

## PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA

The capital city of the Puntarenas region is a bustling tourist hub, set on a narrow strip of land, never more than four blocks wide. Puntarenas is one of the main Pacific Coast cruise ports in Costa Rica, with a modern pier accommodating up to two ships at a time

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** Costa Rican Colón (1 USD = 507 CRC)

**Population:** 134,400

**Emergency #:** 911


**Drinking water:** Tap water is generally drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT-6

**ID Requirements:** Government-issued photo ID

**Languages:** Spanish

**Drive on the:** Right

**Pharmacy:** Don Gerardo, X5H9+3JM, Puntarenas 

**Protection:** SPF 30+

**Wi-Fi:** Unknown

**Post Office:** Correos de Costa Rica, Puntarenas  | 

### PORT LOCATION

Cruise ships dock at the Puntarenas Cruise Dock, which is a 644m pier. Buses reverse down this long, skinny pier to shuttle visitors to the mainland, or on tours

**Getting Around:** Puntarenas, while the biggest city in the region, is still best explored by foot. The pier leads directly to a purpose-built beachfront promenade, called the Paseo de los Turistas (Tourist Passage)

**Taxis:** Taxis are available from the exit of the port area.


**Tourist Bus:** There is no hop-on hop-off bus in Puntarenas

**Smartphone App:** Download the Explore App Costa Rica for [Android](#) and [iOS](#)

**Port Facilities:** Shuttles, Tourist Information (at end of pier), Taxis (at end of pier)

**Port Address:** X5C9+HMQ, P.º de los Turistas, Provincia de Puntarenas, Puntarenas, Costa Rica 

### A DAY ON THE BEACH


A beach day is one of the most popular activities in Puntarenas, and conveniently, the pier leads you right to the heart of **Puntarenas Beach**  – a stretch of somewhat unremarkable sand with swimmable, though sometimes rough, waters.


One of the most notable features of Puntarenas Beach is the focus on accessibility, ensuring all beach users enjoy equal pleasure on the beach. Walkways may wheelchair navigation possible, while the beach itself has an amphibious chair, of Costa Rican design.

Taking highway 17 out of Puntarenas and towards the mainland (and regional airport), the next public beach you'll reach is **Playa Chacarita** , which then morphs into **Playa El Roble** . For a more beautiful beach, continue round to **Playas De Doña Ana** .

For more: [www.visitcostarica.com](http://www.visitcostarica.com)

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## AN OVERVIEW OF PUNTARENAS

The city of Puntarenas ties together pre- and post-colonial architecture with a notable collection of public statues commemorating significant people of the region.

**Paseo de los Turistas:** a 2.3km (1.5 mile) long Malecon, offering nice waterfront walks, with plenty of restaurants and small shops to tempt you as you walk. 24 Hours | Free | 

**Marine Historical Museum:** housed in the former barracks, this museum stands alongside the House of Culture and public library. Rotating art exhibitions hang alongside archaeological exhibits about the early settlements in the area. Also houses a small aquarium. 9a-4:30p (Tue-Sun) | CRC 2,900 |  | 

**Catedral de Sagrado Corazón de Jesús:** the Catholic cathedral of Puntarenas is unusual in that it faces to the West (most cathedrals face East). 24 Hours | Free | 

## FOOD & DRINK

**Sea Bass Ceviche:** a traditional ceviche here is served with parboiled green plantain. Several fish ceviche dishes are available, but sea bass is the highest quality.

**Resbaladera:** try this typical local drink as a way to counteract the heat. Made with liquefied rice, which is then spiced with cinnamon, nutmeg and sugar. Mixed with milk and served on ice.

**Churchill:** a slushy with a story. In the 1940s, a merchant called Joaquín Aguilar Esquivel would frequent the Paseo de los Turistas and order a slushy from the food kiosks. But not just a slushy. He wanted it with ice cream and other ingredients added in. Turns out he looked like Winston Churchill, and so his unique creation was named.

## FUN FACT


The Costa Rican Colón owes its name to Christopher Columbus, who is known as Cristóbal Colón in Spanish. Thankfully it has nothing to do with buying or selling body parts.


## OFFICIAL TOURIST GUIDE

The Costa Rican tourist board has produced an 87-page book all about things to see and do in Puntarenas, including further historical context about the region. [Download here.](#)

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