

*Shorty's*

**2009**

**GUIDE TO COSTA RICA'S  
STRICT NEW *Ley de Transito***

Sept. 23rd  
is the deadline!!!

**IN  
ENGLISH**

**Guide to the new fines, new devices required to carry in your car, new rules of the road, and the new computerized license system. Get informed and prepared before the law takes effect**

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*Translated (auto) text of the complete Reform to the Transit Law for reference*

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## **FOREWARD**

**O**n September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, there will come into effect a sweeping legislation intended to transform Costa Rica's roadways from the hazardous free- for-all that has developed in recent decades, into a



Source: [InsideCostaRica.com](http://InsideCostaRica.com)

network occupied by safe, conscientious, and prepared drivers. This guide is intended for the English speaking motorist, as a tool to be prepared, avoid surprises, and fully understand the new changes that will apply when they get behind the wheel come September, along with statistics on roadway casualties, roadway conditions, and background information to understand why Costa Rica's functionaries felt compelled to force this sweeping change to the transit laws.

This guide does not explain the entirety of Costa Rica's *Ley de Transito*. It does, however, cover all the new requirements, explanation of the new points system, the new types of infractions, how to handle appeals and file complaints, acquire and renew your license, and how to understand the new fines and sanctions, along with some basic maps and informational guides. It is our intention that with this tool, the transition to the new law will bring no surprises.

**HAPPY MOTORING!**

## A “QUICK LIST” OF THE BIGGEST CHANGES

- Computerization of licenses, with an electronic file at COSEVI for each driver, where points are deducted off the license for infractions.
- Increase in number of Transito Officials, adding 400 new officers to the existing 800.
- Dramatic increase in amount of fines (thousands of a percent), with many additional violations added to the law.
- The new structure is so strict, that two infractions for running a red light or stop sign, or not yielding to a pedestrian in the crosswalk, will result in a two-year license suspension.
- Safety seats required for all minors under 12 years, with restrictions on which seats they may sit in (lateral or central).
- New harsh penalties, including potential jail time for a new classification, “Criminal Reckless Driving”, consisting of drunk driving (>0.75% bap), drag racing, and speeding faster than 150kph(93.2mph).
- Immediate loss of license on first offense for a number of violations, including: transporting a child of 12yrs or younger without a safety seat; speeding faster than 120kph(74.5mph); not being inscripted as a driver; and driving on a suspended license.
- New devices required of everyone, including: hands-free cel adaptor, fire extinguisher, reflective vest, triangles, first aid kit, tool kit, tire tools, plus additional requirements on reflective articles and lights for bicycles, motorcycles, and cargo vehicles.
- All cargo vehicles will have to carry a GPS Transponder (begins June 2010).
- No more passing on the right, even on two-lane highways.
- Left-lane slowpokes can receive a citation for impeding the flow.
- Pedestrians will be required to cross at the corner or crosswalks; fine for jaywalking
- Motorcyclists can receive a citation for zig-zagging through traffic, or exploiting spaces in traffic and on shoulders.
- Crack-down on buses with excess passengers.
- Not renewing your license will cost c68,100.
- Foreigners who are driving, who don't get a national license within 90 days are fined c68,100.
- Offenses against passengers on public transport will carry a fine.
- Fine amount for violating vehicular restrictions in San Jose will quadruple.
- New office for investigation corrupt Transito Officers, which will not require a formal legal complaint (“denuncia formal”)any more.
- Ten day limit for resolution of appeals to transit citations.

# NEW DEVICES



## REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE

A number of new safety devices are required for all vehicles as of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, the lack of which can carry high fines and serious loss of license points. Drivers are already complaining of the costs, some are certain of impending price gouging, and some say they must take out bank loans to comply with the purchase of items or to purchase larger vehicles that will be necessary to seat their families as the new law requires. Many parents are also questioning the use of booster seats for their children who are larger than many full grown adults seen on the streets, and there's collective eye-rolling from the country's youth. There will undoubtedly be legal challenges and adjustments to this part of the new law, especially depending on how extensive or invasive the roadside searches turn out to be. Below you will find the requirements as they stand when they take effect in Sept 2009.

**Safety and Booster Seats:** Perhaps the most costly change for parents (and those who regularly transport minors) across the nation. As mentioned above, the following details are certain to be challenged and adjusted. (An example given is, people obligated to travel with several children falling in the same age group might immediately be forced to acquire a car with more than one rear seat, or risk a loss of the driver's license for two years, according to these new changes. Some wonder if certain children will be left with no options to get to school legally, and others are concerned the change will flood the roadways with large, inefficient vehicles.) But as it was written, these are the new requirements:

- **Infants to one year:** Must travel in an infant car seat located in the rear seat behind the driver, and with the infant facing the rear window.
- **Children 1 - 4 years:** Must use a safety seat according to age and weight. Must be located in the center of the vehicle and secured with a two-point seat belt.
- **Children 4 - 12 years:** Must use a booster seat ("cojin elevado") which must be located in the lateral seats and secured with a three-point seat belt.



- **Older than 12 years:** May travel in the rear and without a booster seat if the seat belt of the car does not reach their neck. The seat belt should always go over shoulder and crossing the chest. If the seat belt touches the neck, they may be strangled or cut in an accident.

**Booster seats may not be used in the central seats where two-point seat belts are the regulation. MOPT has yet to elaborate on specifications for required safety seats. Violations of safety seat regulations carry a fine of c227,00 and a loss of the totality of 50 license points, and thus a loss of the license for two years.**

**Hands-free cel adaptors:** Few are arguing with this change, which although it's not a new law, will bring a new steep sanction. Required: a hands-free ("manos libres") adaptor for cel phone usage while driving. **Fine: c170,250 Points lost: 20**

**Reflective vest and triangles:** Vest ("chaleco retroreflectivo") may be green, orange, or red, and must be used when performing any roadside maintenance, and is required clothing for cyclists of any kind (motor or otherwise) from a half hour before sunset to a half hour before dawn. Triangles must also be placed in the roadway prior to performing any maintenance. **Fine: c68,100 Points lost: 15**

**Tool kit:** Tire tool ("llave de ranas"), jack ("gato"), jumper cables ("lagartos"), and a questionably-termed "basic tool kit" ("juego de herramientas basicos") which may or may not just be the tire-changing tools. **Fine: c68,100 Points lost: 15** (same infraction as above, not separate infractions).

**Fire extinguisher and First Aid Kit:** Also included in fine above. There are no specifics of what size the extinguisher ("extintor de incendio") must be, nor the exact contents of the first aid kit ("botiquin"). Included with infraction above.

**Airbags:** ("Airbags") For those automobiles designed with airbags, although many are wondering how or if a Transit Official will inspect for a working airbag prior to an accident. **Fine: c68,100 Points lost: 20**

**Three-point seat belts:** For lateral seats and two-point seat belts for central seats. ("Cinturones de seguridad de tres puntos/dos puntos") Must be worn. **Fine: c170,250 Points lost: 20**

**Helmets:** (“Cascaros”) Regardless of age or whether the rider or cyclist has a driver’s license. It’s not yet determined how or what to fine minors who do not comply. **Fine: c170,250 Points: 20**

**Bicycles:** Cyclists must wear reflective vests from a half-hour before sundown to a half-hour before sunrise **Fine: c90,800 Points: 10**, affix reflectors to the frame of the bike and have a red light in the rear, and use a yellow or white light during the same hours. In rainy or foggy weather they must wear a yellow jacket/cloak/raincoat and illuminate the bicycle with a white or yellow light. **Fine: c22,700**

**Reflective tape and triangles for heavy vehicles:** Heavy vehicles must affix red and white reflective tape on both sides and affix reflective triangles to the rear of the vehicle. **Fine: c68,100 Points: 15**

**Transponders for cargo vehicles:** Starting in June 2010, all cargo vehicles will be required to circulate with GPS Transponders on board. The devices are intended to register load, speed, location, and travel times and will allow the Transit to fine violators without being present at the time of the violations, or determine culpability in a transit accident. Transit Officials will be able to perform surprise inspections of any business with heavy vehicles and request the Transponder data, download it to a central computer, review it for violations of zones, hours, speed, load, and issue infractions. The cost for each transponder is estimated at between \$350 and \$595. **Fine for not carrying a transponder or for excess load: c90,800 Points lost: 10**

# COSTA RICAN DRIVER'S LICENSES AND A GUIDE TO THE NEW POINTS SYSTEM



Source: MOPT

**P**resident of the Republic, Oscar Arias, was once quoted as likening Costa Ricans to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, in reference to the widespread recklessness encountered on the roadways of a nation recognized for peace and natural beauty. It came as no surprise then, when he supported the Minister of Transportation, Karla Gonzalez, in the passage of a sweeping reform to the Ley de Transito that intends to rectify the situation by force, and as rapidly as possible. The cornerstone of the new reform is the computerization of drivers' license records, and the use of a strict and stringent license points system to force drivers to re-evaluate and change their driving practices.

Beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, all license holders will be credited 50 points to their Costa Rican license. With each infraction issued by the Transito for roadway violations (including non-moving violations), points will be deducted from the electronic file of the license holder, and monetary fines will be issued. With time (a lot of time) and dedication, lost license points may be recovered when drivers meet certain requirements. Under certain conditions, drivers will be accredited with bonus points for model roadway behavior. Considering the amount of points deducted for each infraction, the increase in the number of potential violations, as well as the increase in the number of Transito Officials (400 new Officials) charged with the policing of the notoriously dangerous Costa Rican drivers, many feel that there will be minimal room for error for anyone regularly using the roadways without risking a two-year suspension of their license. The changes have already initiated a fast and furious self-examination and re-education on the part of all Costa Rican drivers and providers of public and cargo transportation. Come September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Costa Rica will put those drivers, and the new system, to the test.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009: The date the new points system, along with the new equipment requirements, infractions, and fines, goes into effect. All holders of a Costa Rican license will receive 50 points accredited to their electronic license file, which will reside in the Consejo de Seguridad Vial (Roadway Security Council), COSEVI.**



## **BASIC GUIDE TO THE POINTS SYSTEM, STEP-BY-STEP:**

- 1) Each driver begins with 50 points accredited to their Costa Rican license
- 2) When a Transito Official stops a driver for infringing the law, they will issue the corresponding monetary fine, and deduct the license points that correspond to the violation.
- 3) The Consejo de Seguridad Vial (COSEVI) brings up an electronic file for each driver issued a violation, and will deduct the corresponding license points for infractions committed.
- 4) If the driver is stopped again, the roadway Official consults with Central de Transito to see how many points remain on the driver's license.
- 5) If the infraction committed leaves the license with zero points, the Transito Official may confiscate the driver's license on site.
- 6) The first time a driver loses all the license points, their license is suspended for **TWO YEARS.**

The deductions of the points will occur when the sanction is firm and no appeal is filed.

## **GUIDE TO POINTS DEDUCTIONS, ACCORDING TO INFRACTION:**

Not all infractions carry a sanction of loss of license points. Only those infractions carrying a points loss, are listed below.

**CLASS A CRIMINAL RECKLESS DRIVING:** Speeding in excess of 150kph(93.2mph) or registering 0.75 or higher blood alcohol level or drag racing. Immediate suspension of license, impoundment of vehicle, possible jail sentence of 1-3 years.

