The power of together

Costa Rica Tourism 2018 Blogger Trip Report

May 2019

Project Summary

In 2018, on behalf of ICT, Four Travel organised a blogger / influencer trip to Costa Rica to promote the country's lesser-known areas. The theme of the trip was "off the beaten track".

The following four bloggers and influencers were secured:

- 1. Chloe Gunning Wanderlust Chloe (blogger)
- 2. Marta Rusinowska <u>A Girl Who Travels</u> (blogger)
- 3. Neel Patel <u>Flunking Monkey</u> (influencer)
- 4. Allan Hinton Chaiwalla (influencer)



Press Trip Itinerary

The press trip itinerary included:

- Arrival and overnight in San José
- Orosí
 - Gallinita Feliz Farm
 - Orosí Colonial Church
 - Orosí al Natural Spa
 - Rafting
- San Gerardo de Dota
- Osa Peninsula
 - Hiking in Corcovado National Park
 - Tabacon hot springs
 - La Fortuna waterfall
- Alajuela
 - Toro Waterfall
 - Zarcero Church



Wanderlust Chloe



Wanderlust Chloe

Blog: 125,000 MUU Instagram: 24,000 Facebook: 6,000 Twitter: 13,000

Summary of activity:

- 2 blog posts
- 7 Instagram posts
- Daily Instagram stories (+50)
- 25 Tweets
- 16 Facebook posts



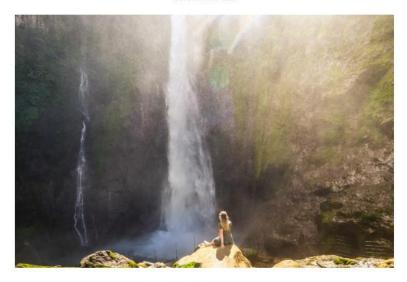
A top UK travel blog for lovers of adventure, food, luxury and more ———



Blog: Wanderlust Chloe

TWO WEEKS IN COSTA RICA: THE ULTIMATE COSTA RICA

10th December 2018





From the epic volcanoes at Arenal and zip lining in Monteverde, to the wildlife on the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, it's time for the ultimate two weeks in Costa Rica.

I've just returned from my SECOND trip to Costa Rica. While I saw a lot on my first visit in 2014, it definitely left me wanting more! A few weeks ago I received my Costa Rica itinerary and wow did it look AMAZING. The big attraction? The fact it would take me to places I'd never been before, including Corcovado National Park – one of the world's top destinations for spotting wildlife.

Two Weeks In Costa Rica: The Ultimate Costa Rica Itinerary

To design this Costa Rica itinerary, I've selected my top seven places from both of my trips and suggested how many days to spend in each. Obviously, with travel time, you might need a few extra days if you want to see ALL of them, but it's a good starting point if you're planning to spend two weeks in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica is ALL about nature. While some areas are becoming a little overrun with tourists during high season, there are still plenty of great places that still feel 'secret'. I've included a nice mix in this Costa Rica itinerary. I think you'd regret it if you don't visit a few parts that feel truly off the beaten track.

Contents



- 1. MAP: TWO WEEKS IN COSTA RICA
- 2. La Fortuna: 2 Days
- 3. Monteverde: 2 Days
- 4. Naranjo / Zarcero: 1 Day
- 5. Corcovado National Park: 3 Days
- 6. Orosi: 2 Days
- 7. Puerto Viejo De Talamanca: 3 Days
- 8. Useful Info For Planning A Trip To Costa Rica









Blog: Wanderlust Chloe

REVIEW: LAPA RIOS, COSTA RICA

4th January 2019









Set within a 1000-acre private nature reserve, Lapa Rios, Costa Rica is one of the most spectacular lodges you'll ever visit.

I've stayed in some incredible places on my travels, but Lapa Rios is one of the most memorable yet. Sleeping in impressive wooden bungalows with enormous terraces, and just nets for windows means you feel closer to nature than ever

Where Is Lapa Rios, Costa Rica?

