

THE ESSENTIAL SURFING COSTA RICA GUIDE & SURF MAP SET



Detailed information on 40 surf spots in Costa Rica

5th Edition 2006

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COSTA RICA is an amazing place for a surf trip. Costa Rica is a well known and well developed surfing destination - especially since featuring in Endless Summer 2; direct flights from the USA also add to its popularity. The country is safe, beautiful, friendly and blessed with great surfing on both coasts. It is, however one of the more expensive countries in the central and south Americas, with the positive aspect that hotels are good quality and car rental relatively easy and safe.

The surfing can be broken into three main areas: The Pacific North (Guanacaste-Nicoya), the Pacific South (Punta Arenas) and the Caribbean. Surf towns are developing in places such as Jaco, Tamarindo and Puerto Viejo. Year round warm water, warm air and off-shore breezes (in Guanacaste in Northern Costa Rica) make for great conditions. The best waves occur in the rainy season (northern Hemisphere 'summer') on the pacific side.

The 2006 Costa Surf Spot Guidebook in digital PDF format was created by a group of surfers that were unable to find enough detailed information online about where and what the major surfbreaks in Costa Rica were like. Please enjoy this surf spot guide and the included detailed surf maps.

SURF STATS FOR COSTA RICA:

	JAN/ FEB	MAR/ APR	MAY/ JUN	JUL/ AUG	SEP/ OCT	NOV/ DEC
SWELL SIZE (FEET):	3-5	4-5	5-7	6-7	5-6	3-4
SWELL DIRECTION:	S-SW	S-SW	S-SW	S-SW	S-SW	S-SW
CONSISTENCY:	FAIR	GOOD	GOOD	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR
AIR TEMP:	26C° - 78F°	28C° - 86F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°
WIND DIRECTION:	S-SE	S-SE	S-SE	S-SE	S-SE	S-SE
WETSUIT:	BOARD- SHORTS	BOARD- SHORTS	BOARD- SHORTS	BOARD- SHORTS	BOARD- SHORTS	BOARD- SHORTS
WATER TEMP:	27C° - 81F°	27C° - 81F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°	27C° - 79F°

NORTHERN COSTA RICA



PACIFIC
OCEAN

CHECK THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR NORTHERN COSTA AT: <http://magicseaweed.com/>

#1- OLLIE'S POINT:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Get a boat taxi from Playa del Coco

#2 - WITCHES ROCK:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: WEEKENDS NO, WEEKDAYS NO (EXCEPT WHEN PROS ARE IN TOWN)

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Hire a Boat Playa del Coco or a charter from Tarmarindo or a 4WD and really good road map. If you drive into Santa Rosa National Park, after 6 miles, take the left at the fork in the road.

#3 - PLAYA NARANJO:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY:

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION:

GOOD WIND DIRECTION:

ACCESS:

#4 - PLAYA GRANDE:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: OK (SOMETIMES IT'S HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS YES (Can get crowded at the main peak but there are plenty of fun lefts & rights on the outside reef)

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NE

ACCESS: Just north of Tamarindo.

#5 - TAMARINDO:

TYPE: REEF AND BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AT TIMES)

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: USUALLY CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: RISING TIDES

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NE

ACCESS: Right in the town of Tamarindo. Also ask the locals about The Rock which is a fun little wave walking distance from the Hotel Capitan.

#6 - PICO PEQUENO:

TYPE: REEF BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AT TIMES)

EXPERIENCE: EXPERIENCED ONLY

CROWD: USUALLY CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS MOSTLY

BOTTOM: SAND AND CORAL

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Just south of Tamarindo south of the rivermouth.

#7 - PLAYA LANGOSTA:

TYPE: RIVERMOUTH BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: EXPERIENCED ONLY

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: HIGH TIDE ONLY (YOU'LL HIT THE ROCKS AT ANY OTHER TIDE)

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: WSW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: In the town of Tamarindo there is a dirt road that runs past Cala Luna Resort. Keep going south on this road for about 1-2km. Area was being developed with apartment buildings overlooking the break last time I was there.

#8 - PLAYA AVELLANAS:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: OK AND FUN

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER

CROWD: WEEKENDS SOMEWHAT, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: NORTH WEST OR WEST

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Playa Avellanas is about 10km south of Tamarindo. Avellona is an alternative to Playa Negra - being a less radical spot. At the southern end (in front of the parking) is a small rock platform which produces some OK lefts at mid to high tide. The main spot on the beach is the 'rivermouth' - which is not much more than a depression in the sand at the Northern End. A small rocky area here holds sand and produces a quality peak, with the right being the longer ride. The waves pick up fast on the 'reef' - but this is not in the same league as Playa Negra. Many people rate this as a better break than the more easily accessible Tamarindo rivermouth. ALSO CHECK OUT A SURF BREAK CALLED LITTLE HAWAII IN THE AREA.

