academic areas
- The Sportive Facilities
- "Finca 4" or "Guaimí Forest", which constitutes a protected area of primary forest

ABOUT LANAMME UCR

It is an academic research entity of the University of Costa Rica that not only provides educational support to the School of Civil Engineering and does research related to civil works, but also provides external services of laboratory tests, technical advice and education, among others (Lanamme, n.d.).

The laboratory is divided into 3 main areas:

- a. Construction Laboratory: it is subdivided into 3 laboratories:
 - Concrete: tests of aggregates, cements, masonry, steel and other less conventional materials such as plastics, organic fibers, rubber, among others.
 - Geotechnics: routine tests on soils and rocks. It has 2 automated triaxial machines, which makes it the only laboratory in the country that provides external services in this trial.
 - Structures: natural scale tests of beams, walls, concrete pipes, among other structures. At the same time, it has a reduced scale laboratory.
- b. Transport and pavement laboratory: provides services in characterization and design of pavement structures as well as functional evaluation of existing pavements.
- c. Force Laboratory: provides services in terms of calibration of machines and force instruments as well as capacitation in force metrology.

On the other hand, the main research programs of the laboratory are:

- Structural engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Seismic Engineering
- Natural risk management.

More information can be found at:



REFERENCES

- Lanamme, UCR. (n.d.). Laboratorio Nacional de Materiales y Modelos Estructurales. ¿Qué es el LANAMMEUCR? Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/2AOcxQn>
- SINAC. (n.d.). Parque Nacional Chirripó. Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/2D9Pb9f>
- UCR. (n.d.). Acerca de la U. Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/2QMWojt>