Located in Matapalo in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, Lapa Rios Lodge sits within a 1000-acre private nature reserve. It's around 12 miles from the town of Puerto Jimenez where there's also a small airport. If you're arriving to San Jose, then I'd recommend catching the 50-minute flight with Sansa Airline as it'll save you a lot of time, leaving you more precious minutes in the beautiful rainforest!



At the airport, the team from Lapa Rios will be waiting with welcome drinks and their private vehicles, ready to transport you to the lodge.

What Is Lapa Rios, Costa Rica?

This rainforest ecolodge has sustainable tourism at its heart. Opened in 1993, the owners set out to create a sustainable lodge, which protected its endangered surroundings. The lodge has won countless awards, and has been flying the flag for ecotourism since it opened.

It was named one of National Geographic Unique Lodges In The World - a deserving accolade considering the spectacular design, location and its ecological conscience.

The property sprawls throughout a section of rainforest... so much so, it's pretty much hidden! You'll arrive at the hotel's reception and restaurant/bar area. The restaurant has a spectacular spiral staircase in the centre, which I just couldn't stop taking photos of! Beyond that are terraces, a Wifi area, and a swimming pool.



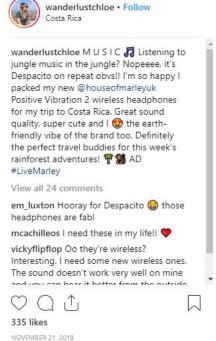
https://www.wanderlustchloe.com/lapa-rios-costa-rica-review/









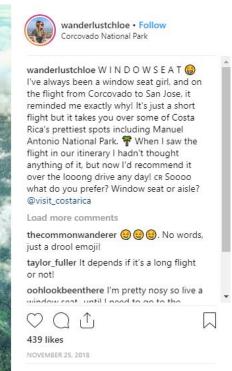


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kendallsa @leslydelapena

ranchoelchonete Like your post. It made me think... Imagine your small group spending time on our private members only Costa Rican Dude Ranch. Now that









1,409 likes

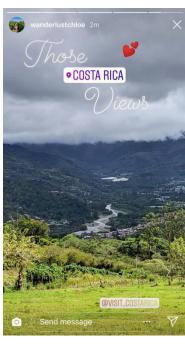
DECEMBER 5, 2018

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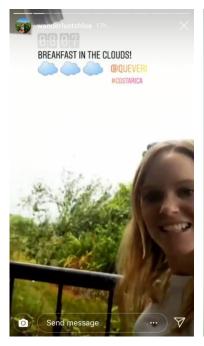
Instagram Stories: @wanderlustchloe - Highlights









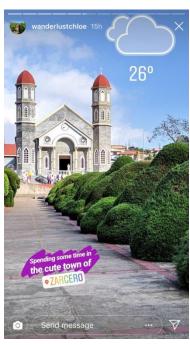






Instagram Stories: @wanderlustchloe - Highlights

























And THIS is why I wanted to return to Costa Rica! Clouds resting on mountains and lush views for miles... Now, where are the sloths and monkeys? & Visit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board





Yesterday was one BIIIIG day in Costa Rica! I kicked off the day facing my fears on the rapids with my first ever go at white water rafting. I survived, and with a big fat smile on my face too! It was a lot more fun than I ever expected. Then it was off to the most magical hot springs - Hacienda Orosi. Those views, that water, just magical! Wisit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board