#9 - PLAYA NEGRA:

TYPE: REEF BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW, BARRELLING, AND POWERFUL)

EXPERIENCE: EXPERT LEVEL

CROWD: QUITE CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK (WATCH OUT FOR URCHINS)

GOOD TIDE: MID TIDE

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: NW OR W

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: SE

ACCESS: You can park your car at the Hotel Playa Negra. Sit outside over by the rocks for the best peak. The wave has two distinct sections that barrel. On smaller days, there is a left, but its short and breaks over jagged rocks.

#10 - PLAYA JUNGUILLA:

TYPE: REEF BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND, ROCK, AND CORAL (WATCH OUT FOR URCHINS)

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NE

ACCESS: The surf break is south of tamarindo and north of nosara. Straight west of a little town called paraíso a beach break and a left reef that work better on higher tides. There are many peaks with hollow, fast rights and lefts. The waves jack up off the sandbar creating a tough entry. On a large enough swell, try surfing at Playa Blanca directly in front of the Iguana Azul which offers double overhead epic lefts.

#11 - PLAYA MARBELLA:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: OK (OCCASIONALLY BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION:

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NORTH EAST

ACCESS: On the road to Junquiyal, instead of stoping at junquilla continue and then you will find it.

#12 - PLAYA OSTINIONAL:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK (VERY CONSISTENT)

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

CROWD: NOT CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: North West, West

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: North East, East

ACCESS: Ostional is a littel village north of Nosara, from San Jose are direct buses to Nosara, Ostional during the rainy season can only be accessed by 4wd

#13 - PLAYA NOSARA:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: FUN AND CONSISTENT

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER LEVEL

CROWD: USUALLY EMPTY

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: ANY

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: ANY

ACCESS: From Nosara village the break is 5 minutes south by car. From Nosara beach its a 5 minute walk. Nosara is a fun wave. Really forgiving. Can get big. Nearby spots like Ostinal are always bigger and more hollow. This wave really lends itself to the longboarders and bigginers as its a bit gutless.

#14 - PLAYA GUIONES:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED

CROWD: CAN BE CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: NORTH WEST OR WEST

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: EAST

ACCESS: A mile or so south of Nosara. turn toward the beach at the Cafe de Paris. 1/2 mile to beach

#15 - PLAYA CAMARONAL:

TYPE: WORLD-CLASS BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW, BARRELLING, FAST, AND LONG)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: USUALLY UNCROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: ANY

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: SOUTHWEST, SOUTH

ACCESS: December through April, go through Samara, then Carrillo. Past Carrillo take the Punta Islita turn-off (don't miss it) and cross the river, best at low tide. Go about a mile until you see the ocean on your right over a cow pasture. Open the wooden gate and drive to beach. In the rainy season the river is usually too high to cross. Try at low tide or go by boat from Samara.

Also check out take the main street through the town of Nicoya and follow signs to Playa Samara for a decent beach break.

#16 - PUNTA COYOTE:

TYPE: POINT AND BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE OR ADVANCED

CROWD: EMPTY

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Just north of Punta Coyote for beach break

#17 - MANZANILLO:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Get a boat taxi from Playa del Coco

#18 - PLAYA SANTA TERESA:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: WEEKENDS NO, WEEKDAYS NO (EXCEPT WHEN PROS ARE IN TOWN)

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Boat or a 4WD and really good road map

#19 - PLAYA CARMEN (MAL PAIS):

TYPE: POINT BREAK AND BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: USUALLY

DIRECTION: MOSTLY LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Right in Mal Pais. Also check out a break called "Santa Teresa" Go with the ferry from Punta Arenas to Nicoya Peninsula and then take the public bus. Santa Teresa Surf Camp have nice beachfront cabinas, fully furnished. Sleep four. Manicure gardens, plenty of vegetation, fine restaurants, market, convenience stores

#20 - MAR AZUL:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: USUALLY UNCROWDED

DIRECTION: LEFTS

BOTTOM: ROCK AND CORAL

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: NorthWest, West, SouthWest

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NorthEast, East, SouthEast

ACCESS: 4kms south from Mal Pais (direction Cabo Blanco Reserve) take the first track on the right, it's at the end of the road at the bar/camping Mar Azul. The Mal Pais beach breaks are usually better quality waves, but if you want a different wave, or are staying at Mar Azul and can't be bothered to walk 20mins to Mal Pais.... Lastly, when you're there: check out the big bommies (offshore reefs) out the back and to the south (in the next bay...) some radical looking spots start working as the swell picks up. Ask the locals!

