

Tamarindo Tips

(or everything we wished we knew and now tell all our friends before they goz0

Local Guide/ Your “Guy Friday” -- Jamal Al-Mijalli : +506-8482-9709

Jamal and his lovely wife Adri will coordinate airport transportation, turtle tours, beach trips, day trips to Rincon de la Vieja or Rio Celeste, overnight tours to Arenal or Nicaragua. Basically, if you want to do it -- Jamal can help you do it right!

Tamarindo Concierge Service

Andrew and Zach can help you with everything from stocking the fridge before you arrive, to hiring a private chef. From to booking a tour or excursion to finding a fishing guide or surf instructor. They know the in's and out's of Tamarindo and are ready to help you live your best vacation life

Real Estate -- Lock Cooper: Don't be surprised if you fall in love with Costa Rica. One trip is never enough! Interested in looking for your own vacation or retirement property, contact Lock to learn about the real estate options in Tamarindo and the surrounding areas.

Excursions/Day Trips

- **La Rincon de la Vieja:** About an hour and a half out of Tamarindo - take an easy hike around the volcano to see steam vents and boiling mud pits as well as local flora/fauna, then test your mettle as you jump (or wade) into the Oropendola waterfall. Stop for lunch at a local Costa Rican soda and finish off your day with volcanic mud treatments and hot springs. (Please note that all activities except for the hike take place outside of the national park and have separate entry fees -- that's why this is a great tour with Jamal who will take care of everything!)
- **Palo Verde Boat Tour:** About an hour out of Tamarindo. You can book as a group tour from Tamarindo, but we recommend setting this up with private transportation with Jamal.
- **El Viejo** -- About an hour from Tamarindo. Wildlife Refuge, boat tour, and typical Costa Rican hacienda. Easy drive with a rental car or contact Jamal for private transportation.
- **Rio Celeste:** About 2 - 2 ½ hours from Tamarindo. Beautiful turquoise waterfall and hike near Volcan Tenorio. We suggest arranging a private tour with Jamal
- Ziplining and Nature Preserve at **Diamante Eco-Adventure Park** -- About an hour out of Tamarino. Easy drive with a rental car or they will coordinate transportation.

- ATV and Snorkeling tours with [Native's Way](#) adventure tours. Ride from Tamarindo to Playa Conchal where you'll take a break to snorkel in the clear waters off the "shell beach".
- ATV tours with [Action Tours](#). Hit the back roads and beaches in the area on a single or double quad. Wear a swimsuit so you can cool off in the water on one of the beach stops.
- Beaches
 - [Playa Negra](#): Don't be surprised if you don't see another person on this beautiful, (sometimes) black sand beach. Take a cooler/picnic and enjoy the giant waves, beachcombing, and peaceful solitude. (Lola's/Avellanas is just a few minutes down the road -- start here and finish your day with a late lunch at Lola's).
 - [Playa Avellanas](#): Great beach for surfing and combing the tide pools. Make sure to stop at [Lola's](#) for lunch, dinner, or happy hour and say hello to "Lola" the 300+ lb pig who's the local beach bunny. (Lola's is closed Monday)
 - [Playa Flamingo](#): Fun waves for swimming and boogie boarding. Local restaurants on and off the beach.
 - Off the Beaten Path -- contact Jamal for a private tour of lesser-traveled beautiful beaches in the area.
- Arenal/ [La Fortuna](#): About 3 ½ -- 4 hour from Tamarindo -- we recommend at least 1-2 nights in Arenal. Listed below are some of our favorite activities
 - [Tabacon](#): Hot Springs Resort. Stay overnight or purchase a day pass
 - [La Fortuna Waterfall](#): Hike down to the waterfall to swim and enjoy the beautiful views. Save some energy for your 40+ flight climb back up.
 - [La Pradera ATV](#): See the Arenal volcano and local river on a one or two person ATV. Great trip to see toucans, sloths, and other local flora/fauna. Enjoy a quick dip in the river when you stop to rest. Finish up with a delicious lunch at their restaurant.
 - [Sky Trek ZipLine](#): Jungle zipline and aerial tram
 - [Don Olivo Chocolate Farm](#): Experience authentic Costa Rica as you join Minor to tour his family's farm. He will pick fresh fruits, sugar cane, and local herbs for you to sample before you get to the cacao orchard and see all the steps in growing, harvesting, drying, roasting, and preparing the cacao. End your tour with fresh chocolate and biscuits and homemade hot chocolate -- deliciousness!
 - [Sarapaqui River](#): An ecological wildlife tour along the Sarapaqui River to see crocodiles, monkeys, birds, and more.