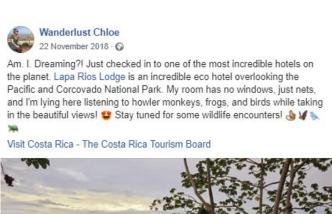


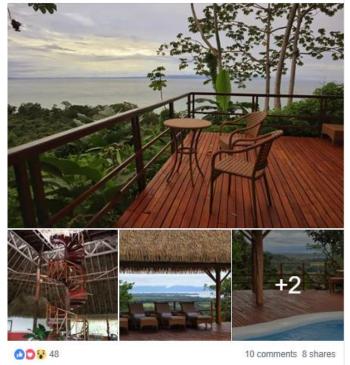
8 comments 1 share

© 38

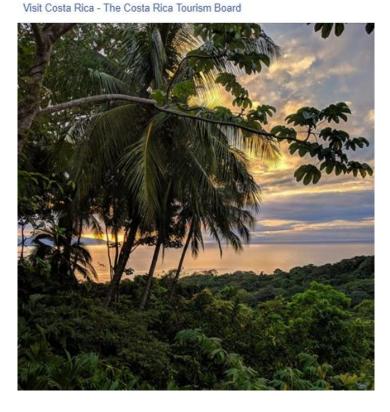


Wanderlust Chloe

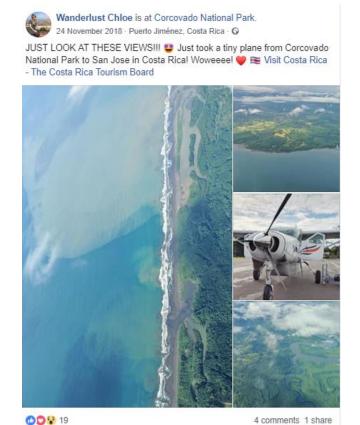






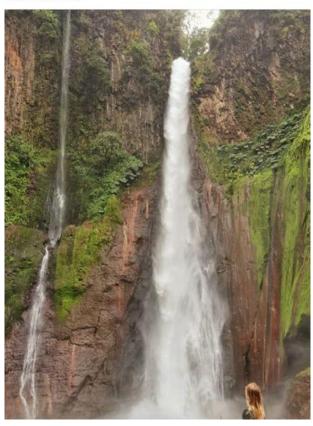








₩ Don't go chasing waterfalls...
৸ unless they're this pretty and there's a handrail, then it's perfectly acceptable!
➡ Enjoying the Pura Vida life here in Costa Rica!





Window seat or aisle?! For me, it's got to be the window, especially when the views are as good as this one on the flight from Corcovado to San Jose in Costa Rica!

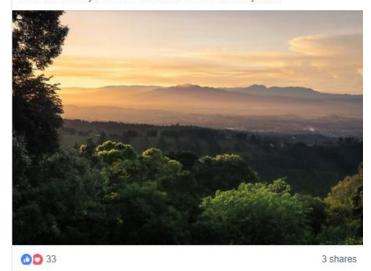
Visit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board







One of my fave Costa Rica views - sunrise from Chayote Lodge in the beautiful countryside near San Jose... Worth the early start!





One of my fave things about my recent trip to Costa Rica was reaching spots like this in Corcovado National Park. Empty beach, no tourists, just a few animals looking for their next meals and colourful birds flying overhead. **

Sometimes here you can spot whales. No luck this time, but hey, it's a reason to return!!

Visit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board







My trip to Costa Rica is one of my fave trips of 2018! What's top of your list from your travels this year? Comment below!



00 29 16 comments 1 share





Looking back at my snaps from Costa Rica I feel like I spent a lot of time with my head in the clouds! This is Hacienda Orosi - the hot springs where we spent the afternoon after an adrenaline filled morning trying white water rafting for the first time! A fab place to unwind! Snapped this before covering myself in my new fave exfoliant - coffee grounds. I've lathered myself in the stuff since I've been back but it just isn't the same!





WOWEEE‼ This was definitely one of my favourite trips of last year... who's been to Costa Rica? ♥



WANDERLUSTCHLOE.COM

Two Weeks In Costa Rica: The Ultimate Costa Rica Itinerary
Looking for a Costa Rica itinerary to plan your trip? From Arenal to...