#21 - CABUYA:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: NO

DIRECTION: LEFTS

BOTTOM: ROCK AND CORAL

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: NorthWest, West, SouthWest

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: NorthEast, East, SouthEast

ACCESS: 8kms south from Mal Pais (direction Cabo Blanco Reserve)

SOUTHERN COSTA RICA



- #22 - Barranca
- #23 - Caldera
- #24 - Playa Trivives
- #25 - Playa Valor
- #26 - Escondida
- #27 - Playa Jaco
- #28 - Roca Loca
- #29 - Playa Hermosa
- #30 - El Arbol
- #31 - Tulin
- #32 - Playa Esterillos
- #33 - Bajuco
- #34 - Boca Damas
- #35 - Boca Quepos
- #36 - Playa El Rey
- #37 - Playa Dominical

PACIFIC OCEAN

#38 - Bahia Drake

#39 - Matapalo

#40 - Pavones

#22 - BARRANCA OR BOCA BARRANCE:

TYPE: RIVERMOUTH BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (OCCASIONALLY BARRELLING) VERY LONG RIDES

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: LEFTS MOSTLY

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK (WATCH OUT FOR URCHINS AND SHARP ROCKS AT LOW TIDE!!!)

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SOUTH, SOUTH WEST

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: ANY

ACCESS: just take a bus to Jaco, then a bus to Puntarenas, ask and the locals will tell you where the break is. upon arriving into boca baranca, you'll cross a bridge, this is where you want to get off, as the break is at the rivermouth, the wave breaks for what seems like a mile. it's worth the bus trip. well worth the bus trip if you enjoy left handers. be careful at low tide, as the bottom is a mixture of really sharp rocks and sand. also, be cautious as crocodiles have been known to frequent the rivermouth.

#23 - CALDERA:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: S

DIRECTION: RIGHTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Boat or a 4WD and really good road map

#24 - PLAYA TRIVIVES:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT AND VERY CONSISTENT

EXPERIENCE: ALL LEVELS

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: SOUTH, SOUTH WEST

ACCESS: On the way to Jaco, instead of taking a right to go to Jaco, go directly like 8 miles, you will see a sign to enter Trivives, from there you take a left on a gravel road for like 4 miles. Ask permission to the guard to enter, just tell him you are going to surf.

The place, on a nice swell and with the right conditions, will give excellent surfing. The currents are killers so you will need to paddle for a while, even when sitting on the lineup. When it gets to big 10+ it tends to close out. Be careful with the powerful sets because they will for sure kick in with 5 or 6 big waves. If the surf is not that good you can cross the rivermouth and go to Mini Valor which has some nice hollow waves, sometimes perfect tubes.

#25 - PLAYA VALOR:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK AND POINT BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: WEEKENDS NO, WEEKDAYS NO (EXCEPT WHEN PROS ARE IN TOWN)

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Just south of Playa Trivives

#26 - ESCONDIDA:

TYPE: POINT BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING at times) LONG RIDES

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: USUALLY UNCROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: EAST

ACCESS: You need to hire a boat in Jaco. The reef and point are at the right of the beach.

#27 - PLAYA JACO:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT (OCCASIONALLY BARRELS THOUGH) RIDES CAN BE SHORT THOUGH

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER

CROWD: CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: HIGH

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: EAST, NORTH EAST

ACCESS: Right in town. The best break in front of the best western hotel on the northern end of town.

#28 - ROCA LOCA:

TYPE: ROCK REEF BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (A REGIONAL CLASSIC) (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AND LONG)

EXPERIENCE: EXPERT LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: ROCKY WITH SOME SAND

GOOD TIDE: RISING OR FALLING TIDES

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: South West

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: On the headland about 1 km south of Jaco. Next to Perro Fino

#29 - PLAYA HERMOSA:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: OK, CONSISTENT, SOME LONG RIDES

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: CAN GET CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: ANY

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: Easterlies are best

ACCESS: Right there at the town of Playa Hermosa, south of Jaco

#30 - EL ARBOL (THE TREE):

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AT TIMES) BUT SHORT

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: CROWDED BUT SPREAD OUT ALONG THE BEACH

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SANDY

GOOD TIDE: MID OR HIGH TIDES

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: From Jaco go to Playa Hermosa, at the last building on the right (going south) turn onto the dirt track paralleling the beach. Four hundred meters down there is a really obvious tree (usually with a bunch of surfers hanging around). This spot is a continuation of Playa Hermosa, but has a slightly less 'rough' wave. It is a fast, hollow beach break which is one of the most consistent spots in the area. Often busy, but a big enough break to spread out the crowds. A fast technical wave, The Tree has been the site of competitions recently.