### **50 POINTS (and hence an immediate 2-year suspension of license):**

- Speeding in excess of 120kph(74.5mph)
- Driving without being inscribed as a driver (no license at all, to be deducted at the time of acquiring a license)
- Driving on a suspended license (to be deducted at the time of renewal)
- Drunk driving with a blood alcohol level between 0.5 and 0.75
- Transporting a child under 12 without a safety seat

### **25 POINTS:**

- Running a red light
- Running a stop sign

- Turning into an intersection without yielding to a pedestrian already crossing (Pedestrians will be required by the new law to use crosswalks whenever available, and to only cross at corners.)

### **20 POINTS:**

- Using a cel phone without a hands-free system (“systema de manos libres”)
- Speeding in excess of 20kph (12.4mph) or more of the posted speed limit
- Transporting and dumping garbage on the roadway (littering)
- Circulating without an up-to-date “marchamo” (sticker on window, paid every December)
- Not using a seat belt
- Not having working airbags in a car designed for them
- Speeding in front of a hospital, clinic, or school (the speed limit in these zones is 25kph(15.5mph)
- Driving with license plates that don’t correspond to the vehicle
- Riding a bicycle, motorcycle, motorbike, moped, cuatricycle, tricycle without a helmet

### **15 POINTS:**

- Stopping in the middle of an intersection and obstructing the flow of traffic
- Not carrying and using a reflective vest when performing roadside maintenance of any kind
- Not carrying battery cables, basic tool kit, and basic first aid kit
- Not carrying a fire extinguisher
- Motorcyclist who zig-zags through traffic, or exploits spaces between cars and within an intersection or at stop lights
- Cargo vehicles circulating without reflective tape and triangles
- Driving on the beach
- Taxi driver who commits abuse in the charge of fares
- Circulating with non-regulation license plates
- Circulating without up-to-date inspection sticker (RITEVE)
- Incorrect passing (passing on the right in any circumstance, improper passing)
- Impeding the passing of another vehicle (including using the left lane slower than the flow of traffic and impeding the flow)

### **10 POINTS:**

- Circulating without a windshield

- Cyclist of any kind that does not use a reflective vest
- Using high beams improperly
- Irrespecting stationary traffic signage
- Offering public transportation without authorization in unauthorized zones
- Using rotating lights or sirens improperly or without a permit
- Passing over a solid line (no passing zone)
- Illegal U-Turn
- Public transportation driver without a fire extinguisher or with poor brakes
- Tinted lateral windows that exceed limitations (70% visibility required, inside/out and outside/in)
- Cargo vehicles with excess load
- Cargo vehicles without a transponder
- Illegal parking
- Evading toll payment or not showing proof of toll payment

#### **5 POINTS:**

- Not keeping distance with the vehicle in front of you (tailgating, according to the 2-second rule)
- Driving with an expired license (to be deducted when renewing)
- Driving with damaged windshield wipers or damaged lights
- Circulating In reverse
- Public transportation units without a wastebasket (“basurero”), bell (“timbre”), without a permit or without regulation plates
- Affixing license plates in non-regulation locations

**APPEALING A TRANSIT CITATION:** Anyone who receives a sanction will have the right to appeal. The appeal must be presented at the **Unidad de Impugnaciones de Boletas de Citacion** (Unit of Challenges for Tickets of Citacion) in the delegation office where the ticket was drawn up, no more than 10 working days after receiving a transit sanction. (See directory of Delegations of Transito included in this guide.) The ten days begins the day after the issuance of the sanction. The driver appealing a sanction must present any arguments or evidence they deem important (testimony, documentation, etc). If there is no evidence to review, the Unidad de Impugnaciones will resolve the case within a maximum of 10 working days. Once resolved, if the driver loses their appeal, the points will immediately be deducted from their electronic file.

**REPORTING A CORRUPT TRANSIT OFFICER:** The MOPT (Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Transportes) will rely on a new office to investigate cases of corruption within the Policia de Transito. This new office, the Unidad de Asuntos Internos de la Policia de Transito (Unit of

Internal Affairs of the Transit Police), will be able to carry out investigations of corruption without the necessity of a formal legal complaint (“denuncia formal”) from a citizen, which is a significant change from years past, when complaints of corruption involved significant legal effort on the part of citizens, and investigations of the Transito were performed by the Transito themselves. **WHERE TO FILE: TELEPHONE: 800-TRANSITO (800-8726-7486).** As of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, any person may file a complaint of corruption or mistreatment against a Transito Official before the Unidad de Inspeccion Policial located in the central offices of COSEVI in La Uruca. Those filing the complaint should submit any evidence they feel is important regarding the mistreatment, or solicitation or acceptance of bribes (“mordidas”) in exchange for avoiding a transit ticket. If the Unidad obtains solid proof of corruption against any official, they will open a disciplinary process that could conclude with the firing of the functionary without the usually required employer obligations. The process will be resolved in a maximum of 10 working days. During this period the case will be opened, the investigated official will be notified, and a sanction will be imposed. The defending officer will have three working days to appeal the sanction before the dispatch of the Ministry.

**EARNING BONUS LICENSE POINTS:** Article 71 of the new reform establishes that any driver who maintains their total 50 points for the first three years the new system is in place, will receive 5 bonus points on their license. For each additional year that no infractions are committed, 3 more points will be added to the license of those model drivers.

**RECOVERING LOST LICENSE POINTS:** The driver who loses **less than 30 license points**, but then maintains 4 consecutive years without any infractions, may recover the totality of their points without any additional requirements. The driver who has lost **30 points or more**, can take drivers’ education and sensibility courses (“cursos de educacion vial y sensibilizacion”) to recover 80% of their lost points. In order to enroll in the courses, the driver must complete at least one year without committing any new infractions. Not only must they complete the courses, they must then pass an evaluation exam set by COSEVI. The courses will cover roadway safety, reckless driving, defensive driving, control of violent conduct, and drug and alcohol treatment. If a driver is trying to recover a suspended license (total loss of the 50 points), the courses will cost c80,000. If the driver has not lost their total points, but rather a percentage, the courses will cost c40,000. The cost of the evaluation exam at the completion of the courses will cost c7,850. In all cases, if the driver fails the evaluation exam, they must repeat the respective courses as many times as is necessary to pass the exam.

**LICENSE SUSPENSIONS:** The first time a driver loses all their points, the license is suspended for a period of two years, and upon recovery of the license, is only accredited 30 points to their electronic file. To recover the other 20 points they must comply with driver’s education courses and exams. The second time a license is suspended, it will be for a term of four years, and when

that term is up the license may be recovered with only 20 points, the rest of which must be earned through the aforementioned courses and exams. The third time a driver has their license suspended, it will be for a term of 10 years, and they will be accredited only 15 points when the license is recovered.

**LICENSE RENEWALS:** Licenses may be renewed up to three months before expiration. All license renewals will require a medical exam to establish physical and psychological aptitude (“dictamen medico”). When a license is issued for the first time, it will have a validity of 3 years. Every renewal following will last 6 years. The fine for not renewing a license on time will be c68,100 and a loss of 5 points off the license. In cases where, for medical or clinical reasons, that a driver may put other drivers at risk, a driver’s license will be issued for only a two-year period of validity. This will be determined via the medical exam required for all license applications (“dictamen medico”). If a person is in disagreement with being classified as a medical or clinical risk, they may appeal to the Colegio de Medicos y Cirujanos, who will examine the situation and make a determination. Their decision is final and not eligible for an appeal. Drivers 75 years old or older, will be issued a license with only 3 years validity. For public transportation and special vehicles, licenses will have a validity of 2 years, regardless of age.

**FOREIGN LICENSE HOLDERS:** Article 75 of the Ley de Transito requires that those persons circulating on a valid foreign license must acquire a national license with 90 days of entering the country. The fine for not doing so will be c68,100. Those foreigners who wish to obtain a Costa Rican license may do so only at the COSEVI central offices in La Uruca, San Jose, **not** at Banco de Costa Rica nor any regional license offices. Requirements for using a current foreign license to obtain a Costa Rican license are: c4,000, a “dictamen medico” that is not more than six months old (medical exam issued specifically for driver’s license), a document certifying their blood type (issued from a lab), a valid ID (usually a passport), and their current foreign driver’s license. If a foreigner does not hold a valid and current foreign license, they must acquire a Costa Rican driver’s license via the normal (and notoriously arduous, long, and imperfect) process that Costa Ricans follow to acquire a license for the first time. It’s highly recommended that those holding a foreign license utilize it to acquire a Costa Rican license via the described method at COSEVI, La Uruca, within 90 days of their last entrance into Costa Rica. Although the new legal revisions do not stipulate specifically that foreigners may not renew their Costa Rican licenses in regional offices or in designated Banco de Costa Rica branches, those foreigners who have tried to renew at those facilities have been reporting that they are re-directed to the central COSEVI office in La Uruca for their renewals.

**TEMPORARY AND LEARNER’S PERMIT:** Those who acquire a license for the first time, but who are not yet 25 years old, will receive a permit “of a temporary character” (con caracter

provisional). 17-year-olds will also be able to acquire a learner's permit ("permiso temporal de aprendizaje") after completing all normal requirements of acquiring a driver's license only of the categories: A-3, B-1, and D-1. The request for the learner's permit must list at least 2 persons to accompany the learner, one of whom must always be present when the learner is driving. These persons must possess a driver's license of at least the same type as the learner, which must be current and have been issued at least ten years prior for the first time.

**CLASSIFICATION OF LICENSES:** Classes A and B will undergo the changes detailed below, starting September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

**CLASS A: Motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles**

**Type A-1: Motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles from 0-90cc.** Minimum, 13 years old.

**Type A-2: Motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles from 91-125cc.** Minimum, 15 years old.

**Type A-3: Motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles from 126cc-500cc.** No extra requirements.

**Type A-4: Motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles greater than 500cc.** No extra requirement.

For a minor to obtain a license of Type A-1, A-2, and A-3, they must have written authorization of one of the parents or their legal guardian or representative. They must also possess an insurance policy covering the following: lesion or death for c40,000,000 per person; accident for a minimum of c100,000,000; damages for a minimum of c120,000,000 per accident.

**CLASS B: Vehicles**

**Type B-1: Light vehicles between a quarter ton and half ton.** No additional requirement

**Type B-2: All vehicles up to 5 ton weight.**

**Type B-3: Vehicles of all weight in excess of 5 tons, except articulated (jointed).**

**Type B-4: Vehicles of all weight, included articulated.**

In order to acquire licenses of Type B-2, B-3, and B-4, the driver must graduate through the types as follows: To get a Type B-2, the driver must have had a B-1 for at least one year. To obtain a B-3, the driver must have had a B-2 for at least 2 years. To acquire a B-4, the driver must have held a B-3 for at least three years and be at least 25 years old.

# GUIDE TO NEW FINES

## Starting September 23rd, 2009

The new sanctions approved to begin in entirety September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 are very harsh, and include not only monetary fines, but also loss of points off your license, impoundment of automobiles, and even jail time for certain offenses. Without a doubt, there will be a volume of legal challenges to the new sanctions, as well as adjustments to the system. Following is a guide to the new fines, as they stand at the initiation of the new law, organized by severity.



Doing this could cost a fine of c90,800. ©2009 by Wendi Patrick

**JAIL TIME:** A loss of the totality of 50 license points and a chance of jail time of 1 to 3 years (if a judge orders it) for culpous homicide, culpous injury or criminal reckless driving (drag racing, excess of 0.75% blood alcohol, speeding in excess of 150kph/93mph). Automobile impounded until the case passes to tribunal, where it will be decided whether the automobile is returned to the owner or passed to the State. This section of the law is already in effect and being enforced. A judge may order community service in place of jail time, for first-time offenders.