7 comments 2 shares





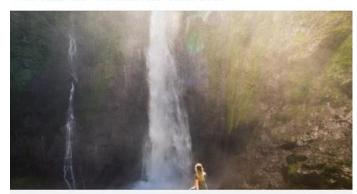
Sloths, monkeys, waterfalls, amazing adventure activities, friendly people and one of the most unique places to stay on the planet... how many reasons do you need to Visit Costa Rica? ♥

▼

▼

▼

Visit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board



WANDERLUSTCHLOE.COM

Two Weeks In Costa Rica: The Ultimate Costa Rica Itinerary
Looking for a Costa Rica itinerary to plan your trip? From Arenal to...

00 24 1 share



The most unique hotel I've ever stayed in - Lapa Rios Lodge. Howler monkeys on the terrace, macaws in the trees, and even a frog on my bedroom door! ♀ Ready to stay in the Costa Rican rainforest? ≋♣



WANDERLUSTCHLOE.COM

REVIEW: Lapa Rios, Costa Rica - Unique Hotels Of The World
Set within a 1000-acre private nature reserve, Lapa Rios, Costa Rica is on...

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Chloe Gunning WanderlustChloe · 20 Nov 2018





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Chloe Gunning WanderlustChloe · 21 Nov 2018



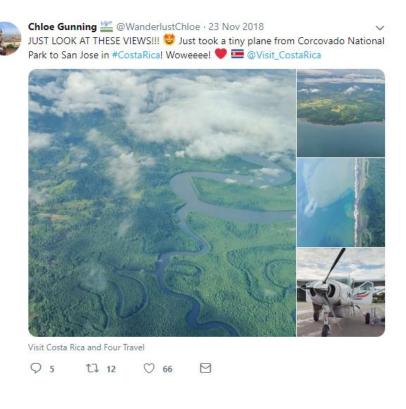




















♡ 29 🖾

Chayote Lodge, Visit Costa Rica and Four Travel

LJ 3





Chloe Gunning Ketweeted



Chloe Gunning WanderlustChloe · 10 Dec 2018 *BRAND NEW TODAY* Sloths, monkeys, waterfalls, amazing adventure activities, friendly people and one of the most unique places to stay on the planet... how many reasons do you need to @Visit_CostaRica? wanderlustchloe.com/costa-rica-



Visit Costa Rica, Four Travel, Lapa Rios Lodge and Chayote Lodge







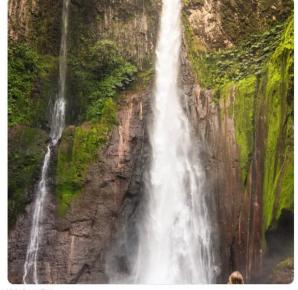
































A Girl Who Travels



A Girl Who Travels

Blog: 3,570 MUU

Instagram: 42,000 Facebook: 4,000

Twitter: 2,000

a Girl who Travels

Summary of activity:

- 1 blog post (to be published soon)
- 6 Instagram posts
- Daily Instagram stories (+50)



Blog: A Girl Who Travels

To be published soon



Instagram: @a_girlwhotravels





a_girlwhotravels Hola from Costa Rica! It's my first time in this part of the world and I can't get enough of the dreamy landscapes. Just what I needed after spending the past few weeks in London! I'll be here for a week so be sure to follow my stories so we can discover this gorgeous country together •

capturedby: @chaiwalla

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organicofortuna 🖔 zajrotopia Nice 🎔

a_girlwhotravels @zajrotopia thank you!:)







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All good things in life are wild and free - and Costa Rica has been a perfect reminder of that

COSTARICAFACTS

Did you know that Costa Rica makes up only 0.03% of the Earth's surface but accounts for 5% of the world's bio diversity? It also has more rivers per square mile than almost any other country in the world (it got beaten only by New Zealand!). Costa Ricans make a good use of this fact as a whooping 90% of energy in the country is hydroelectric.

