

Republic of Costa Rica



About Costa Rica

Capital City:

- San José

Monetary Unit:

- Costa Rican colón (GTQ)

Major Languages:

- Spanish

Main Exports:

- Computer Parts
- Electronic Components
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Pharmaceuticals
- Textiles

Our Immigration Services in Costa Rica

Consular or Restricted Visa Applications – Guidance & assistance with visa applications filed with the Costa Rican Consulates & missions abroad

Temporary Residence Permit Applications – For foreign nationals who will live and work in Costa Rica

Investment-based Residence Applications (Inversionista) – For foreign nationals who will invest a minimum of USD\$200,000 in tangible property, shares, negotiable instruments, productive projects or projects which are deemed of national interest

The Costa Rican Economy

Home to over 4 million people, Costa Rica has one of the oldest democracies in the Americas. It is the home to many international organizations such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the University for Peace of the United Nations and the Earth Council. Costa Rica enjoys the region's highest standard of living.

Costa Rica's major economic resources are its fertile land and frequent rainfall, its well-educated population, and its location in the Central American isthmus, which provides easy access to North and South American markets and direct ocean access to the European and Asian continents. Costa Rica is known worldwide for its conservation efforts with more than a quarter of its land under protection. The country is rich with renewable energy. About ninety-nine percent of its electrical energy comes from clean sources, and it is aiming to become carbon neutral by 2021.

Costa Rica used to be known principally as a producer of bananas and coffee, but pineapples have surpassed coffee as the number two agricultural export. Del Monte, Dole, and Chiquita have a large presence in the banana and pineapple industries. In recent years, Costa Rica has also successfully attracted important investments by Allergan, Baxter Healthcare, Boston Scientific, Hospira, Intel Corporation, and Procter and Gamble.

Costa Rica has sought to widen its economic and trade ties within and outside the region. Costa Rica has signed trade agreements with Canada, Chile, the Dominican Republic,

Mexico, Panama, and several Caribbean Community countries. In March 1998, it joined other Central American countries and the Dominican Republic in establishing a Trade and Investment Council with the United States. Following a 2007 public referendum, Costa Rica ratified CAFTA-DR, which entered into force in January 2009. The country was an active participant in the negotiation of the hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas and is active in the Cairns Group, which is pursuing global agricultural trade liberalization within the World Trade Organization.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/268qrd>;
<http://tinyurl.com/7jkpqs7>

Business Travel to Costa Rica

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Costa Rica for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months, contain at least two blank visa pages, and have evidence of roundtrip travel arrangements. Generally, citizens of the U.S., Canada, and EU countries will not require a visa to enter Costa Rica for business or tourism purposes. Other foreign nationals will be required to secure a visa, in advance at a Costa Rican consulate or diplomatic mission abroad. A list of visa and entry requirements per country may be found at the following link: <http://www.migracion.go.cr>

Permitted business activities as a business entrant include business negotiations and meetings, marketing and promotional activities, and attending conferences. Business entrants may not engage in employment in Costa Rica.

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Living in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is located in Central America and is ranked as one of the most visited international destinations, with territory touching both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Costa Rica has one of the most advanced telecommunications systems in Latin America. The Caribbean region of Costa Rica stands out for its variety of aquatic ecosystems and its beautiful white and black sand beaches. The Pacific coast concentrates big tourist centers and its beaches are very popular for surfing.

The richness of Costa Rica stems from the cultural diversity of its people. Throughout its history, waves of immigrants have added to the pre-Hispanic native populations, settling on this land and making it their home. Costa Ricans are proud to have had more than a century of democratic tradition and more than 50 years without a military. Costa Ricans, also known as "Ticos," are famous for being very hospitable people.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/7vo8sv3>

Costa Rica Work Permit Process

1

Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) applications sponsored by companies that are accredited by the General Immigration Directorate (DGME) are filed in-country

– OR –

If unaccredited company sponsor, must apply via the Consulate abroad

2

Upon approval, Temporary Residence Permit card (cedula) is issued

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Costa Rica

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Costa Rica. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and

Costa Rican Business Culture

Arriving on time for a meeting is important as Costa Ricans tend to be quite punctual in business situations. Costa Ricans value relationship building and harmony so it is important to avoid hard selling, pressure tactics and any sort of conflict or confrontation during business negotiations. Costa Ricans use and respond best to indirect communication style over direct. Business decisions are usually made through a group consensus and can be lengthy before they are reached. It is advisable, although not required, to have one side of your business card translated into Spanish. Present your business card with the Spanish side facing the recipient.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/6o4nv66>

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Costa Rican Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, companies accredited by the DGME benefit by receiving the most efficient processing times for TRP applications. Thus, if your company's Costa Rican office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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