### **c227,000:**

- Reckless Driving Category A: Drunk driving with blood alcohol level 0.5%, or under the influence of drugs, speeding in excess of 120kph/74.5mph and false passing (blind passing). Loss of a total of all 50 license points (hence loss of license for 2 years).
- Driving without actually having a driver's license or without a learner's permit. Loss of 50 points when license is obtained, and impoundment of vehicle.
- Providing public transport services, in any form, without proper authorizations (a concession for taxi or bus service) (Pertains to pirate cab service, or "piratas").
- Driving with a suspended license. Loss of 50 points when license is obtained, and impoundment of vehicle.
- The driver who does not use child safety devices for minors (security seats, or booster seats according to Article 79 of the Transit Law Reform) A loss of the totality of 50 license points (and hence suspension of the license for 2 years).

- The motorcyclist, motorbike rider, moped rider, bicyclist, tricyclist, or cuatricyclist that permits minors to ride without a safety helmet. Loss of a totality of 50 license points (and hence the license for 2 years).
- Transporters of dangerous materials that violate Article 101: (Not carrying a permit, not obeying hours set by MOPT, and non-compliance with the regulation.)

### **c170,250:**

- Reckless Driving Category B: Speeding In excess of 20kph/12.4mph above the posted speed limit; speeding while passing the entrance or exit of schools, hospitals, clinics (25kph speed limit/15.5mph). Loss of 20 license points.
- Irrespecting traffic signals (vehicular restriction regulations included) Loss of 10 license points.
- Illegal U-Turn. Loss of 10 license points.
- Passing on the left in a no-passing zone. Loss of 10 points.
- Running a Stop sign or red light. Loss of 25 license points.
- Turning into an intersection without yielding to pedestrians already crossing. Loss of 25 license points.
- Using a cel phone without a “hands-free” system (“manos libres”). Loss of 20 points.
- Permitting passengers on public transport to board or de-board in unauthorized locations. Loss of 20 points.
- Driving a vehicle without up-to-date tags (“derechos de circulacion”) or obligatory vehicle insurance.
- Driving a tow-truck without required permits from MOPT. Loss of 20 points.
- Driving a vehicle without corresponding license plates. Loss of 20 points.
- Driving without a seat belt or permitting passengers of adult age to not wear a seat belt. Loss of 20 points.
- Riders of bicycles, motorcycles, motorbikes, tricycles, cuatricycles, mopeds without a helmet. Loss of 20 points.

### **c113,500**

- Passing on the right, even on two-lane highways, and on two-way roads. (See below: the two-lane highway rules make it an infraction for those who impede the flow of traffic by driving slowly in the left lane or impeding legal passing.) Loss of 15 points.
- Motorcycle riders who pass through the middle of traffic, exploiting spaces between vehicles, zig-zagging through traffic whether the traffic is stopped or moving. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving slowly in the left lane on a two-lane highway. Loss of 15 points.



- Incompliance with the usage of lights on vehicles. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving a vehicle so slowly as to impede the normal flow of traffic, not ceding the passage of vehicles traveling more rapidly, etc. Loss of 15 points.
- Stopping in the middle of an intersection and obstructing circulation of traffic. Loss of 15 points.
- Circulating in a vehicle without required reflective devices. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving a public transport vehicle with excess of passengers. The acting official will proceed with immobilizing such. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving a vehicle found to have alterations or modifications to the injection systems or carburetor or emission control systems. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving a vehicle on the beach. Loss of 15 points.
- Using a roadway for ends which it is not intended, and using a vehicle for a purpose for which it is not authorized. Loss of 15 points.
- Taxi drivers who are found to have committed abuses in charging regulation fares. Loss of 15 points.
- Drivers who do not perform proper passing procedures, or the driver who impedes or blocks the passing of another vehicle. Loss of 15 points.
- Drivers who intercept the passing of other vehicles with the right of way, when there are preventive and regulatory signages, without giving the other driver(s) time to pass or yield to you. Loss of 15 points.
- Driving a vehicle without vehicular inspection up to date (RITEVE). Loss of 15 points.
- Transporting garbage, waste, rubble, raw material, or automobile waste products of any nature and depositing such on the public roadway or right of way, as well as any object that puts roadway safety or the environment in danger, or altering the use or ornament of public roadways and surroundings. Loss of 20 points.

### **c90,800:**

- Violating the right-of-way. Loss of 10 points.
- Riding motorcycles, bicycles, motorbikes, mopeds, tricycles, or cuatricycles without using a reflective vest from a half hour before sundown to a half hour before sunrise. Loss of 10 points.
- Driver of public transport of any kind, that provides service without complying with the requirements to circulate (horn, steering wheel, fire extinguisher, trash can, speed indicator, etc). The same sanction applies to a driver that doesn't have sign for "Servicio Especial" (special services). Loss of 10 points.
- Driving a vehicle with excess passengers. Loss of 10 points.

- Driving a vehicle without a windshield or with obstructed visibility, or tinted lateral windows that are non-compliant with visibility requirements from the inside-out and vice versa. Loss of 10 points.
- Driving a cargo vehicle with excess load, non-secure load, not complying with regulated hours and locations set by MOPT for unloading, not carrying permits for weight and dimensions (transponder data). Loss of 10 points.
- Circulating in competition racing vehicles. Loss of 10 points.
- Driving a vehicle of limited cargo transport (taxi cargo and vehicles with a maximum brute weight of 5 tons) that do not have a double cab, current insurance with INS and abiding regulations. Loss of 10 points.
- Parking in unpermitted locations or disabled parking. Loss of 10 points.
- Using a horn within a distance less than 100 meters (1 block) in front of hospitals, clinics, churches or teaching centers. Loss of 10 points.
- Taxi driver that alters, does not use, or does not carry a meter required for taxis. Loss of 10 points.
- Damaging, altering, or unauthorized use of transit signage.
- Planting trees or installing advertisements or signs that obstruct the visibility of a transit sign. In addition to paying the fine, the infractor must remove all obstacles that interfere with the view of the transit signage.
- Closing a street or using a street for undue purposes.

### **c68,100:**

- Not complying with keeping distance from the vehicle in front of you (tailgating, according to the 2-second rule).
- Driving in reverse. Loss of 5 points.
- Driving an automobile incompliant with whatever devices, whether general or specific, required for circulation (example: driving with a damaged windshield or lights). Loss of 5 points.
- Driver of public transport of any kind that gives service without authorization or regulation license plates. Loss of 5 points.
- Driving with an expired license. Loss of 5 points.
- Driving a vehicle that has had changes in registered characteristics (pertains to not registering changes in color of car, etc, which at the minimum must be completed before passing inspection at RITEVE, as well as placed license plates in non-regulation location). Loss of 5 points.
- Circulating on a foreign license for more than 3 months without obtaining a national license.

- Driver, passenger, or pedestrian who, according to Article 1, causes in a culpous form, damage to goods that would be, by nature or degree, not applicable under any other legislation.

**c45,400:**

- Driving without carrying a driver's license.
- Driving a motor vehicle without carrying registration ("inscription del registro")
- Circulating on skates or a non-auto propulsed artifact.
- Driver, assistant, or fare collector of public transport who mistreats users in word or deed.
- Pedestrian who crosses the street without using crosswalks, or not crossing at the corner (jaywalking).

**c22,700:**

- Driver of public transport who provides service, without authorization of the CTP (Centro de Transporte Publico), in non-authorized zones. Loss of 10 points.
- Driving with high beams lit without reason and without compliance to established hour usage. Loss of 10 points.
- Evading toll payment at tollbooths, or if the driver cannot provide proof of payment of a toll when a Transit authority requests it on the road where a toll booth exists. Presentation of proof of payment will be realized in a case where there is no automatic payment control or if such control is not working.
- Using sirens or rotative lights without a permit, or in a manner non-compliant with the Direccion de Ingengieria de Transito.
- Driving a vehicle without a muffler.
- Cicylist who violates provisions required to circulate on the public roadways.
- Throwing garbage on the public roadways.
- Violating the relative provisions of the vehicular restrictions. (Pertains to restrictions inside the center of San Jose according to hour and the last number of license plate. )
- Driver of public transport who transports persons or objects in violation of Article 80 (passengers who are enebriated, smoking, littering, or professing offensives or obscenities or refusing a disabled passenger to board with their required aids such as a guide dog for a blind passenger.)

# VEHICULAR RESTRICTIONS FOR SAN JOSE

In July, 2008, restrictions were put on cargo vehicles entering and circulating within the “Circumvalacion” (loop) of San Jose. Soon afterward the restrictions were

expanded to include all vehicles, and organized by the last digit of the license plate. Originally a 24 hour restriction, that was soon adjusted to the hours between 6am and 7pm. Then in 2009 the restriction was suspended due to a challenge before Costa Ricas equivalent of the Supreme Court. Now again, the restrictions are back in place, and the fine for such will raise on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Following is a map and details for the restriction for San Jose. Although restrictions for other parts of Costa Rica are being pushed by some, currently the only restriction is for San Jose. Posted on the freeways just outside the restricted zone are roadway signs with a map of the zone, and a list of which license plates are restricted on which days.



Central San Jose traffic jam. © 2007 by Ahren Wardwell

### Vehicular Restrictions for Central San Jose

**The restriction applies to shaded areas inside central San Jose, within the loop called the “Circumvalacion”.**

**Organized by licence plate**

Day	Last digit of plate
Monday	1 and 2
Tuesday	3 and 4
Wednesday	5 and 6
Thursday	7 and 8
Friday	9 and 0

**Hours of restriction: 6am to 7pm, M-F**

**Fine: c22,700 as of September 23rd, 2009 (No limit of these types of citations per day any more.)**

Source for the above image: CIRCULAR DRH-036-08 published by the Presidencia de la Republica, Direccion de Recursos Humanos and published in the Diario Oficial La Gaceta the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, available for download at hacienda.go.cr.

## ROADWAY CONDITIONS



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In July, 2009, the Laboratorio Nacional de Materiales y Modelos Estructurales (National Laboratory of Materials and Structural Models), LANAMME, released statistics on the condition of the surfaces of the national roadway network. Although they determined that there's been *some* improvement since 2006, still only one-fifth of the national roadways are in an acceptable condition. Irregular surface conditions cost the consumer with increased need for combustible fuels, and damages and wear and tear to their suspension, tires, and chassy. It's estimated that the country is at least 25 years away from rectifying the deficiency of the roadways, if the current rhythm of maintenance is not accelerated. Government goals for the last year were to increase the number of acceptable surfaces by 10%, but in reality only a 1.9% improvement has occurred.

Cartago and Heredia are rated with the worst roadway surfaces, while Limon and Puntarenas boast the best.

The following newly released figures cover two types of ratings: state of the roadway surface; and deformities caused by heavy vehicles which reduce the useful life of a roadway surface. They are for 2008, the most current study for Costa Rica's road conditions.

### **SURFACE CONDITIONS:**

**GOOD: 8%**

**MODERATE: 38%**

**DEFICIENT: 31%**

**VERY DEFICIENT: 19%**

### **LEVEL OF DEFORMATIONS:**

**LOW: 72%**

**MODERATE: 10%**

**HIGH: 11%**

**VERY HIGH: 9%**

Demarcation on the nation's paved roadways is also on a poor state. LANAMME declared in a statement released in 2009, that there is a grave deficiency in roadway safety, due to only one-third of current demarcation being in "regular" or "good" condition, but they do recognize that just ten years ago, only 10% of the paved roads had signage (lane demarcation, lines indicating stop or yield, reflective bumps ["ojos de gato"], etc). Currently, 50% of the nation's paved routes have no demarcation, just over 17% have paint in poor condition, while 33% has regular or good demarcation. Alajuela and Guanacaste rate the worst level of demarcation. The level of reflectivity in existing paint on the roadways was not measured.