On the Water

- Sunset Sailing -- [Serendipity Yacht Tour](#) -- private or shared yacht tours (snorkel, fish, beaches) from Flamingo Marina

- Sunset Sailing -- [Antares Sailing Adventure](#): large sailboat/snorkel tour from Tamarindo beach. Book a trip through RPM, our property management service (info@rpmvacationrentals.com) or find them on Facebook to book directly
- Paddle Boarding at [Langosta Beach Club](#) -- you don't have to purchase a beach club pass - just walk down the beach about 100 meters to the left and ask about paddle board lessons or rentals
- Paddle Boarding with private instructor, Michelle. What's App: +506-8816-3707
- Surfing -- [Witch's Rock Surf School](#)
- Surfing -- [Kelly's Surf Shop](#)
- Fishing -- [Capullo Sportfishing](#)
- Fishing -- [CR FishOn](#)
- Fishing -- [Pedro's Fishing Tours](#)
- SpearFishing -- [SpearoVida](#) (Facebook Link)
- Fishing -- Captain Willy (3-4 people) What's App: +506- 7121-5433

Treat Yourself

- [Yoga](#): Tamarindo is known for its outstanding yoga classes both in studio and on the beach
- Local Spa -- [Coco Day Spa](#): Local massages, facials, and more. Book the day of or day before.
- [Los Altos de Eros Spa](#): Pure Bliss!!! Three treatments plus lunch and wine at the best spa we've ever experienced! Select the morning treatments if possible to avoid afternoon sun in the treatment rooms and massages after lunch. Book in advance of your trip by emailing info@rpmvacationrentals.com

Places to Eat

Breakfasts

- [El Chirringuito](#): Coffee. COFFEE. Seriously, the best cup of coffee on the beach! Also the creme brule french toast may change your life. Feeling healthy- try the homemade granola or chia bowl.
- [Noguis](#): Lobster omelette anyone? Great egg dishes and THE BEST fresh fruit drinks.
- [Waffle Monkey](#): Get the Waffle Monkey or the Salty Pig with an iced coffee. You're welcome.
- [Breakfast Grinds](#): Sharing space with the Bar Jolly Roger, Breakfast Grinds serves up hearty breakfasts until 3:00 PM when the space turns over to wings, burgers, and beer
- [Santa Rita Coffee Shop](#): Find yourself in town for a morning surf session - stop in here for a full breakfast or a yummy coffee and muffin to go. Upstairs in the shopping center in front of Sunrise Condos.

Lunches/Dinners

- [El Chirringuito](#): we've said, more than once, that we could probably eat here for the rest of our life and be completely happy. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, happy hour . . . simply the best
- [Noguis](#): Ceviche & Pineapple pie. They have other great stuff, but seriously - ceviche & pineapple pie - trust us.
- [Shrimp Hole](#): Best for take out --- all things shrimp and amazing ginger limeade
- [Volcano Brewing Company](#) at Witch's Rock: Grab a craft beer and a plate of nachos and watch the surfers; one of our favorite "first afternoon" activities.
- [Walter's Fish and Cheese](#): recommended for dinner. Italian/seafood and it's all fresh and amazing
- [Bar Jolly Roger](#): Wings, Burgers, Pizzas and happy hour beer -- opens at 3:00 PM (it's Breakfast Grinds until then).
- [Surf Shack](#): Try their mango hot wings and save room for a yummy milk shake.
- [La Esquina](#): Authentic Italian and great pizza. Dine in or take out.
- [Pizza Baula](#): Thin crust pizza with fresh local flavor. Dine in or take out. We love the capricciosa and arugula and parmesan
- [Green Papaya](#): Fish Tacos -- enough said.`
- [Falafel Bar](#): Authentic Mediterranean deliciousness
- [Little Lucha](#): Tacos
- [Soda Las Palmas](#): If you have a car, this is a GREAT little stop for typical Costa Rican breakfast or lunch. Pair it with a stop at the fruit market right around the corner.
- Snacks
 - [La Mandarina](#): Juice bar and smoothies
 - [Sno Shack](#): Calling these sno-cones is almost an insult. The most amazing, refreshing fresh fruit ice shaved ice -- treat yourself!