The dedication to keeping Costa Rica's wild spirit alive has been obvious everywhere we went. With biodegradable straws pavailable at every cafe (including remote







445 likes

NOVEMBER 23, 2018

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Instagram: @a_girlwhotravels



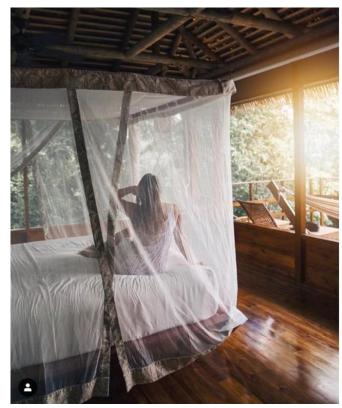


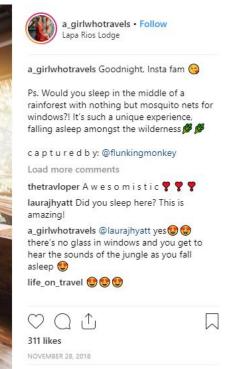
a_girlwhotravels Hands up if you'd like to start your day with a shower in the middle of a rainforest!

After a five hour drive from San Gerardo de Dota, one of Costa Rica's most remote villages, @visit_costarica took us to @laparioscr, set in the heart of the rainforest and right by the sandy beaches of the Pacific coast (yes- it really is as dreamy as it sounds!).

Lapa Rios was named one of the world's most unique hotels by @natgeo and for a good reason. The bungalows are set amongst the wilderness which means you're neighbours with monkeys, macaws and other rainforest residents. I'm not going to lie, falling asleep to screeching and howling took some getting used to







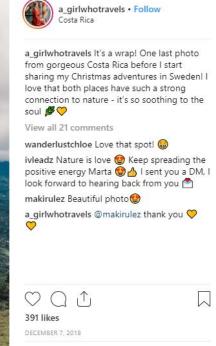
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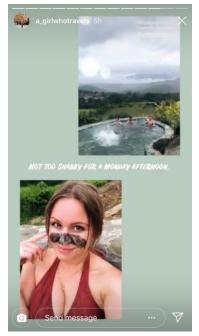




Instagram Stories: @a_girlwhotravels - Highlights















Instagram Stories: @a_girlwhotravels - Highlights















Flunking Monkey



Flunking Monkey

Blog: 3,000 MUU

Instagram: 157,000

Facebook: 1,100

Flunking Monkey

Summary of activity:

- 2 blog posts
- 9 Instagram posts
- Daily Instagram stories (+50)
- 2 Facebook posts



Blog: Flunking Monkey



Why is Costa Rica so famous?

Costa Rica is famous for many reasons, one of the main reasons it's known is due to its coffee production. Since it's independence in 1821 (Full independence 1838) coffee has remained Costa Rica's main export and its and principal source of wealth.

Coffee from Costa Rica is highly rated and is often considered to hold some of the best flavour profiles in Central America, having even been recently introduced into Starbucks under their "reserve" program.

The reason coffee grows so well in **Costa Rica** is due to its perfect elevation and climate, with different types of coffee produced throughout the country at different altitudes all growing in the lush volcanic soil, the best Costa Rican coffee tends to be those that are found at higher altitudes.

Why is Costa Rica considered one of the best tourist attractions in Central America?

Costa Rica is considered to be one of the best tourist attractions in Central America due to the varying landscapes and climates all located within this small country.

For the adventure seeker's there's zip-lining tours, whitewater rafting, kayaking, scuba diving, cliff diving, and skydiving among other adrenaline-pumping activities.

For beach lovers there are more than 1,000 miles of coastline, the country is home to some of the world's most beautiful beaches. (although I would avoid the rainy season, between April and November) Costa Rica is also one of the top surfing destinations in the world.

Animal lovers can come to gaze at the slowest mammals in the world, sloths found all over the country ... if you can manage to spot them (we, unfortunately, did not).