Slippery surfaces, measured by tire traction, was also studied. Currently, half of Costa Rica's paved roads have either "deslizante" ("slippery") or "muy deslizante" ("very slippery") surfaces, making for dramatically increased risks in incimate weather, of which the nation has plenty.

**FOLLOWING ARE 2005 STATISTICS ON ROADWAY LENGTH AND CONDITION**

**LENGTH OF HIGHWAYS AND ROADS ACCORDING TO CLASS AND TYPE OF ROADWAY SURFACE. COSTA RICA 2005**

(IN KILOMETERS)

DESCRIPCION	LENGTH
<b>* TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>35,708.18</b>
<b>Total Paved</b>	<b>8,903.07</b>
<b>Total Gravel and Dirt</b>	<b>26,805.11</b>
<b>NACIONAL NETWORK</b>	<b>7,433.97</b>
<b>Paved</b>	<b>4,552.16</b>
<b>Gravel and Dirt</b>	<b>2,881.81</b>
<b>CANTON NETWORK</b>	<b>28,274.21</b>
<b>Paved</b>	<b>4,350.91</b>
<b>Gravel and Dirt</b>	<b>23,923.30</b>

Source: MOPT. Direccion de Planificacion Sectorial, Departamento de Financiamiento e Inversiones, based on information from the department of Medio de Transporte

Note: Does not take into account roadways not inventoried, for which there is not yet detailed information on their state.

**CONDITION OF THE NATIONAL AND CANTON S ROADWAY NETWORKS. COSTA RICA, 2005**

TYPE OF NETWORK	SURFACE	CONDITION OF THE ROAD							
		GOOD		REGULAR		POOR		TOTAL	
		KM	%	KM	%	KM	%	KM	%
<b>NATIONAL NETWORK</b>	<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>1,680.26</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>3,210.68</b>	<b>43.2%</b>	<b>2,542.94</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>7,433.87</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>PAVED</b>	<b>1,679.42</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>1,569.70</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>1,303.04</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>4,552.16</b>	<b>61%</b>
	<b>GRAVEL AND DIRT</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,640.98</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>1,239.90</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2,881.71</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>CANTON NETWORKS</b>	<b>CANTON</b>	<b>2,436.57</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>12,578.95</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>13,258.69</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>28,274.21</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>PAVED</b>	<b>1,076.15</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>2,765.95</b>	<b>63.6%</b>	<b>508.81</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>4,350.91</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>GRAVEL AND DIRT</b>	<b>1,360.42</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>9,813.00</b>	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>12,749.88</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>23,923.30</b>	<b>85%</b>

Source: MOPT. Direccion de Planificacion Sectorial, Departamento de Financiamiento e Inversiones, based on information from the department of Medio de Transporte

Note: Does not take into account roadways that are not yet inventoried, for which there is not yet detailed information on their state.

# ROAD SIGNS OF COSTA RICA

Note that much of Costa Rica's signage is painted on the road surface, such as STOP ("ALTO") and YIELD ("CEDA"). Signage painted on the roadway is termed "horizontal" and signs such as shown below are termed "vertical". Source: MOPT

## SIGNALS OF PREVENTION


























Traffic signs intended to warn of roadway hazards are yellow and black, and are usually very obvious in their warning. Shown below are common examples, with translations for the worded signs. "Derrumbes" is a very common warning, and although a lot of tourists speculate it refers to a ferocious critter crossing, it indeed refers to landslides, a common occurrence in the mountainous areas where the roadways cut into steep mountain cliffs. During the rainy season, it is a common occurrence to be held up for several hours behind a "derrumbe" while backhoes are brought in to remove the mud and boulders.



**INTERSECCION ADELANTE** means INTERSECTION AHEAD  
**DERRUMBES EN LA VIA** means LANDSLIDES ON THE ROADWAY  
**CURVA ADELANTE** means CURVE AHEAD  
**DESPACIO** means SLOW



## REGULATION ROAD SIGNS AND THEIR TRANSLATIONS, TYPICAL TO COSTA RICA

	<p><b>Speed Limit</b> 60kph (37.2mph)</p>		<p><b>Bus Stop</b></p>		<p><b>Taxi Stop</b></p>		<p><b>Pedestrians To the Left</b></p>
	<p><b>1.8m (5.9feet) max width</b></p>		<p><b>10 tons max weight</b></p>		<p><b>Keep to your Right</b></p>		<p><b>End of Velocity Restriction</b></p>
	<p><b>Trucks to the Right</b></p>		<p><b>One-Hour Parking 6am-6pm</b></p>		<p><b>U-Turn Permitted</b></p>		<p><b>3m (9.8feet) max height</b></p>
	<p><b>Wrong Way (No Passage)</b></p>		<p><b>No Passing</b></p>		<p><b>No U-Turn</b></p>		<p><b>No Bicycles</b></p>
	<p><b>No Right Turn</b></p>		<p><b>No Left Turn</b></p>		<p><b>No Parking</b></p>		<p><b>One Way</b></p>
	<p><b>Stop</b></p>		<p><b>Yield</b></p>		<p><b>Proceed With Caution</b></p>		<p><b>15.5mph</b></p>
							<p><b>Two Lanes Ahead</b></p>

## INFORMATIONAL ROADSIGNS

Informational roadsigns are either green and white, or black and white, and will show directions and distance to a destination, mark the location of rivers, and sometimes include speed limits or warnings (such as “despacio 40kph” which would mean “SLOW: 40kph/24.8mph”)

Samples are shown below, along with a basic conversion chart for metric to standard units.

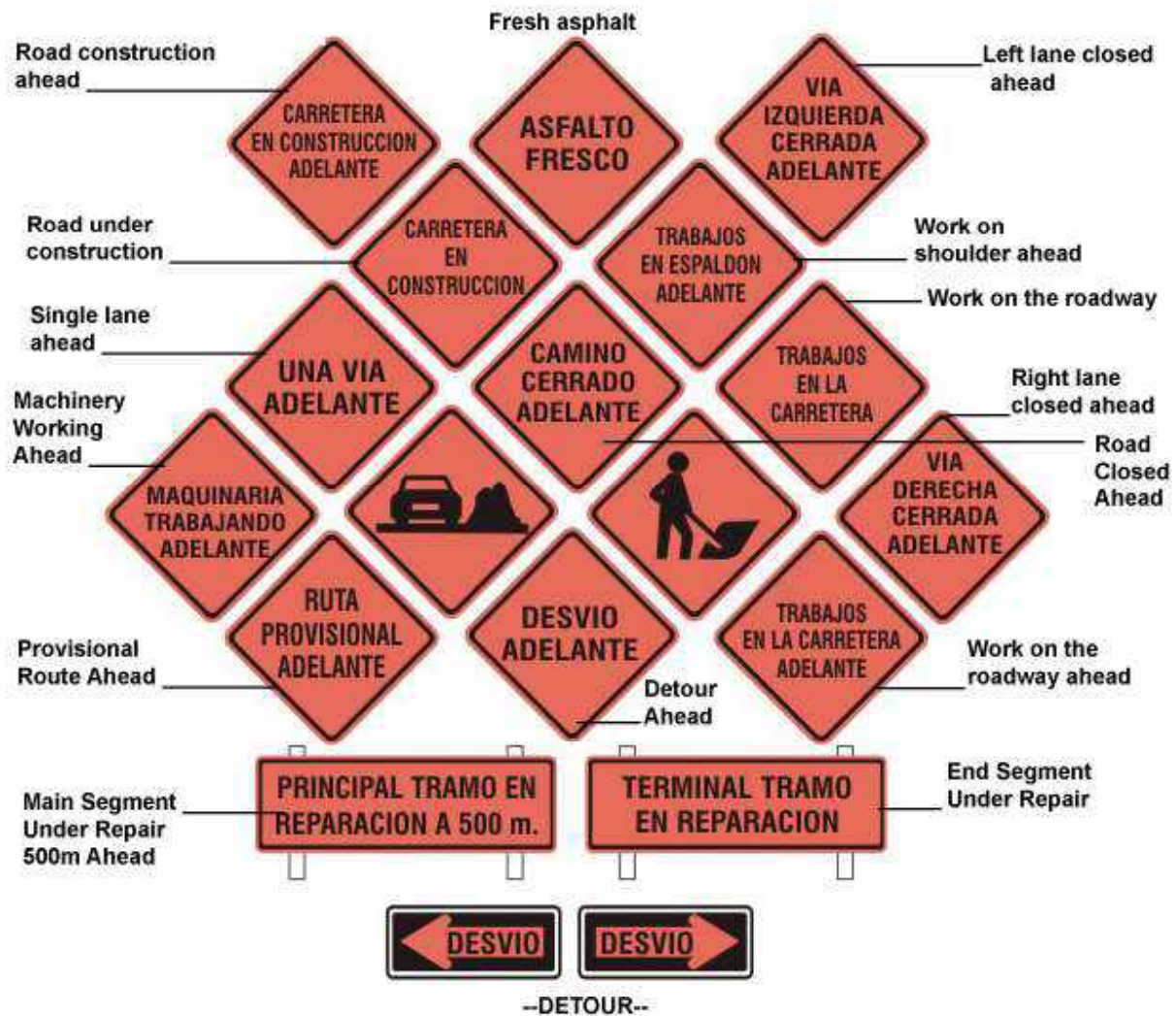


### KILOMETERS vs MILES

1 kilometer	=	0.62 miles
10 kilometers	=	6.2 miles
20 kilometers	=	12.42 miles
40 kilometers	=	24.85 miles
50 kilometers	=	31 miles
100 kilometers	=	62.1 miles

# CONSTRUCTION WARNING SIGNS

Costa Rica has a great deal of road construction going on, and one should heed the warning signs, if you're fortunate enough that they're actually placed in the roadway. Shown below are standard examples, with translations into English.



Although such warning signs seem logical and clear, more often than not the only markings put out for road construction are regulation orange traffic cones. Drivers should take heed to avoid the men at work and their heavy machinery.

## ROAD SIGNS FOR SERVICES AND TOURISM

These signs are blue and white, and largely obvious what they represent. They can be found along the highways and roadways and are an excellent resource for road trips. Many Costa Ricans rely on these signs while exploring and touring domestically with their families. Before the Internet they were a primary resource for pulling in domestic tourists.



Artesan shops,  
souvenirs,  
crafts etc



Gas  
Station



Swimming  
Area or  
Spa or  
Springs



Sun and  
beach  
access



Public  
Phone



Lodging



Airport



Red Cross



Recreation  
Area/  
Rest  
Stop



Mechanic  
Workshop



Lake

# GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP OF COSTA RICA

Below you will also find links to the interactive maps of Costa Rica provided by MOPT.