Special Dinners

- [Hotel Capitan Suizo](#): Beachside, candlelight dining. Order a mojito and the mixed seafood linguini.
- [Pangas](#): Beachside dining for lunch or dinner. Excellent ceviche, lobster and pretty much everything else.
- [Patagonia](#): Argentinian grill with fresh seafood. Reservations recommended.

Grocery Stores and Markets

[Here's a great guide to "food hunting" in Costa Rica](#)

- **Saturday Morning Market:** Behind Cafe Nordico/Next to Green Papaya restaurant. Produce, spices, baked goods, chocolate, jewelry, soaps, lotions/oils, and so much more. Bring dollars or colones; small bills.
- **Automercado:** Largest, most American-like grocery store. A little more expensive, but you will find everything you need in one place.
- **Vendi:** Newest small market in Tamarindo. Past Sharky's and the road to Langosta on the right.
- **Small Markets:** Pura Vida Mart and Super 2001 on the road to Langosta. Both are good; we prefer Pura Vida Mart
- **Mega Super:** in Villarreal. Good selection, less expensive than Automercado, but further away from Tamarindo.
- **Fruit Market:** Come Frutas across from the soccer field in Villarreal. Great selection of fruit and vegetables less expensive than Tamarindo
- **Tamarindo Coffee Roasters:** THE BEST store to buy coffee beans or grind in Costa Rica . . . and that's no easy feat. Our favorite is Blue Zone Honey and Pura Vida Blend, but they are all amazing. They will grind and re-seal the bags for you if you want. Across the street just past AutoMercado on your way out of town.
- **Street Vendors:** There are two local trucks that tend to sell fruits on the street in Tamarindo. One is on the corner of the main street (Calle Central) past Patagonia and as your turn left on Central towards Wild Panda. The other (better, but not always there) is a white truck at the corner of Central and Calle Cardinal (the road to Langosta) across the street from Pacific Park.

Other Stuff You Might Want to Know

- **Customs/Immigration Forms:** Immigration will ask for the address of your destination. *Casa Blanca Condominiums #4, Tamarindo, Costa Rica*
- **Duty Free:** If you would like wine or liquor during your stay, it is less expensive to purchase at the Duty Free shop just past Immigration before Baggage Claim.
- **Car Rental:** Alamo in Tamarindo across the street from the Diria Hotel or Avis just inside the Diria Hotel on the left. You can usually get a 5 passenger car for \$35-45/day depending on how much insurance you need. If your credit card company offers international car insurance, bring a letter from them or be prepared to pay for Costa Rican insurance. DO NOT SKIMP on car insurance.
- **Gas Stations:** The closest gas station is JSM towards Huacas
- **Golf Cart Rental:** [Pura Vida Electric Cars](#) at the Ibis Condominiums. Less than 200 meters from Casa de Valencia towards town. ** Ask for a better rate; tell them you are staying next door at Casa Blanca.
- **ATM's and Money:** Almost every restaurant and major store in Costa Rica accepts VISA/MASTERCARD and dollars. Occasionally you will pay a 3-4% fee for using credit. You can get colones or dollars from any ATM. A quick

conversion is 1mil in colones as about \$2. So, double your colones for dollars. It's actually a little better than that, but it's easy math.

- **What's App:** Download the app "What's App" before you travel. Almost all tour operators, surf instructors, etc. use What's App to confirm tours and communicate with tourists. It's a free app that allows you to call, text, or video chat for free through wifi. All phone numbers provided in this guide are What's App numbers. You can also call or text friends/family in the US for free from anywhere there is wifi. (Casa de Valencia has wifi in the house and at the pool).
- **WIFI:** Network: CB4; Password: 26531456
- Most **National Parks are closed Mondays** - book your fishing, spa, and sailing trips on Mondays.