

OIE Information & Travel Cheat Sheet

Country:

Costa Rica (CR)

Sex & Dating

- Machismo is less prevalent now but is still a part of everyday life
 - Catcalling / harassment technically illegal
- Predominantly Roman Catholic, though has a more liberal view

Alcohol & Drugs

- Legal age to buy/consume alcohol: 18
 - Drinking in public is illegal
- Cannabis (marijuana) recreational is illegal
 - Medicinal is legal

LGBTQIA+ Culture

- CR has legalized same-sex marriages
- Comprehensive transgender rights laws
- Many queer spaces around the country and generally considered welcoming
- Resources
 - Rainbow SIG
 - Diversity Abroad
 - OutRight Action International

Cultural Customs and Norms

- Population: 5 million
- Currency: Costa Rican colón
- Official Language: Spanish
 - Many know English
- "Usted" is expected in formal situations, with more communal situations utilizing "vos"
- Common to greet others with a kiss or a handshake depending on situation

Resources

911 General Emergency / **1117** (Police) / **1118** (Fire)

+506 Country code

- International SOS
 - DU Membership Number: 11BSGC000067
 - Phone: 215.942.8478 / Website: [internationalsos.com](https://www.internationalsos.com)
- Student Support Program (My SSP): 24/7 Mental Health Support
- U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): travel.state.gov



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This is meant to be a helpful resource for students in selecting, understanding, and preparing for their time abroad. There is no intent to discriminate, generalize or stereotype the country or culture with the information provided here. A variety of sources, both formal and informal, were researched to gather this information.