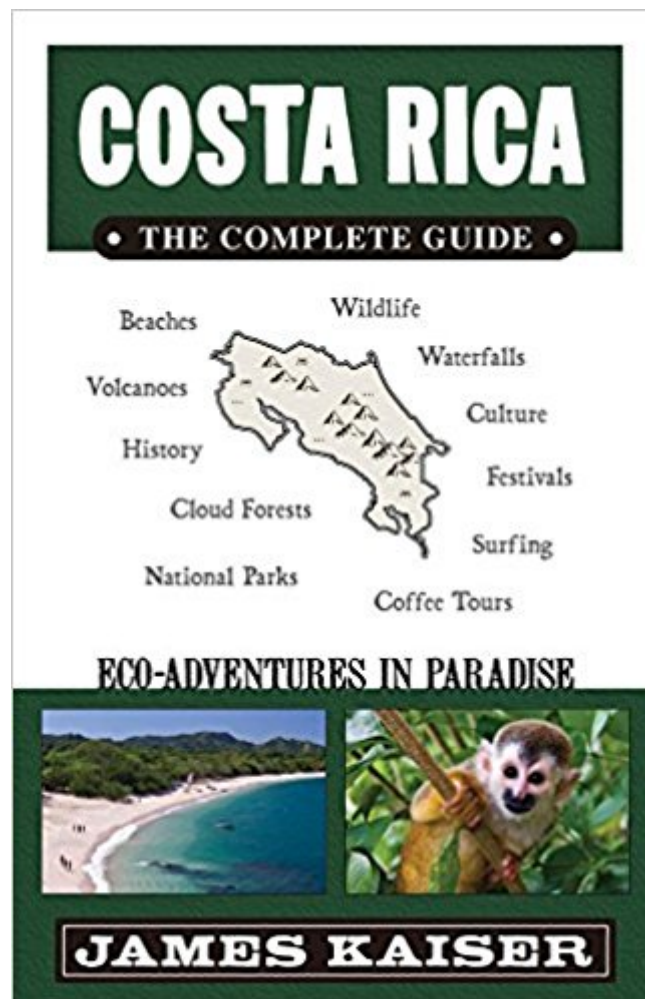




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# Costa Rica: The Complete Guide: Eco-adventures In Paradise



## Synopsis

From pristine beaches and jungle waterfalls to high-altitude coffee plantations, award-winning author and photographer James Kaiser shows readers the best of Costa Rica, including the country's stunning collection of national parks. Filled with rich details and hundreds of high-quality color photographs, this guide, which provides fascinating chapters on the country's unique history, culture, ecology, and wildlife, is sure to appeal to anyone looking for more than just restaurant and hotel reviews. Giving travelers everything they need to plan an unforgettable trip, this resource also includes a "Top 10 Ways to Avoid a Cultural Misunderstanding" that helps visitors avoid common, and potentially embarrassing, cultural mistakes. \* 5% of this book's profits will be donated to environmental organizations working to preserve Costa Rica's biodiversity for future generations\*  
Printed on sustainable FSC paper

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## Customer Reviews

"This brand new guide book fully does this land of 'eco-adventures in paradise' justice. The author sets out to provide a guide that will allow visitors to make the most of their vacation in Costa Rica and succeeds gloriously, vividly with a mix of I-want-to-be-right-there photography and text that is both practical and beguiling. In short: a tour de force in travel guides."-Chris Robinson, The Chris Robinson Travel Show

James Kaiser is an award-winning travel writer and photographer and the author of *Acadia: The Complete Guide*, *Grand Canyon: The Complete Guide*, *Joshua Tree: The Complete Guide*, and

## Yosemite: The Complete Guide.

I have several other guidebooks to Costa Rica. I find this book to be different than the others in that this book reads differently. I read the entire book in one sitting because it was so interesting and gave me a "feel" of Costa Rica rather than just tidbits of information. I know this because I traveled throughout Costa Rica on 3 separate trips in 2012 as my partner and I will be moving to a piece of property we bought at the entrance of Cabo Blanco. Though we were able to navigate some interesting and remote areas of Costa Rica without this guide, it would have been that much better if we had this book during those trips. We're going to the Corcovado area in April and appreciate the information in Kaiser's guide as he includes up-to-date information that we haven't seen in the other guide. The photographs in the book are beautiful and the area maps are also great. Kaiser also provides great cultural information for the traveler, which we will definitely use on our next trip. You cannot go wrong with this book. You can tell that Kaiser loves Costa Rica and that he took the time to absorb the country and eloquently relay that information to his audience. We also recommend this book to those who are thinking about moving to Costa Rica because there is valuable information about the customs, animals, history, and practicalities about living in Costa Rica.