Culture lovers can dig into the Costa Rican national cuisine while enjoying the Pura Vida (Pure Life) lifestyle with the people of the "the worlds happiest country".

Filled with beaches, rainforests, volcanoes and vast wildlife there seems to be something for everyone in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica ecotourism destinations

Orosi valley, Costa Ric

An area of Costa Rica not often visited by many tourists is the beautiful Crosi Valley, Crosi Valley, Costa Rica is a historic town located south-east of the capital San Jose, and not of a far drive from Cartago. Part of its historic charm is due to it containing the oldest running catholic church in the entire country.

1743 The Iglesia de San Jose is basically a national landmark you feel as though you've been swept back in time. As you walk through the church doors you find a home for religious art, Spanish colonial artefacts and a small museum. Funnily enough as similar to most churches in Costa Rica The Iglesia de San Jose, Orosi Valley is paired next to a football (soccer) field.

Aside for Orosi Valley's historic elements the area itself is extremely lush and home to incredible scenery.





Corcovado National Park (Osa Peninsula)

Probably the most biologically intense place on Earth in terms of biodiversity as referred to by National Geographic, Corcovado National Park located on the stunning Osa Peninsula along southwestern Costa Rica is the country's largest national park at 164 square miles, making it the largest primary forest on the American Pacific coastline.



https://flunkingmonkey.com/visit-costa-rica-ecotourism/



Blog: Flunking Monkey



In the past 5 to 10 years there has been a largely positive shift in the tourism industry towards environmental awareness and sustainability. There is little denying the increase in carbon footprints peoples now easily accessible jet-setting lifestyles have caused. With this peoples reasoning behind where they visit and where individuals now chose to stay has been affected. As increasing tourism began to affect the climate, this motioned the growth of hotels designed and built with a conscience, where eco and even luxury can co-exist towards environmentally beneficial means.

These Eco Resorts, Ecolodges, Eco Cabins and Eco retreats are becoming increasingly more sought after by the general public, looking for accommodation in their host countries whilst on vacation.

What Makes An Eco Resort?

The variations of Eco Resorts, Ecolodges, Eco Cabins and Eco retreats are effectively environmentally sustainable accommodations. What this means is that these Eco retreats have made significant improvements to its structure in order to minimise its impact on the natural environment. These improvements can vary in their nature from non-toxic housekeeping practices, the use of renewable energy, organic soaps, energy-efficient light fixtures, and recycling programs. A simplistic definition of an Eco hotel would be environmentally responsible accommodation following green living practices. In most cases these hotels will have independent third-party certifications in the areas they are located in, these are beneficial for the hotel in order to be environmentally compliant.

A particular beneficial certification for an Eco hotel to have is the LEED certification. An Eco hotel that has been LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified means that that particular eco hotel provides benefits to the environment through energy efficient practices. Practices such as serving local organic food in restaurants, reusing linens for guest multiple nights stays, and incorporating in-room recycling and composting programs make eco hotels prime candidates for LEED certification. The majority of Eco hotels are Ecolodges or Eco Cabins, due to their locations often being in jungles and inspired by traditional building methods utilised by the skilled locals that craft the hotels for example in Costa Rica.

Costa Rica

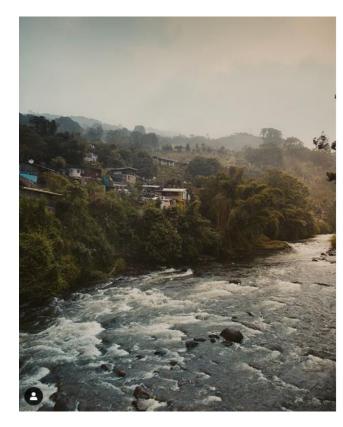
Lapa Rios Resort



One of the ecolodges I was lucky enough to experience for myself. Located on the pristine Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica you can find one of National Geographic's most unique lodges of the world Lapa Rios. This rainforest eco lodge is a prime and perfect example of a Costa Rica ecotourism resort, covered by the lush green blanket that is the last lowland tropical rainforest in Central America and surrounded by beaches rich in marine life, Lapa Rios is an icon in sustainable luxury. Protecting 1,000-acres of rainforest and it's biodiversity whilst finding a safe way to share it with the world, the Lapa Rios 17 bungalows are built on natural ridges within the rainforest providing unmatched views of the spectacular coastline and rainforest while allowing guests close-up observation of tropical flors and fauna.