The routes listed below are those on the map above. For a current report on highway repairs and conditions (such as sections that are washed out or under major repair) you can check at the Transito website under the section "Estado de Rutas" <http://www.transito.go.cr/estadorutas/index.html>

- Route 1 - Interamerica Norte
- Route 2 - Interamerica Sur
- Route 4 - Santa Cecilia/Upala/Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí
- Route 6 - San Jose/Fortuna/Bagaces
- Route 10 - San Jose/Siquirres
- Route 18 - Rio Tempisque
- Route 21 - Liberia/Nicoya/Paquera
- Route 23 - Chacarita/Caldera
- Route 27 - San Jose/Santa Ana/ Caldera/Orotina (under construction)
- Route 32 - San Jose/Limon
- Route 34 - Costanera Sur
- Route 35 - San Jose/Los Chiles
- Route 36 - Limon/Cahuita

- Route 126 - Heredia/San Miguel
- Route 140 - Santa Rita
- Route 141 - San Ramon/Fortuna
- Route 142 - Canas/Tilaran/Arenal/Fortuna
- Route 160 - Paraiso/Samara/Montezuma
- Route 164 - Bagaces/Salitral/La Fortuna
- Route 239 - San Jose/Parrita
- Route 245 - Piedras Blancas/Puerto Jimenez

Following is a map showing topographical features of Costa Rica, for reference in usage of the above highway map. Although actual distances in Costa Rica are small, the geography and roadway conditions make driving across the country relatively slow.



**Official MOPT maps of the National Roadway Network (“Red Vial Nacional”):**

<http://www.mopt.go.cr/Rutas/index.html>

This is an extensive interactive feature, with the following map options (.pdf format): National Network (“Red Vial C.R.”), San Jose (“Travesia San Jose”), Central San Jose (“San Jose Centro”), and the Greater Metropolitan Area (“G.A.M”) The left menu has links to files (.pdf or Excel) which provide distances by the following: by Route, by Canton, District, and Region, and also Roadway Network by Canton (“Red Vial por Canton”) and Roadway Network by Province (“Red Vial por Provincia”).

DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

### Driving Times from San Jose

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	9 miles 15 km		30 min	36 min
<a href="#">Cahuita</a> , Limon	252 miles 403 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Cahuita National Park</a> , Limon	252 miles 403 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Cañas</a> , Guanacaste	118 miles 189 km		3 hr	3 hr
<a href="#">Cartago</a> , Cartago	12 miles 20 km		36 min	42 min
<a href="#">Golfito</a> , South Puntarenas	193 miles 309 km	1 hr Taxi: 6 min	9 hr	9 hr
<a href="#">Golfo de Papagayo</a> , Guanacaste	158 miles 252 km	48 min Taxi: 1 hr	5 hr	5 hr
<a href="#">Heredia</a> , Heredia	9 miles 15 km		24 min	30 min
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	73 miles 117 km		2 hr 12 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	94 miles 150 km	30 min Taxi: 6 min	3 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	136 miles 217 km	48 min Taxi: 6 min	4 hr	4 hr
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	120 miles 192 km	30 min Taxi: 12 min	3 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	105 miles 168 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Poás Volcano National Park</a> , Alajuela	32 miles 51 km		1 hr 18 min	1 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Puerto Limon</a> , Limon	88 miles 141 km		3 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Puerto Viejo de Talamanca</a> , Limon	256 miles 410 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	72 miles 115 km		2 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Quepos</a> , North Puntarenas	116 miles 185 km	30 min	3 hr 12 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Santa Elena</a> , North Puntarenas	103 miles 165 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Santa Rosa National Park</a> , Guanacaste	168 miles 269 km	48 min Taxi: 30 min	4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	171 miles 274 km	48 min	4 hr 30 min	5 hr
<a href="#">Tambor</a> , North Puntarenas	103 miles 165 km	24 min	3 hr	3 hr
<a href="#">Tilaran</a> , Guanacaste	119 miles 190 km		3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Turrialba</a> , Cartago	44 miles 70 km		2 hr	2 hr

DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

### Driving Times from Liberia

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	125 miles 200 km	1 hr 12 min Taxi: 6 min	3 hr 12 min	3 hr 42 min
<a href="#">Dominical</a> , South Puntarenas	193 miles 309 km		6 hr	7 hr
<a href="#">Golfito</a> , South Puntarenas	288 miles 461 km	2 hr 12 min Taxi: 6 min	9 hr	10 hr
<a href="#">Heredia</a> , Heredia	128 miles 205 km		2 hr 24 min	3 hr 54 min
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	121 miles 193 km		3 hr 12 min	3 hr 54 min
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	91 miles 145 km		3 hr	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Liberia International Airport (Daniel Oduber)</a> , Guanacaste	3 miles 5 km		6 min	6 min
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	164 miles 263 km	1 hr 30 min Taxi: 12 min	4 hr 12 min	5 hr
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	88 miles 140 km		3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Nicoya</a> , Guanacaste	52 miles 83 km		1 hr 12 min	1 hr 42 min
<a href="#">Peñas Blancas</a> , Guanacaste	48 miles 77 km		2 hr 12 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Playa Flamingo</a> , Guanacaste	53 miles 85 km		54 min	1 hr 12 min
<a href="#">Playa Panama</a> , Guanacaste	28 miles 45 km		48 min	1 hr
<a href="#">Playas del Coco</a> , Guanacaste	38 miles 60 km		42 min	1 hr
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	82 miles 132 km		1 hr 42 min	2 hr
<a href="#">San Gerardo de Dota</a> , San Jose	189 miles 302 km		6 hr 12 min	7 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	136 miles 217 km	1 hr 12 min Taxi: 6 min	3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Santa Cruz</a> , Guanacaste	35 miles 56 km		42 min	1 hr
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	43 miles 69 km		1 hr	1 hr 30 min



### Driving times from Quepos

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Dominical</a> , South Puntarenas	28 miles 45 km		42 min	1 hr
<a href="#">Golfito</a> , South Puntarenas	122 miles 195 km		4 hr	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	44 miles 70 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	9 miles 14 km		12 min	18 min
<a href="#">Playa Uvita</a> , South Puntarenas	125 miles 200 km		2 hr 30 min	3 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	116 miles 185 km	30 min	3 hr 12 min	3 hr 30 min

### Driving times from Jaco

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Dominical</a> , South Puntarenas	76 miles 122 km		2 hr 48 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	47 miles 75 km		2 hr 6 min	2 hr 36 min
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	97 miles 155 km		3 hr	3 hr
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	47 miles 75 km		1 hr	1 hr 12 min
<a href="#">Quepos</a> , North Puntarenas	44 miles 70 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	73 miles 117 km		2 hr 12 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	152 miles 243 km		3 hr 12 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tambor</a> , North Puntarenas	106 miles 169 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min Ferry: 1 hr 12 min

## DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

### Driving times from Puntarenas

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	47 miles 75 km		1 hr	1 hr 12 min
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	82 miles 132 km		1 hr 42 min	2 hr
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	96 miles 154 km		2 hr 42 min	3 hr 6 min
<a href="#">Quepos</a> , North Puntarenas	88 miles 140 km		2 hr 30 min	3 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	69 miles 110 km		1 hr 30 min	2 hr
<a href="#">San Ramon</a> , Alajuela	33 miles 53 km		1 hr 6 min	1 hr 30 min

### Driving times from Monteverde

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	94 miles 150 km		3 hr	3 hr
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	101 miles 162 km		4 hr	
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	88 miles 140 km		3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	141 miles 225 km		4 hr	4 hr
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	50 miles 80 km		2 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	105 miles 168 km		4 hr 30 min	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	109 miles 175 km		4 hr	4 hr

### Driving times from Dominical

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Cartago</a> , Cartago	87 miles 139 km		3 hr	4 hr
<a href="#">Golfito</a> , South Puntarenas	95 miles 152 km		3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	62 miles 100 km		1 hr 30 min	2 hr
<a href="#">Puerto Jimenez</a> , South Puntarenas	109 miles 175 km		3 hr 42 min	4 hr 18 min
<a href="#">Quepos</a> , North Puntarenas	28 miles 45 km		42 min	1 hr
<a href="#">San Isidro de El General</a> , North Puntarenas	18 miles 28 km		1 hr 30 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	101 miles 162 km		4 hr	5 hr

### Driving times from La Fortuna de San Carlos

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	109 miles 175 km		3 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	153 miles 245 km		4 hr	4 hr
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	101 miles 162 km		4 hr	
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	71 miles 113 km		2 hr 30 min	3 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	94 miles 150 km	30 min Taxi: 6 min	3 hr 30 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	138 miles 220 km		4 hr	4 hr 30 min

### Driving times from Peñas Blancas

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	173 miles 277 km		4 hr	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	155 miles 248 km		4 hr 30 min	5 hr
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	48 miles 77 km		2 hr 12 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Punta Islita Domestic Airport</a> , Guanacaste	134 miles 215 km		4 hr	
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	131 miles 210 km		2 hr 42 min	3 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	190 miles 304 km		4 hr 30 min	5 hr

## DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

### Driving times from Golfito

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Buenos Aires</a> , South Puntarenas	91 miles 146 km		3 hr	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Cabo Matapalo</a> , South Puntarenas	94 miles 150 km		30 min Ferry: 1 hr	
<a href="#">Pavones</a> , South Puntarenas	62 miles 100 km		1 hr 48 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Playa Zancudo</a> , South Puntarenas	47 miles 75 km		1 hr	Ferry: 1 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Puerto Jimenez</a> , South Puntarenas	79 miles 127 km		Ferry: 1 hr	
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	193 miles 309 km		6 hr	7 hr

### Driving times from Samara

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	139 miles 222 km		3 hr 54 min	4 hr 42 min
<a href="#">Cartago</a> , Cartago	164 miles 262 km		5 hr 30 min	6 hr
<a href="#">Heredia</a> , Heredia	146 miles 234 km		4 hr 12 min	4 hr 42 min
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	166 miles 265 km		5 hr 12 min	6 hr
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	75 miles 120 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	95 miles 152 km		4 hr	4 hr 12 min
<a href="#">Nicoya</a> , Guanacaste	23 miles 37 km		30 min	42 min
<a href="#">Playas del Coco</a> , Guanacaste	70 miles 112 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	97 miles 155 km		2 hr 30 min	3 hr
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	149 miles 239 km		4 hr 12 min	5 hr
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	68 miles 109 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tambor</a> , North Puntarenas	56 miles 90 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min

DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

**Driving times from Tamarindo**

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	161 miles 257 km	48 min Taxi: 6 min	4 hr 18 min	4 hr 42 min
<a href="#">Dominical</a> , South Puntarenas	223 miles 357 km		4 hr 48 min	5 hr 18 min
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	152 miles 243 km		3 hr 12 min	3 hr 30 min
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	134 miles 214 km		4 hr	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	47 miles 75 km		1 hr	1 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	196 miles 314 km	1 hr 12 min Taxi: 6 min	4 hr	4 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	112 miles 180 km		3 hr 30 min	4 hr
<a href="#">Nicoya</a> , Guanacaste	45 miles 72 km			1 hr 30 min Boat: 1 hr
<a href="#">Playas del Coco</a> , Guanacaste	38 miles 61 km		1 hr	1 hr 18 min
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	119 miles 190 km		2 hr 48 min	3 hr
<a href="#">Samara</a> , Guanacaste	68 miles 109 km		2 hr	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	171 miles 274 km	48 min Taxi: 6 min	4 hr 30 min	5 hr

DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES BETWEEN COSTA RICA'S MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS

**Driving times from San Gerardo de Dota**

To	Distance	Plane	Car	Bus
<a href="#">Alajuela</a> , Alajuela	64 miles 102 km			
<a href="#">Buenos Aires</a> , South Puntarenas	72 miles 116 km			
<a href="#">Cahuita</a> , Limon	161 miles 258 km			
<a href="#">Cartago</a> , Cartago	39 miles 62 km			
<a href="#">Ciudad Quesada ( San Carlos )</a> , Alajuela	99 miles 158 km			
<a href="#">Dominical</a> , South Puntarenas	48 miles 77 km			
<a href="#">Golfito</a> , South Puntarenas	143 miles 229 km			
<a href="#">Jaco</a> , North Puntarenas	126 miles 202 km			
<a href="#">La Fortuna de San Carlos</a> , Alajuela	128 miles 204 km			
<a href="#">Liberia</a> , Guanacaste	189 miles 302 km			
<a href="#">Limon Domestic Airport</a> , Limon	135 miles 216 km			
<a href="#">Manuel Antonio</a> , North Puntarenas	78 miles 124 km			
<a href="#">Monteverde</a> , North Puntarenas	159 miles 254 km			
<a href="#">Nicoya</a> , Guanacaste	179 miles 287 km			
<a href="#">Peñas Blancas</a> , Guanacaste	243 miles 389 km			
<a href="#">Puerto Jimenez</a> , South Puntarenas	158 miles 252 km			
<a href="#">Puerto Viejo de Talamanca</a> , Limon	95 miles 152 km			
<a href="#">Puntarenas</a> , North Puntarenas	125 miles 200 km			
<a href="#">Samara</a> , Guanacaste	202 miles 324 km			
<a href="#">San Isidro de El General</a> , North Puntarenas	31 miles 49 km		48 min	
<a href="#">San Jose Downtown</a> , San Jose	32 miles 52 km		2 hr 12 min	2 hr 30 min
<a href="#">Tamarindo</a> , Guanacaste	212 miles 339 km			
<a href="#">Tambor</a> , North Puntarenas	184 miles 294 km			
<a href="#">Tilaran</a> , Guanacaste	172 miles 276 km			
<a href="#">Turrialba</a> , Cartago	67 miles 107 km			

# STATISTICS

Following are some historical statistics on Costa Rica's population and roadway casualties. One might notice the rapid increase in drivers over the last decades in Costa Rica.

Combined with the absence of any semblance of pre-license drivers education, along with only a recent effort to control the outright purchasing of licenses without fulfilling any minimal learning requirements, the growth of the driving index has resulted in the infamously hazardous conditions experienced today, and hence the passage of the sweeping reform that is to take effect in

**September, 2009.** Note: "Open Population" refers to population affected by natality, mortality, immigration, and emigration. "Closed Population" refers to only mortality and natality.



Yellow haloed hearts painted on the highways mark where a pedestrian has been killed.  
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## COSTA RICA: TOTAL POPULATION FROM JULY 1. PERIODO: 1990-2005 - TOTAL INHABITANTS-

Year	Closed Population			Open Population		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1990	2,993,676	1,512,211	1,481,465	3,050,556	1,551,928	1,498,628
1991	3,063,608	1,547,718	1,515,890	3,121,666	1,587,732	1,533,934
1992	3,131,810	1,582,252	1,549,558	3,191,249	1,622,703	1,568,546
1993	3,199,234	1,616,376	1,582,858	3,274,971	1,665,244	1,609,727
1994	3,265,920	1,649,819	1,616,101	3,372,604	1,715,260	1,657,344
1995	3,333,223	1,683,286	1,649,937	3,469,787	1,764,975	1,704,812
1996	3,398,008	1,715,627	1,682,381	3,564,631	1,813,346	1,751,285
1997	3,464,170	1,748,768	1,715,402	3,656,519	1,859,976	1,796,543
1998	3,525,701	1,779,143	1,746,558	3,747,006	1,905,866	1,841,140
1999	3,589,163	1,811,096	1,778,067	3,837,674	1,951,858	1,885,816
2000	3,925,331 a/	1,996,350	1,928,981	3,925,331	1,996,350	1,928,981
2001	3,988,293	2,027,571	1,960,722	4,008,265	2,038,585	1,969,680
2002	4,045,838	2,056,353	1,989,485	4,089,609	2,080,026	2,009,583
2003	4,103,112	2,084,967	2,018,145	4,169,730	2,120,743	2,048,987
2004	4,160,033	2,113,131	2,046,902	4,248,481	2,160,688	2,087,793
2005	4,215,569	2,140,603	2,074,966	4,325,808	2,199,858	2,125,950

Source: INEC, 2005

a/ The jump in the population growth is due to the initiation of a new series based on the data from the Censo Nacional de Población del 2000.

## COSTA RICA: INDEX OF MOTORIZATION. PERIOD 1981 TO 2005

Year	VEHICULAR FLEET	HABITANTS	RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH	INDEX OF MOTORIZATION
1981	195,105	2,276,700	-	8.57
1982	201,600	2,339,800	2.77	8.62
1983	210,044	2,403,800	2.74	8.74
1984	217,828	2,467,300	2.64	8.83
1985	226,875	2,600,300	5.39	8.72
1986	243,458	2,674,900	2.87	9.10
1987	260,624	2,746,900	2.69	9.49
1988	275,327	2,816,600	2.54	9.78
1989	292,026	2,887,000	2.50	10.12
1990	318,642	2,959,200	2.50	10.77
1991	332,876	3,024,700	2.21	11.01
1992	373,868	3,099,063	2.46	12.06
1993	396,379	3,199,234	3.23	12.39
1994	439,235	3,265,920	2.08	13.45
1995	477,778	3,333,223	2.06	14.33
1996	511,670	3,398,008	1.94	15.06
1997	551,750	3,464,170	1.95	15.93
1998	572,073	3,525,701	1.78	16.23
1999	643,737	3,587,753	1.76	17.94
2000	774,885	3,938,543	9.78	19.67
2001	664,563	4,008,265	1.77	16.58
2002	689,763	4,045,837	0.94	17.05
2003	894,501	4,075,863	0.74	21.95
2004	952,295	4,159,757	2.06	22.89
2005	1,013,823	4,325,808	3.99	23.44

Note: As of 2001 the source changed to the Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito.  
Source: INEC and Registro Nacional



## HISTORIC PROFILE OF TRANSIT ACCIDENTS AND VICTIMS IN COSTA RICA 1981-2005

YEAR	POPULATION	ACCIDENTS	INJURIES		DEATHS	DEATHS	RATE OF MORTALITY
			LIGHT	GRAVE	TOTAL	ON SITE	
1981	2,276,700	15,933	4,933	715	-----	98	-
1982	2,339,800	14,071	4,476	915	-----	115	-
1983	2,403,800	13,911	4,790	981	-----	106	-
1984	2,467,300	15,404	4,920	1,451	-----	194	-
1985	2,600,300	17,788	5,011	1,928	-----	165	-
1986	2,674,900	20,303	5,276	2,073	357	201	13.35
1987	2,746,900	22,025	5,794	1,644	454	221	16.53
1988	2,816,600	23,621	5,908	1,316	352	214	12.50
1989	2,887,000	25,857	6,813	799	389	219	13.47
1990	2,959,200	27,274	6,347	1,222	421	215	14.23
1991	3,024,700	27,740	6,396	1,409	409	251	13.52
1992	3,099,063	30,116	7,488	1,317	379	230	12.23
1993	3,199,234	35,157	7,549	1,363	411	235	12.85
1994	3,265,920	44,697	9,041	1,617	560	291	17.15
1995	3,333,223	44,938	8,499	1,425	515	285	15.45
1996	3,398,008	42,552	9,196	1,496	417	260	12.27
1997	3,464,170	44,571	8,363	1,607	530	307	15.30
1998	3,525,701	51,493	11,288	2,359	630	324	17.87
1999	3,587,753	57,734	12,129	2,425	666	305	18.56
2000	3,938,543	59,496	13,507	2,562	670	336	17.01
2001	4,008,265	52,308	14,201	2,914	668	438	16.67
2002	4,045,837	58,380	14,587	2,783	673	397	16.63
2003	4,075,863	53,881	14,231	3,139	623	363	15.29
2004	4,159,757	52,362	16,368	3,259	585	321	14.06
2005	4,325,808	57,129	17,218	3,512	616	301	14.24

Note: As of 2001 the source changed to the Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito.

Source: Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito. Investigación area of COSEVI, and INEC

### HISTORICAL INDEX OF ACCIDENTS BY MONTH. COSTA RICA 1995-2005

YEAR	TOTAL	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995	44,938	3,498	3,779	4,037	3,591	3,552	3,976	3,790	3,711	3,553	3,574	3,650	4,227
1996	42,552	3,330	3,353	3,136	3,366	3,552	3,472	3,503	3,559	3,660	3,939	3,715	3,967
1997	44,571	3,260	3,307	3,480	3,538	3,596	3,502	3,667	3,717	3,785	3,986	4,198	4,535
1998	51,493	3,706	3,691	4,263	3,759	4,029	4,139	4,404	4,517	4,502	4,721	4,577	5,185
1999	57,734	4,096	4,216	4,708	4,484	4,857	4,628	4,912	5,100	4,844	5,035	5,116	5,738
2000	59,496	4,483	4,573	4,846	4,393	5,339	4,761	5,076	5,085	5,165	4,449	5,355	5,971
2001	53,208	3,834	3,933	4,563	3,790	4,225	4,348	4,351	4,279	4,609	5,067	4,974	5,235
2002	58,380	3,672	4,044	5,440	4,523	5,402	4,442	4,781	5,890	5,070	5,388	5,154	4,574
2003	53,668	4,346	3,970	4,696	4,239	4,636	4,375	4,140	4,458	4,666	4,697	4,547	4,898
2004	52,362	3,566	4,314	4,315	4,309	4,470	4,274	4,431	4,250	4,537	4,651	4,637	4,608
2005	57,129	3,335	4,033	3,961	3,897	4,445	4,931	5,289	5,533	5,321	5,335	5,234	5,815

Note: As of 2001 the source changed to the Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito.

Source: Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito. Área de investigación COSEVI

HISTORIC PROFILE OF TOTAL DEATHS IN TRANSIT ACCIDENTS ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP. COSTA RICA 1986-2005

QUANTITY OF TOTAL DEATHS																				
AGE	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
< 1 YEAR	0	5	1	0	2	1	1	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2
1 to 4 YRS	11	10	18	17	9	16	14	2	14	7	10	0	13	15	10	19	12	12	10	7
5 to 9 YRS	19	22	19	14	12	14	14	13	26	22	19	7	25	23	16	19	18	15	13	17
10 to 14	13	20	10	17	12	10	7	10	19	20	17	8	23	32	24	18	13	16	14	20
15 to 19	20	25	28	25	23	29	25	30	38	44	34	41	48	48	63	44	53	61	43	52
20 to 24	54	55	33	44	56	48	26	47	55	67	33	69	74	78	70	97	69	79	74	65
25 to 29	44	50	40	43	51	45	36	47	67	55	58	66	71	63	68	63	79	50	62	70
30 to 34	36	59	35	43	42	36	47	38	65	41	42	51	69	62	67	65	59	50	52	47
35 to 39	31	31	31	33	39	39	42	41	41	36	44	52	65	56	52	54	56	52	43	46
40 to 44	30	35	19	22	29	31	33	30	38	36	29	41	53	64	54	49	61	48	59	51
45 to 49	20	49	21	18	29	19	15	27	27	27	22	44	35	44	48	42	54	54	45	42
50 to 54	18	10	20	25	26	25	26	17	23	27	18	23	25	27	43	37	50	45	34	57
55 to 59	7	18	15	12	23	23	19	27	22	28	17	28	28	38	24	34	37	25	28	29
60 to 64	12	26	19	20	17	18	18	27	30	29	18	20	24	24	30	21	25	20	28	27
65 to 69	11	9	14	20	13	20	10	13	27	17	19	21	22	24	20	20	21	22	19	21
70 to 74	12	11	9	13	15	11	15	17	26	20	14	14	19	19	19	16	21	24	16	25
75 to 79	10	8	12	5	9	5	9	9	15	19	6	18	9	19	17	20	17	22	11	9
80 to 84	5	8	5	10	6	7	9	10	14	15	4	12	10	10	15	17	4	10	11	13
85 +	4	2	2	8	5	6	5	0	7	1	6	4	10	16	15	6	10	7	18	12
IGNORED	0	1	1	0	3	6	8	3	2	1	5	9	4	2	12	26	13	10	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>616</b>

Note: As of 2001 the source changed to the Dirección General de la Policía de Tránsito.