My wife and I have just returned from 2 weeks in Costa Rica and had a fabulous time. We used James Kaiser's book to plan the trip as well as a reference during the trip and found it enormously helpful. Right away I could tell that his sensibilities were in line with ours. He focused on presenting an authentic and complete experience of Costa Rica. We followed his recommendations for visiting some of the less touristed places as well as the not-to-miss sites such as Monteverde. Cahuita on the south Caribbean coast and Rio Celeste up north are two such recommendations that we particularly enjoyed. He also provided some very practical and useful information on driving, eating, transportation and money as well as an overview of the history and culture of the country. And his photography of this beautiful country gave us images to dream on as the trip grew near. I emailed James as I was in the planning stages, on a whim, telling myself not to count on a reply, but he replied the very next day and we had a 3 or 4 email exchange that was invaluable in buttoning down our itinerary and greatly appreciated. So if you are thinking of going to Costa Rica, get this guidebook! You won't be disappointed.

I tried one of James Kaiser's books previously (Yosemite) and returned it when I discovered it included mostly pretty photos, but no trail outlines, maps, or pertinent information. I read the reviews

for his Costa Rica book and thought I'd give him a second try... again no such luck :)Pros: provides some insider info (i.e... bring water, they don't sell it here), insight into local people, money, cultural differencesCons: nonspecific unhelpful maps (they're under the covers of the book and aren't useful on your trip), the book is heavy (it's printed on heavy paper, and it's thick. I shouldn't have brought it on the trip), Tour spot information provides insight but lacks concrete info (Maps)Example: "Ok we're in Tarcoles, is this where the bridge is?" "Not sure, check the guide book?" "/flips to Traceless page..." no map. no other information other than "You will see x y z here, and it's kind of neat. 2 mi south of this other place." We had to use some deductive reasoning to figure out that if we got to the other place (the Carerra park, we'd go 2mi south to Tarcoles River Bridge, but still shouldn't the guide book just say "Turn to page 53 for a map"? or even... At the town of Tarcoles, on route 19359135, go 2mi north.)Sorry, no dice.

Oh my goodness...I love this book.I'm a "planner". A "list-maker". A "researcher".I have started so many different books/resources...lost interest in them...and stopped reading them over the years after the first couple of chapters.Many travel books read like mere "lists". However enthused you are about them...after several pages of listed restaurants...listed hotels...listed excursions...you stop actually READING them in favor of LOOKING at them and turning pages.Not this book. Interesting...insights not seen in other travel books...a healthy (and needed) bit of history/culture/politics/etc.Best travel book I've ever read. I would recommend it emphatically to anyone interested in traveling to Costa Rica. I lived there for a month and went back one other time for a week...and still learned SO MUCH about the country, its people, and about tourism opportunities from this.Highly recommend...pura vida!

James Kaiser is a wonderful author and an amazing photographer. This guide book captures both of his talents perfectly. The information in this book is organized by region. By the time I finished reading it, I knew exactly where I wanted to spend most of my time in Costa Rica. My family and I are heading for Manuel Antonio in February, and I will definitely be bringing this book with me.Guide books are generally bullet lists of hotels, restaurants and attractions. Kaiser's book is more of a narrative of the five years he spent exploring and researching this country. It is written with passion, and an obvious love for the region. There are 150 pages dedicated to the history, culture, adventure opportunities, and practical matters related to getting around the country and blending in with the locals. The other 300+ pages describe the seven different regions of the country. Each of these sections of the book contains valuable information about the towns, parks, beaches, and adventure

tours located within each region. Kaiser does provide several recommendations for restaurants, lodging, and tour guides, but this book is much more than a list. It's a novel about one man's adventure of a lifetime.

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