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## Celebrate Earth Day Every Day in Costa Rica

*Costa Rica's eco-friendly offerings make for an ideal sustainable destination*



**SAN JOSE, Costa Rica – April 21, 2016** – Sustainability is not only engraved in Costa Rica's infrastructure, culture and tourism offerings, but has become a way of life. In 2015, the National System of Electricity reported using 98.95 percent of renewable resources to generate electricity. A global environmental leader, Costa Rica joins in celebrating [Earth Day](#) on Friday, April 22, 2016, and encourages visitors to partake in sustainable activities.

This year, Costa Rica will offer a series of week-long activities that focus on the importance of maintaining and preserving Mother Earth:

- [The National Gallery of the Costa Rican Center for Science and Culture](#) will offer expositions with artwork based on the theme, as well as lectures with the artists on what inspired them to create their artwork.
- [The Children's Museum](#) will offer workshops on the topic of Earth Day.
- [The University for Peace](#), headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica, will promote the project "Letter for the Education of the Earth for Sustainable Development," an international declaration about the protection of the Earth, the environment and human rights.

From rainforests and natural parks, to waterfalls and active volcanoes, Costa Rica welcomes everyone to make the most out of the destination's sustainable experiences. Visitors can explore the wonders of the country's 28 national parks and eight biological reserves while bird-watching, hiking or zip lining. Additionally, visitors may also go diving or snorkeling to explore the rich, underwater fauna on either coast, as well as walk along beaches surrounded by lush vegetation.

In order to contribute to Costa Rica's sustainability efforts during their stay, visitors can choose to use companies that have been designated a [Certificate for Sustainable Tourism \(CST\)](#) firm. Established in 1997, the CST firm has been awarded to 342 hotels, restaurants, tour operations and car rental companies that take proactive measures to avoid the negative impacts on the environment, culture and society.

Home to nearly six percent of the world's biodiversity, Costa Rica's green initiatives include the development of its National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS), which aims to make the country completely carbon neutral by 2100. Among other sustainable initiatives is the country's efforts to reverse deforestation, which successfully doubled the country's forest-covered areas from 21 percent in the 1980s to 52 percent in 2012. Today, more than 88 percent of Costa Rica's electricity is generated from renewable resources including wind power, solar power, hydroelectric power, biomass and geothermal energy. Additionally, the country's tourism efforts focus on eco-friendly activities and accommodations.

For more information on Costa Rica, visit [www.visitcostarica.com](http://www.visitcostarica.com)

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### **About Costa Rica**

Costa Rica is located in Central America between Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south; it is bordered on the east by the Caribbean Sea and the west by the Pacific Ocean. With an abundance of unique wildlife, landscapes and climates this small country proudly shelters approximately five percent of the known biodiversity in the world. In order to protect and preserve its wealth of natural resources, Costa Rica has become a global leader in sustainable practices with protected areas comprising 26 percent of its land mass. With a peaceful spirit, emphasis on education and an economy based on tourism, technology and exportation, Costa Rica offers one of the highest standards of living in Latin America. Visitors to Costa Rica enjoy a highly organized tourism infrastructure among a tropical paradise of lush rainforests, mystical volcanoes and cloud forests and beaches that meet mountains filled with monkeys and macaws. Offering a broad terrain of activities and accommodations, visitors to Costa Rica will find a range of hotel options ranging from small beachside bed & breakfasts to authentic intimate boutique mountain lodges to major international business hotel brands and everything in between. Costa Rica's accommodations offer something appealing for everyone's desires. The phrase "Pura Vida" can be heard echoing throughout Costa Rica from coast to coast. Used as a greeting or expression of happiness, the phrase literally translates to "pure life," however its true meaning is "full of life," which accurately describes the adventure and wonder that await visitors.

### **About Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT)**

Established in 1955, the Costa Rica Tourism Board spearheads the vital task of regulating and promoting Costa Rica's extensive of tourism offerings. The ICT and its partners in the private sector work tirelessly to garner recognition, standardize practices, provide insightful research data and foster cultural development for the country's coast to coast one-of a kind tourism products and resources.