Source: Área de Investigación, Consejo de Seguridad Vial. Y el INEC

**Total deaths from transit accidents according to age and type of participation. Costa Rica: 2001-2005**

2005					
Type of participation					
Age	Total	Occupant	Pedest.	Cyclist	Motorcyclist
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>91</b>
Under 5 years	9	1	6	1	1
From 5 to 9 years	17	5	10	2	0
From 10 to 14 years	20	3	10	7	1
From 15 to 19 years	52	14	8	10	19
From 20 to 24 years	65	23	15	7	20
From 25 to 29 years	70	29	12	5	25
From 30 to 34 years	47	13	7	9	17
From 35 to 39 years	46	14	19	4	8
From 40 to 44 years	51	19	20	4	8
From 45 to 49 years	42	17	18	5	2
From 50 to 54 years	57	16	28	8	5
From 55 to 59 years	29	3	16	6	3
From 60 to 64 years	27	7	11	6	3
From 65 + years	80	12	57	9	1
Unknown	4	-	-	-	-

2004						
Type of participation						
Age	Total	Occupant	Pedest.	Cyclist	Motorcyclist	Misc
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>
Under 5 years	13	5	8	0	0	0
From 5 to 9 years	13	3	9	1	0	0
From 10 to 14 years	14	6	7	1	0	0
From 15 to 19 years	43	14	11	7	11	0
From 20 to 24 years	74	24	17	6	28	0
From 25 to 29 years	62	24	18	4	15	1
From 30 to 34 years	52	24	10	8	9	0
From 35 to 39 years	43	16	11	5	11	0
From 40 to 44 years	59	25	15	10	10	0
From 45 to 49 years	45	18	17	3	7	0
From 50 to 54 years	34	13	15	4	3	0
From 55 to 59 years	28	9	12	5	3	0
From 60 to 64 years	28	5	14	5	2	1
From 65 + years	75	11	56	7	1	0
Unknown	2	-	-	-	-	-

2003					
Type of participation					
Age	Total	Occupant	Pedest.	Cyclist	Motorcyclist
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>90</b>
Under 5 years	13	6	7	0	0
From 5 to 9 years	15	1	12	2	0
From 10 to 14 years	16	5	8	1	3
From 15 to 19 years	61	21	14	5	21
From 20 to 24 years	79	38	17	7	17
From 25 to 29 years	50	22	15	4	8
From 30 to 34 years	50	18	13	10	10
From 35 to 39 years	52	23	17	4	8
From 40 to 44 years	48	19	20	2	8
From 45 to 49 years	54	23	22	2	8
From 50 to 54 years	45	14	22	3	6
From 55 to 59 years	25	5	14	2	3

**2002**  
**Type of participation**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Occupant</b>	<b>Pedest.</b>	<b>Cyclist</b>	<b>Motorcyclist</b>	<b>Misc</b>
<b><u>COSTA RICA</u></b>	<b><u>673</u></b>	<b><u>188</u></b>	<b><u>331</u></b>	<b><u>51</u></b>	<b><u>103</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
Under 5 years	<u>13</u>	4	9	0	0	0
From 5 to 9 years	<u>18</u>	4	12	1	1	0
From 10 to 14 years	<u>13</u>	4	7	2	0	0
From 15 to 19 years	<u>53</u>	22	5	10	16	0
From 20 to 24 years	<u>69</u>	28	12	6	23	0
From 25 to 29 years	<u>79</u>	34	17	7	21	0
From 30 to 34 years	<u>59</u>	22	15	7	14	1
From 35 to 39 years	<u>56</u>	22	19	4	11	0
From 40 to 44 years	<u>61</u>	23	25	4	9	0
From 45 to 49 years	<u>54</u>	24	23	1	7	0
From 50 to 54 years	<u>50</u>	16	24	6	4	0
From 55 to 59 years	<u>37</u>	11	18	6	2	0
From 60 to 64 years	<u>25</u>	5	19	1	0	0
From 65 + years	<u>73</u>	14	55	3	1	0
Unknown	<u>13</u>	-	-	-	-	-

**2001**  
**Type of participation**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Occupant</b>	<b>Pedest.</b>	<b>Cyclist</b>	<b>Motorcyclist</b>
<b><u>COSTA RICA</u></b>	<b><u>668</u></b>	<b><u>174</u></b>	<b><u>355</u></b>	<b><u>54</u></b>	<b><u>85</u></b>
Under 5 years	<u>20</u>	7	13	0	0
From 5 to 9 years	<u>19</u>	6	10	3	0
From 10 to 14 years	<u>18</u>	8	6	3	1
From 15 to 19 years	<u>44</u>	13	12	9	11
From 20 to 24 years	<u>97</u>	35	31	4	27
From 25 to 29 years	<u>63</u>	20	24	5	14
From 30 to 34 years	<u>65</u>	25	20	5	15
From 35 to 39 years	<u>54</u>	27	10	3	14
From 40 to 44 years	<u>49</u>	24	14	7	5
From 45 to 49 years	<u>42</u>	13	19	7	3
From 50 to 54 years	<u>37</u>	14	14	5	5
From 55 to 59 years	<u>34</u>	14	15	3	3
From 60 to 64 years	<u>21</u>	5	11	1	4
From 65 + years	<u>79</u>	15	52	9	3
Unknown	<u>26</u>	-	-	-	-

Source: INEC OIJ

### INDICATORS OF RISK BY CANTON. COSTA RICA, 2005

PROVINCE	CANTON	(A) LENGTH	(B) HABITANTS	(C) ACCIDENTS	(D) DEATHS	D/C %DEATHS/ ACCIDENTS	C/B ACCIDENTS / HABITANTS X 1000	C/A ACCIDENTS/ KM	D/B DEATHS / HABITANTS X 100.000
<b>COSTA RICA</b>		<b>28.128.67</b>	<b>4.325.808</b>	<b>57.734</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>13.35</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>0.02</b>
<b>SAN JOSE</b>		<b>5.444.88</b>	<b>1.528.037</b>	<b>32.768</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>21.44</b>	<b>6.02</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	** 1 San José	429.97	338,445	17223	41	0.24	50.89	40.06	0.07
	** 2 Escazú	175.01	58,905	1093	7	0.64	18.56	6.25	1.09
	** 3 Desamparados	508.52	243,314	2263	9	0.40	9.30	4.45	0.16
	4 Puriscal	335.70	31,292	130	3	2.31	4.15	0.39	7.37
	5 Tarrazú	205.90	16,051	59	2	3.39	3.68	0.29	21.12
	6 Aserri	145.50	54,263	208	3	1.44	3.83	1.43	2.66
	7 Mora	200.30	25,390	193	4	2.07	7.60	0.96	8.16
	8 Golcochea	128.50	128,851	1599	9	0.56	12.41	12.44	0.44
	9 Santa Ana	89.75	40,699	1876	4	0.21	46.09	20.90	0.52
	10 Alajuelita	107.90	97,865	286	1	0.35	2.92	2.65	0.36
	11 Vasquez Coronado	102.40	70,834	362	4	1.10	5.11	3.54	1.56
	12 Acosta	280.60	19,703	27	1	3.70	1.37	0.10	18.80
	13 Tibás	109.00	68,139	1939	6	0.31	28.46	17.79	0.45
	14 Moravia	100.37	54,417	582	0	0.00	10.70	5.80	0.00
	15 Montes de Oca	113.00	54,285	3002	7	0.23	55.30	26.57	0.43
	16 Turubares	136.31	4,921	47	0	0.00	9.55	0.34	0.00
	17 Dota	159.90	6,872	45	0	0.00	6.55	0.28	0.00
	18 Curubabat	109.80	89,250	929	6	0.65	13.42	8.46	0.93
	** 19 Pérez Zeledón	1,700.72	131,522	881	23	2.61	6.70	0.52	1.98
	20 León Cortés	395.73	13,019	24	0	0.00	1.84	0.08	0.00
<b>ALAJUELA</b>		<b>6.765.87</b>	<b>826.942</b>	<b>5.872</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>7.10</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>0.21</b>
	** 1 Alajuela	426.18	262,625	2795	33	1.18	10.64	6.56	0.45
	** 2 San Ramón	754.99	81,107	570	6	1.05	7.03	0.75	1.30
	** 3 Grecia	468.93	76,554	667	6	0.90	8.71	1.42	1.18
	4 San Mateo	100.10	5,788	63	0	0.00	10.88	0.63	0.00
	5 Atenas	135.98	25,233	148	1	0.68	5.87	1.09	2.68
	** 6 Naranjo	222.53	43,171	255	5	1.96	5.91	1.15	4.54
	7 Palmares	103.80	35,163	194	1	0.52	5.52	1.87	1.47
	8 Poás	102.30	29,150	98	3	3.06	3.36	0.96	10.50
	9 Orolina	171.35	17,815	103	2	1.94	5.76	0.60	10.90
	** 10 San Carlos	2,228.40	144,334	672	32	4.76	4.66	0.30	3.30
	** 11 Alfaro Ruiz	193.12	13,157	117	2	1.71	8.89	0.61	12.99
	12 Valverde Vega	91.01	17,975	80	2	2.50	4.45	0.88	13.91
	** 13 Upala	533.74	38,488	56	6	10.71	1.45	0.10	27.84
	** 14 Los Chiles	723.80	20,991	14	2	14.29	0.67	0.02	68.06
	** 15 Guatuso	509.64	15,391	40	2	5.00	2.60	0.08	32.49
<b>CARTAGO</b>		<b>1.888.20</b>	<b>488.872</b>	<b>3.311</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>6.77</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.27</b>
	** 1 Cartago	428.50	148,562	1668	12	0.72	11.23	3.89	0.48
	2 Paraíso	182.10	63,155	201	6	2.99	3.18	1.10	4.73
	3 La Unión	65.80	95,787	500	9	1.80	5.22	7.60	1.88
	** 4 Jiménez	112.20	14,431	44	0	0.00	3.05	0.39	0.00
	** 5 Turrialba	581.07	72,264	448	5	1.12	6.20	0.77	1.54
	** 6 Alvarado	145.10	13,570	30	0	0.00	2.21	0.21	0.00
	7 Oreamuno	89.50	43,673	156	4	2.56	3.57	1.74	5.87
	** 8 El Guarco	283.93	37,430	264	7	2.65	7.05	0.93	7.08
<b>HEREDIA</b>		<b>1.582.20</b>	<b>415.554</b>	<b>5.167</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>12.43</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>0.29</b>
	1 Heredia	154.07	121,974	2899	14	0.48	23.76	18.81	0.40
	2 Barba	66.10	37,106	215	4	1.86	5.79	3.25	5.01
	3 Santo Domingo	64.76	37,420	479	11	2.30	12.80	7.40	6.14
	4 Santa Bárbara	110.12	33,152	159	3	1.89	4.80	1.44	5.69
	5 San Rafael	101.06	41,855	204	4	1.96	4.87	2.00	4.68
	6 San Isidro	65.39	19,616	89	1	1.12	4.54	1.36	5.73
	7 Belén	60.85	22,527	392	9	2.30	17.40	6.44	10.19
	8 Flores	41.10	16,981	368	1	0.27	21.67	8.95	1.60
	9 San Pablo	36.60	23,189	151	1	0.66	6.51	4.13	2.96
	10 Sarapiquí	881.25	61,734	212	14	6.60	3.43	0.24	10.70