https://flunkingmonkey.com/eco-resort/







flunkingmonkey • Follow Orosí, Cartago, Costa Rica

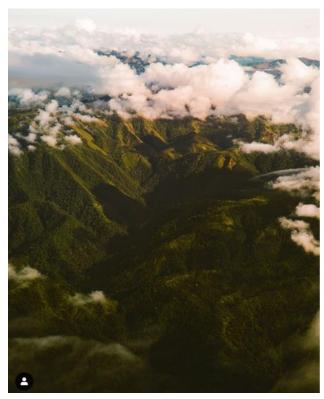
flunkingmonkey Life On The Edge Of A
Rainforest - My first time in Central America
couldn't have been kicked off any better than
with Costa Rica. Costa Rica ca literally
meaning the Rich Coast lives up to its name
tenfold it's the perfect example of how we can
live in a mutualistic symbiotic relationship
with nature. Arguably one of the most vibrant
and diverse places I've visited and I can't wait
to share all my experiences of this beautiful
land with you. @visit_costarica

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ivancruz39 Amizing
ahsiraleyephotography Gorgeous
vlada_pavlovskaya Wow! It's amazing 6
steve1song Beautiful 66







flunkingmonkey • Follow Costa Rica

flunkingmonkey Welcome to Jurassic Park ... and queue the theme tune. With 14 known volcanoes and being located just north of the equator, Costa Rica's volcanic soil and various topical climates make it a lush green paradise and such a feast for the eyes. Although it only makes up 0.03% of the earths surface it contains nearly 6% of the entire worlds biodiversity. With 80% of it's lands protected it's a biologists eden. @visit_costarica

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peatrizjaq (1) (1) (1) (1) pohnkilatya Beautiful walidkaram614 Super super nice socialairlines Great shot!



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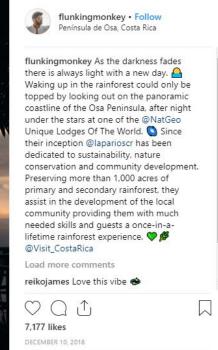












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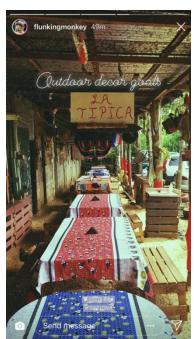




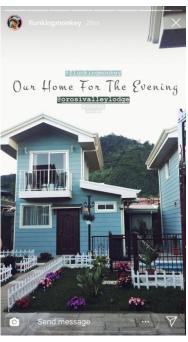


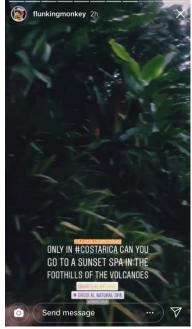


Instagram Stories: @flunkingmonkey - Highlights















Instagram Stories: @flunkingmonkey - Highlights















Facebook: @flunkingmonkey



Life On The Edge Of A Rainforest T My first time in Central America couldn't have been kicked off any better than with Costa Rica. Costa Rica E literally meaning the Rich Coast lives up to its name tenfold it's the perfect example of how we can live in a mutualistic symbiotic relationship with nature. Arguably one of the most vibrant and diverse places I've visited and I can't wait to share all my experiences of this beautiful land with you. Visit Costa Rica - The Costa Rica Tourism Board





Did you know that Costa Rica is home to 'The Most Biologically Intense Place On The Planet'? Filled with sloths, waterfalls and beaches it's a world leader in eco-tourism!



