



## **Puerto Viejo Travel Tips**

YAY! You have decided to visit Costa Rica! Here are a few travel tips that we hope will make your visit to Puerto Viejo as smooth as possible.

1) **Visas.** You do not need to get a visa ahead of time. You will be issued a 90-day tourist visa upon arrival in Costa Rica. If you intend to stay longer than 3 months, you will need to spend 3 days outside of Costa Rica (usually in Panama or Nicaragua) before being issued a new visa. Please DO remember to bring your passport ☺.

2) **Money.** The colon is the Costa Rican money. The exchange rate fluctuates between 490 – 520 colones/US dollar. The easiest way to convert money in your head is to multiply the colon amount by 2 and knock off 3 zeros: for example, 10,000 colones is \$20. Exchanging money at the airport is not necessary as there are plenty of places to exchange money and most places will accept US dollars and give you colones in change. Additionally, you can use your Mastercard/Visa ATM card at most banks and get colones.

3) **Communications in Costa Rica.** There are two kinds of phone cards. One is hard and has a chip and the other is flexible and has a PIN. With the chip card, you need to find one of the newer-looking blue payphones that has a slot for the card and then simply dial the number you desire. With the PIN cards, you dial either 199 or 197 to get an operator who will ask you to enter your PIN and then the desired number. You can buy phone cards from anywhere between 500 colones (\$1) to 5000 colones (\$10). To call outside of the county, you need to purchase one for at least 3000 colones (\$6). Call us when you get a chance – we'll be happy to hear you made it safely to Costa Rica!

4) **Communications from the US to Costa Rica.** For every phone number that we list in this document, you will need to add 011-506 for dialing to Costa Rica from the US. For example, to reach us at Jo Jo's, call 011-506-750-2023.

### **5) Transportation**

- **Taxis:** To get a taxi from the airport to the bus station or to your hotel in San Jose, simply turn left as you leave the airport, ignore all the taxi drivers that try to solicit you and walk up to the little booth. After telling the lady at the booth where you are going, you will pay and she will give you a ticket and tell you what number taxi. When your taxi number shows up (only the orange ones!), hop in and you will be delivered to your destination.
- **Public bus.** The public bus to Puerto Viejo leaves from the Terminal Caribe, better known as "Caribeños". The bus station can be a bit confusing at first, so don't be scared. Find the window that sells tickets to Limón, Cahuita and Puerto Viejo de Talamanca (not Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, which is a different town). Purchase your ticket – it should be around 4,000 colones (\$8). The buses leave at 6am, 10am, 12md, 2pm, 4pm and take around 4-5 hours, depending on traffic, accidents, mudslides, etc. Be sure to get to the bus station at least 20 minutes before departure to ensure you get a seat! The bus ride

takes you directly to the county of Talamanca, stopping only for about 10 minutes in Limón for a brief snack break (don't leave carry-on luggage in the bus during this break!). The bus will start making stops to let off passengers only after Limón. Then it will make a stop in Cahuita, Hone Creek and finally Puerto Viejo.

NOTE: Jo Jo's Jungle Retreat is located just 1 km after Hone Creek. If you are feeling adventurous (or are very comfortable with your Spanish), ask the bus driver to drop you "1 km sur de Hone Creek" You will see our sign on the left hand side of the bus – follow the road all the way back to our property with the big wooden gate!

- Interbus. Interbus is the most popular shuttle service in the country. They have air-conditioned vans that will pick you up from your hotel and take you to your destination at Jo Jo's. From San Jose, the Interbus leaves only at 8am in the morning to Puerto Viejo. When returning to San Jose from Jo Jo's, Interbus leaves at 7am or 2.30pm. We are happy to book your Interbus reservation for you or you can book the reservation online. [www.interbusonline.com](http://www.interbusonline.com). The service to Jo Jo's will cost \$35 per person.
- Grayline Fantasy Bus. This is another bus service that will pick you up from your hotel and take you directly to Jo Jo's. You can book this through us or on their website at [www.graylinecostarica.com](http://www.graylinecostarica.com). The service to Jo Jo's will cost \$33 per person.
- Taxi from San José to Puerto Viejo. If you would like a taxi service from the airport directly to Jo Jo's, we are happy to arrange this for you. The service is approximately \$180 for a private car from the airport to Jo Jo's. If you have a group and desire a van to pick you up from the airport, we can arrange this as well. A van or small bus will cost \$250 from the airport to Jo Jo's.
- Rafting to Puerto Viejo. Well, you can't actually raft to Puerto Viejo, but you can stop for a rafting excursion on your way to us. The cost of the rafting excursion, including your breakfast and lunch as well as your transport from your hotel in San Jose to Jo Jo's will cost \$95 per person. Let us know if you are interested and we can book this for you as well!

**6) Driving Directions to Global Creek @ Jo Jo's Jungle Retreat.** From San Jose, drive towards Limon (Puerto Limon de Talamanca). As you get to Limon and just before entering the core of the city, there will be a sign to turn and take the road to the right for Puerto Viejo, Cahuita, etc. – follow this towards Cahuita and the Caribbean region. Keep on this one road as you pass the town of Cahuita (you will see a sign for the town a few kilometres after passing the police checkpoint – have your passports/papers ready!), which is approximately 13km before Global Creek @ Jo Jo's. You will soon enter the area of Hone Creek, marked by a few more structures and some stores; You will see the large Super Hone Creek mercado and then a large El Colono hardware store just before a major intersection (with a road that leads towards Bribri). Pass straight through this intersection, which we are a little less than 1km after. The road will curve a little to the left where there is another small Mercado, and then keep your eyes peeled – at the second entryway after this curve you will see a sign for Jo Jo's Jungle Retreat (it's a little bit before the small bridge). Take a left here, and then follow that road to the left when you get to the fork (there will be another small sign there for Jo Jo's), all the way to the end and through our large wooden gate that will greet you there. Follow the signs on the path towards reception, and welcome to Global Creek @ Jo Jo's Jungle Retreat!

As always, please feel free to call or write us with more questions about your stay with us at Jo Jo's Jungle Retreat. Thanks and safe travels!