#31 - TULIN:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT AND LONG RIDES (OCCASIONALLY HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: EMPTY USUALLY

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: South, South West

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: Easterlies

ACCESS: Real easy, after getting to San Jose get a bus, car, what ever and head toward Jaco. Jaco is off the main Pacific coast road so don't turn off into town. Keep heading down past Playa Hermosa about 5 miles away from Jaco. As soon as Hermosa ends, just look for a small dirt turn off to the beach at the south end of Hermosa. Follow the road past El mentro another good spot to check,(if this spot is going off then hurry your but to tulin), keep going past a old run down hotel and flower the road till it ends at a small cantina store.

#32 - PLAYA ESTERILLOS:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT BUT SHORT

EXPERIENCE: BEGINNER LEVEL

CROWD: CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: ANY

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: ANY

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: ANY

ACCESS: Drive from Jaco down the cost in the direction of Manuel Antonio. A small crossing about five minutes after Playa Hermosa will lead you there, hard to see! Or take the bus from San Jose or Jaco and ask the driver to stop. Less than 1 US\$ from Jaco.

#33 - BAJUCO:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: EXPERIENCED SURFERS ONLY

CROWD: WEEKENDS NO, WEEKDAYS NO (EXCEPT WHEN PROS ARE IN TOWN)

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID OR HIGH AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: West, SouthWest, South

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: Easterlies

ACCESS: Stay on the main highway going south out of Jaco towards Quepos and Dominical. Pass Esterillos. About 10-15 min. past Esterillos there will be a bunch of signs directing you down various dirt roads that access the beach. Keep your eyes open because there are lots of these signs. Take the Bejuco sign. Drive down the road and park by the bar on the left.

Check out the webcam at http://www.surf-costarica.com/break/esterillos_and_bejuco.htm

#34 - BOCA DAMAS:

TYPE: RIVERMONTH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT, NOT VERY CONSISTENT THOUGH

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: WEEKENDS YES, WEEKDAYS NO

DIRECTION: MOSTLY LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID OR HIGH

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: At the rivermouth of the Boca river. Just north of Quepos about 30 minutes

#35 - BOCA QUEPOS:

TYPE: RIVERMOUTH BREAK

QUALITY: EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING) RARELY BREAKS THOUGH

EXPERIENCE: ADVANCED ONLY!!!

CROWD: NO

DIRECTION: LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: Located at Quepos river mouth, in town, just jump off sea wall into boat channel walk the rest of the sandbar long paddel after that. Check out http://www.surf-costarica.com/break/boca_quepos.htm

#36 - PLAYA EL REY:

TYPE: REEF BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING)

EXPERIENCE: ADVANCED LEVEL

CROWD: NOT USUALLY

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: ROCK AND SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: No access!! boat from Sierpe. Adjacent to Corcavado Jungle Camp and Delphino amor in Drake area. Osa Penninsula. One year ago there was one surfer who owned property in the drake area. Only he and a couple others surf it regularly. It gets epic. Easily as good as anything else I surfed in costa. That's comparing it to roca loca and 6-8 foot dominical point. Very good on the south swell and no ones around.

#37 - PLAYA DOMINICAL:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK AND POINT BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD TO EXCELLENT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AT TIMES)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE (6'4-6'8 Thruster recommended)

CROWD: USUALLY NOT TOO CROWDED

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS WITH POINT BEING A LEFT

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK WITH POINT BEING ALL ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: In Dominical Town

#38 - BAHIA DRAKE:

TYPE: BEACH BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

CROWD: NO

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: About 1 hour from Rincon

#39 - MATAPALO:

TYPE: BEACH AND REEF BREAK

QUALITY: DECENT (CAN BE HOLLOW AND BARRELLING AT TIMES)

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE

CROWD: NORMAL CROWD

DIRECTION: RIGHTS AND LEFTS (RIGHTS ARE BETTER)

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING (ESPECIALLY FOR THE RIGHTS)

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: E-SE

ACCESS: At Playa Matapalo

#40 - PAVONES:

TYPE: REEF BREAK

QUALITY: GOOD TO GREAT (HOLLOW AND BARRELLING) BUT NOT TOO CONSISTENT

EXPERIENCE: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED LEVEL (6'8-7'4 Mini gun recommended)

CROWD: CAN GET VERY CROWDED WHEN ITS GOOD

DIRECTION: LEFTS

BOTTOM: SAND AND ROCK

GOOD TIDE: MID AND RISING

GOOD SWELL DIRECTION: SW

GOOD WIND DIRECTION: North East

ACCESS: A very remote, but beautiful area. Everything is back to basic here. The wave, when it breaks is awesome, but expect a big crowd on this awesome left hander, and the 'locals' or longtime yankee ex-pats living here are not all that much into sharing this break. It needs a very solid south swell before it wraps into the bay.

If Pavones is too crowded, try to find Zancudos. Dont turn from the highway to pavones road follow stright to Zancudo beach instead. Its a good beach break.

GO SURF!