

Tamarindo Tips

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

Guides and Transportation

[RPM Tropical Vacations](#)

RPM is our local property management team. They can help you with everything from reservations for tours and transportation to troubleshooting a wifi issue or gate code. You can reach them locally at

2653-0738 (Langosta Office)

or toll free from the United State at 866-631-6958

Private Guide: Nervin Zamora

Nervin is a highly qualified, English speaking guide that can create the perfect tours for your family in the Guanacaste and Bijagua areas. He will organize tours, excursions, and a private driver for an unforgettable Costa Rican experience.

Recommended tours:

La Leona Waterfall

Coffee/Chocolate Farm, Sloth Sanctuary, Waterfall hike.

What's App: +506-8734-7296

Also available on Facebook Messenger

[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

[Native's Way Tours and Golf Cart Rentals](#)

Everything from sport fishing and sunset sails to volcano tours and mud-baths can be easily arranged by the great people at Native's Way. They have dozens of excursion options ranging from half-day to overnight. Recently, they have added golf cart rentals to their service options and are conveniently located a short walk from Casa de Valencia just across the street from Pacific Park and LongBoards.

Excursions/Day Trips

- ****La Leona Waterfall Tour with Nervin Zamora:** Approximately an hour and a half from Tamarindo, this hidden gem offers a hike/swim in the turquoise blue waters of the Rio Blanco near Curabande. One of the favorite tours of all of our family and guests.

- ****Rainforest Tour with Nervin Zamora:** Want to see sloths, frogs, and other rainforest favorites without an overnight trip? This is the perfect day trip from Tamarindo. Start with a visit to a coffee/chocolate farm then experience the incredible wildlife at a sloth sanctuary, and complete your day with a hike to either Rio Celeste or Llanos de Cortez waterfall. A truly unforgettable experience.
- Local Chocolate Experience at **Reina's Chocolate** between Villarreal and Huacas. Drop in for a tasting, a chocolate flight, or sipping chocolates. Look for them on Facebook or email ron@reinaschocolate.com or call local: 8883-5832 to set up a full tour experience.
- [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 restaurant 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.)
- [Hacienda Guachipelin Adventure Day](#): There are four main activities during this day of adventure: canopy (zip line) tour and rappelling through the Rio Blanco Canyon, a tubing adventure on the Rio Negro River with class III rapids, a horseback riding Costa Rica adventure, and relaxing with volcano-heated thermal waters, steam, and mud bath. The package also includes a delicious lunch at Hacienda Guachipelin Restaurant.
- [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.
- [Rio Celeste](#): About 2 - 2 ½ hours from Tamarindo. Beautiful turquoise waterfall and hike near Volcan Tenorio.
- Ziplining and Nature Preserve at [Diamante Eco-Adventure Park](#) -- About an hour out of Tamarindo. 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". They also provide lots of other great tours.
- 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.

- 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. A private trip is a little pricier than a shared catamaran or sailboat tour, but perfectly customized to your group with amazing snorkeling guides and pure relaxation.
- 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
- Surfing -- [Witch’s Rock Surf School](#)
- Fishing -- [Capullo Sportfishing](#)
- Fishing -- [RhinoCharger](#)
- SpearFishing -- [SpearoVida](#) (Facebook Link)

Treat Yourself

- [Yoga](#): Tamarindo is known for its outstanding yoga classes both in-studio and on the beach. You can find beach yoga most mornings around 7:00 am in front of Ocho Hotel, Waffle Monkey, and/or Captain Suizo.

- Local Spa -- [Coco Day Spa](#) or the [Spa at Cala Luna](#) (just down the street): 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 brulee 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](#): Grinds serves up hearty breakfasts until 3:00 PM when the space turns over to 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. Closed on Wednesday
- [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](#): Just to the left of Casa de Valencia towards Langosta. This Italian market and restaurant is a culinary delight. Recommended for dinner. Italian/seafood and it's all fresh and amazing
- [Bamboo Sushi](#): Tucked away behind a souvenir shop off the main street, you are transported into a beautiful Eastern oasis. We recommend the frozen mojito, Kim roll, and the Maruja bowl.
- [Surf Shack](#): Try their mango hot wings and save room for a yummy milkshake. \$1 wing night on Wednesday.
- [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; Swing Seats -- 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 Mandarin](#): 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**: Near the skate park, 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. Open *around* 9 until noon.
- **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; the little brother to Auto Mercado
- **Pura Vida Mart**: on the road to Langosta;
- **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. Past AutoMercado near Che Boards on the right 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 you 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

- **Water:** It is safe to drink tap water almost everywhere on the Pacific side of Costa Rica. We drink the water from the faucet and use ice from the ice-maker at Casa de Valencia and order tap water (or agua de la casa) from restaurants.
- **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 Adobe (will deliver). Post-Covid, car rentals have been a little more difficult to get without a reservation. We recommend reserving online before you travel. 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:** There are lots of golf cart companies in town. We like [Paradise Golf Carts](#) behind the skate park or [Native's Way](#). If you are coming in high season (November - April), we recommend you reserve a cart before your trip.
- **ATM's and Money:** Almost every restaurant and major store in Costa Rica accepts VISA/MASTERCARD and dollars. COSTA RICA WILL ONLY ACCEPT DOLLARS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION - NO TEARS, WRITING, ETC. You can get colones or dollars from any ATMs (we use the one in AutoMercado or in the bank next to Vendi). 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 Whatsapp 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: CasaBlanca4 (CB4); [casablanca04](#)
- Most **National Parks are closed Mondays** - book your fishing, spa, and sailing trips on Mondays.