<b>GUANACASTE</b>	<b>4,064.08</b>	<b>282,749</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>8.87</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>1.07</b>
1 Liberia	531.19	52,514	539	9	1.67	10.26	1.01	3.16
2 Nicoya	679.40	43,092	482	12	2.49	11.19	0.71	5.78
3 Santa Cruz	624.94	43,950	345	6	2.32	7.85	0.55	5.26
4 Bagaces	260.11	18,301	140	6	4.29	7.85	0.54	23.42
5 Carrillo	295.52	29,891	223	13	5.83	7.46	0.75	19.50
6 Cañas	223.13	25,334	306	8	2.61	12.08	1.37	10.32
** 7 Abangares	400.03	17,179	227	10	4.41	13.21	0.57	25.64
8 Tilarán	166.91	17,809	84	2	2.38	4.72	0.50	13.37
9 Nandayuro	270.10	10,240	45	3	6.67	4.39	0.17	65.05
10 La Cruz	466.15	17,654	75	5	6.67	4.25	0.16	37.75
11 Hojancha	146.60	6,776	42	0	0.00	6.20	0.29	0.00
<b>PUNTARENAS</b>	<b>4,955.80</b>	<b>374,772</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2.34</b>	<b>12.63</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.63</b>
** 1 Puntarenas	986.07	108,031	1137	23	2.02	10.52	1.15	1.87
2 Esparza	82.97	27,059	367	9	2.45	13.56	4.42	9.06
** 3 Buenos Aires	1,364.63	43,359	190	13	6.84	4.38	0.14	15.78
4 Montes de Oro	137.14	12,705	105	2	1.89	8.34	0.77	14.85
** 5 Osa	620.30	23,880	170	15	8.82	7.09	0.27	36.80
6 Aguirre	252.62	23,162	157	5	3.18	6.78	0.62	13.75
7 Golfito	348.86	32,792	303	5	1.65	9.24	0.87	5.03
8 Coto Brus	453.73	38,762	1677	3	0.18	43.26	3.70	0.46
9 Parrita	224.15	12,823	107	14	13.08	8.34	0.48	102.04
10 Corredores	274.51	35,853	326	15	4.60	9.09	1.19	12.83
** 11 Garabito	210.82	16,246	194	7	3.61	11.94	0.92	22.21
<b>LIMON</b>	<b>3,408.01</b>	<b>408,882</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>8.25</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>0.66</b>
1 Limón	563.61	101,728	1681	23	1.37	16.52	2.98	1.34
** 2 Pococi	987.92	131,697	812	33	4.06	6.17	0.82	3.09
** 3 Siquirres	659.92	59,286	343	7	2.04	5.79	0.52	3.44
** 4 Talamanca	495.53	31,112	122	9	7.38	3.92	0.25	23.71
5 Matina	384.40	41,950	186	11	5.91	4.43	0.48	14.10
** 6 Guacimo	316.63	43,109	230	8	3.48	5.34	0.73	8.07

Source: COSEVI, INEC

\* Considered neighborhood roads or grades, urban streets and ways non-classified transitable. Inventory by MOPT Mayo 2000.

\*\* Cantons with current inventory

Note: Data on accidents corresponds to the year 2000



## PHONE NUMBERS/ADDRESSES/WEBSITES

**EMERGENCIAS: 911**

**INS Traffic Accidents: 800-800-8000**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: 118**

**RED CROSS: 128**

**INS Roadside Assistance (if you carry this coverage): 800-800-8001**

**Transito Police: 800-TRANSITO (800-8726-7486)** for reporting any complaint with Transito Officials, overcrowded buses, abuses of passengers by bus drivers and taxis, etc.

### MINISTRY OF TRANSIT DELEGATIONS OF COSTA RICA

#### LOCATION OF BASES

OFFICES	TELEPHONE	LOCATION
Dirección General	2255-3562	San José Avenida 20 Calles 1 y 5
Central Comunicaciones	2222-9330 ó 2222-9245	San José Avenida 20 Calles 1 y 5
Central Comunicaciones	Fax. 2256-5772	San José Avenida 20 Calles 1 y 5
Depósito de Vehículos Detenidos	2232-8760	Pavas, Frente al Colegio
Depósito de Vehículos Detenidos	2200-0228	Santo Domingo, Plantel del MOPT
Escuela de Policía	2250-6265	San Rafael Arriba de Desamparados
1	2223-9508	San José Avenida 20 Calles 1 y 5
2	2238-1966	Heredia, Sn. Fco. Sta. Cecilia, 500 sur antiguo Tikal
3	2441-7411	Alajuela, Intersección Aeropuerto
4	2552-6961	Cartago, Barrio El Carmen, contiguo al MOPT
5	2494-4111	Grecia, plantel del MOPT, 100 Sur entrada a Bo. Arena
6	2445-5288	San Ramón, En la Regional de Ingeniería de Tránsito
7	2460-1838	San Carlos, Bo. San Martín Contiguo a la Escuela
8	2663-1599	Puntarenas, Carrizal contiguo al plantel del MOPT
9	2669-0649	Cañas, contiguo al plantel del MOPT
10	2665-0690	Liberia, de los semáforos 6 kms hacia Santa Cruz
11	2686-6496	Nicoya, costado norte del MOPT
12	2710-6994	Guápiles, entrada al lado izquierdo de la ruta 32
13	2768-8476	Siquirres, en la Regional de Ingeniería de Tránsito
14	2798-2469	Limón, Centro frente al Estadio Juan Gobán
15	2556-7878	Turrialba, Bo. Clorito Picado, frente Escuela Las Américas.
16	2771-3313	Pérez Zeledón, Regional de Ingeniería de Tránsito

25	2451-0280	Naranjo, Altos del mercado
26	2479-9994	La Fortuna de San Carlos
Puesto 5	2680-1366	Santa Cruz MSP-6800136
Corredor 1	2452-0480	Patrulla Carreteras, Ruta 1, cruce de Palmares
Corredor 2	2636-7491	Patrulla Carreteras, Esparza
Corredor 4	2428-4500	Patrulla Carreteras, Ruta 34, coyolar de Orotina.
Corredor 5	2268-2157	Patrulla Carreteras, Ruta 32, Túnel Zurquí
Corredor 6	2552-6961	Patrulla Carreteras, Cartago, La Georgina,
Corredor 9	2786-7824	Patrulla Carreteras, Palmar Norte
MOPT, Inspección Policial	2223-9668, 2523-2016, 2017	MOPT, Plaza González Víquez
Policía Motorizada	2523-2586	San José Avenida 20 calles 1 y 5

## HOSPITALS USED FOR TRANSIT ACCIDENT VICTIMS:

San Juan de Dios 2257-6282

Hospital Mexico 2232-6122

De La Mujer (Women's Hospital) 2257-9111

Hospital de Niños (Children's Hospital) 2222-0122

Hospital Calderon Guardia 2257-7922

Blanco Cervantes 2257-8122

Centro de Intoxicaciones (Center for Intoxications) 2223-1028

Unidad de Quemados (Burn Unit) 2257-0180

## INS Instituto Nacional de Seguros de Costa Rica (Costa Rica National Insurance Institute)

Traffic Accidents: 800-800-8000

Roadside Assistance (if you carry this coverage): 800-800-8001

Home Assistance (if you carry this coverage): 800-800-3030

Consult Marchamos: <http://portal.ins-cr.com/General/Marchamo/> (yearly taxes and obligatory insurance, see the amount due on any license plate, also handy to check a license plate before buying a used vehicle.)

Central Tel: (506)-2287-6000

## MOPT, Ministerio de Obras Públicas y Transportes (Ministry of Public Works and Transportation)

<http://www.mopt.go.cr/>

Central Offices: San Jose, Avenida 20 Calles 1 & 5

Tel: See above Delegations of MOPT

Infraction appeals must be addressed at the delegation they were issued.

Official Maps of the National Roadway Network: [http://www.mopt.go.cr/Rutas2/index\\_rutas.asp](http://www.mopt.go.cr/Rutas2/index_rutas.asp)

## Policía de Tránsito (Transit Police)

<http://www.transito.go.cr>

Tel: See above Delegations of MOPT

Updated reports on roadway repairs and blockages: <http://www.transito.go.cr/estadorutas/index.html>

## COSEVI, Consejo de Seguridad Vial (Roadway Security Council)

<http://www.csv.go.cr/>

You may also check infractions at this site, and their status (paid, dismissed, pending) by putting in a license plate number. Handy to check when considering buying a used vehicle.



Central Offices: La Uruca  
Central Tel: (506) 2257-7200 / 2257-6919 / 2257-7006 / 2257-7018

**RITEVE, Revision Tecnica de Vehiculos de Costa Rica** (Vehicle Inspection)

<http://www.rtv.co.cr/>  
[clientes@rtv.co.cr](mailto:clientes@rtv.co.cr).

To make appointments online for vehicle inspection: <http://www.rtv.co.cr/cita.htm>

To make appointments by phone: 905-788-0000

\* Customer Service 800 788 00 00

\* Complaints 800 788 55 55

\* Administración 2209 2000

**Registro Nacional** (National Registry)

<http://www.registronacional.go.cr/>

To check vehicle registrations: [http://www.registronacional.go.cr/bienes\\_muebles/muebles.htm](http://www.registronacional.go.cr/bienes_muebles/muebles.htm) Very handy if considering purchasing a used vehicle, to find out if there's any liens or problems with the registration, and check the official name of ownership

**Police by district:**

Alajuela: 2440-8889  
Cartago 2551-7858  
Guanacaste: 2666-0213  
Heredia: 2262-9232  
Puntarenas: 2661-0640  
San José: 2222-9910

**Direccion General de Educacion Vial** (where Costa Ricans obtain their license for the first time by taking the written and driving exams)

<http://www.educacionvial.go.cr/>

Central Office: San Jose, de Hospital de Mujeres (viejo Hospital Carit), 550 metros Sur, Carretera a Paso Ancho 7am-3:30pm

Central Tel: (506)2226-4329 Ext. 101,105

**Poder Judicial** (Courts and Judiciary):

<http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/>

Central Tel: (506)-2295-3000

**EMBASSIES**

Canada: Building 5, Oficentro, behind the Contraloría, Sabana Sur 2242 4400

China: Barrio Escalante 2224 8180

Colombia: Barrio Dent, from Taco Bell San Pedro, 150 m west, house on the right, orange coloured, 2283 6871

France: Curridabat Del Indoor Club, 200 Sur 50 Oeste, 2234 41 67

Germany: Torre La Sabana, 8th floor, 2290 9091

Great Britain: Edificio Centro Colón 2258 2025

Italy: Barrio Los Yoses, 300 m west of San Pedro Mall 2234 2326

Mexico: Ave. 7a. No. 1371, San José 2257 0633

Nicaragua: Avenida Central No. 250, Barrio La California, 2222 2373

Panama: Calle 38, Avenida 7 y 9, 2257 3241

Spain: Calle 32, entre Paseo Colón and Avenida Segunda, 2221 7005

Switzerland: 11th floor, Edificio Centro Colon, 2221 4829

Russia: Barrio Dent, 2256 9181

United States: Pavas, 2519 2000