FLUNKINGMONKEY.COM

Why you should visit Costa Rica for Ecotourism - Flunking Monkey



1 comment 7 shares



Chaiwalla



Chaiwalla

Instagram: 158,000

Facebook: 1,000

Twitter: 3,000



Summary of activity:

- 1 blog post
- 3 Instagram posts
- Daily Instagram stories (+50)



Blog: Chaiwalla

A WEEK IN COSTA RICA - PURA VIDA! /JUNE 10, 2019

INTRODUCTION.

I was thrilled to be invited by Costa Rican tourism board to spend a week in their wonderful country getting to know some more of the lesser known and off the beaten track places and staying in a couple of unique and super special lodges along the way. I was promised I'd get to experience ecotourism, adventurous thrills within nature, great food and the friendliness of the welcoming locals. This would be my first time here so it was impossible to say no to the invitation.

NARANGJO/ZARCERO.

coffee, waterfalls, rolling hill hotels...









CORCOVADO.



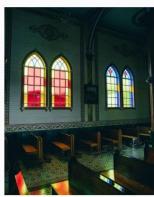


Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula has been on my "I must go there ASAP" lists for a very long time. I knew this was going to be a highlight for me. A chance to see some great animals up close and walk along the black sand beach front and into the jungle.

OROSI.

South of San Jose, Orosi is where you will find rainforests, volcanoes and powerful rivers. The oldest Costa Rican Catholic Church is based here and has beautiful architecture and an interesting garden. This region is apparently a lot quieter that other regions and is not yet experiencing the mass tourism and is a great place to escape the crowds.





We went to nearby Tapanti National Park (the wettest spot in the country with rain 360 days a year, eep!) and half the group went hiking whilst Chloe and I decided to try level 3 white water rafting! This was the first time I had ever tried this and saying I was excited was a massive understatement .



Instagram: @chaiwalla





chaiwalla Not a bad view, felt more like Switzerland in the summer than Costa Rica, as we arrived at Chayote Lodge. Back to reality of zero degree temperatures now but planning to be more on the road again from January once again after a year of lots of doing projects outside of Instagram, Sunnier climates on the horizon (R) even considering going back to Costa Rica. Have you guys been there? To the Caribbean side? Would you have any recommendations?

Load more comments

dohairmanufacturers Lovely

petpaintingsbymimi 🙆

dreamawake3 My favourite flowers! Wonderful photo!

taralitvin Stunning! Love the aesthetics









Instagram: @chaiwalla





Instagram Stories: @chaiwalla - Highlights













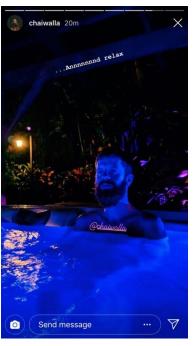


Instagram Stories: @chaiwalla - Highlights







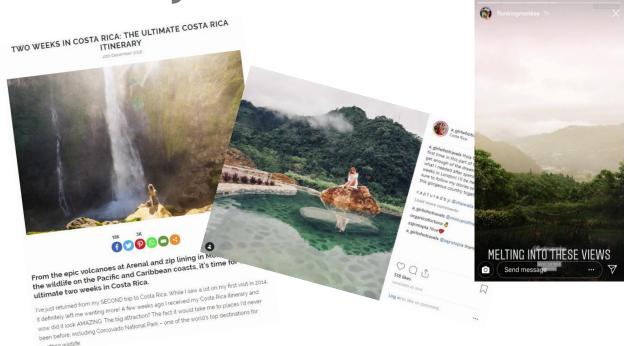








Summary





- Blog posts: 6
- Permanent social media posts: 70+ (Instagram, Facebook and Twitter)
- Instagram stories: 200+



Thank you

