

A vintage car, possibly a Land Rover, is driving through a deep, muddy puddle on a dirt road. The car is splashing a large amount of mud and water, creating a dramatic spray that obscures the front of the vehicle. The road is flanked by dense, lush green foliage and trees, suggesting a tropical or jungle environment. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and off-road driving.

La Carrera Costa Rica

Classic Touring Rally
11 days - 974 mi / 1.568 km

La Carrera Costa Rica

Touring rally in a natural paradise.

11 days. 1,568 km. And 100% south of boredom.

A handful of tropical countries bordered by the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean - and perfect for a vintage car rally - with unique nature experiences, foreign cultures of the past, a long colonial history and an incredible diversity of flora and fauna - that is Central America.

Experience steaming volcanoes, cloud and rain forests, historic colonial cities, pyramids of long-forgotten cultures, hot springs, high plateaus, rugged coasts, picture-perfect beaches and thundering waterfalls... ..and all of this garnished with over 6% of all types of flora and fauna of this earth!

Welcome to Central America. What is more valuable than enjoying unforgettable moments, pure relaxation, adventure and nature - in a relaxed, luxurious atmosphere?

Pura Vida! - Pure Life!

Equis Classic Touring Rally works exclusively with the very best top boutique hotels and lodges in Central America.

We have put together a fantastic route, lots of experience and last but not least: excellent classic rally vehicles that you will love.



So you can leave your classic in its garage.

But of course - if you still want to bring your classic car with you - you're welcome.

You will be accompanied by your personal rally leader in the service vehicle throughout the touring rally. The emphasis is clearly on luxury with relaxed schedules, comfortable speeds, ample time to sightsee and socialize with friends old and new, all at the finest hotels and lodges Costa Rica has to offer.

You don't need any special equipment. No tricky map work, no night driving, no competition licenses, helmets or special suits.

Due to the climatic conditions in Central America, the Rally Costa Rica can be driven perfectly from December to September.

It differs fundamentally from "normal" rallies and is limited to 3 or 4 vehicles (plus a classic service car, usually a Range Rover Classic).

By the way: This minimum group size allows us to offer the rally trip on different dates between December and September.

This allows you to choose an appointment that fits perfectly into your schedule.



Kapok Tree (Ceiba) on Osa

Zoques

La Carrera Costa Rica is divided into two parts. The northern (first) part and the southern (second) part. On the sixth day of the rally trip we get back to our starting point Equis I and can then - if desired - even change the vehicles.



In the southern part of the tour some rivers have to be crossed and depending on the season it is advisable to do that in a Range or Land Rover, otherwise it could get wet.

Our personal residence Equis I with views over the entire Central Valley and the bustling capital of San José is the perfect starting point for La Carrera Costa Rica.

Day 1 (Mon.): Juan Santamaria Airport - San José - Equis I (approx. 30 minutes)

Individual arrival at Equis I, our rally base and residence, approx. 30 minutes' drive from Juan Santamaria International Airport.

Check-in by arrangement from 6 a.m. [sic!] possible.

Our address: Equis I, Calle Lajas, Calle Nuñez, última casa, San Rafael Arriba de Desamparados.

Phones: 8872-1111 and 8873-1111. Navigation to us, here for Waze: [Waze link to Equis I](#)

Briefing about your rally with your rally guide.

After moving into your apartment, relax by the pool with a view over the Central Valley, San José and the volcanoes of the North Cordillera and get to know your fellow rally participants over a cocktail.

Or in the evening at the welcome dinner.

Day 2 (Tue.): San José - Equis I

The introduction and handover of your classic car will take place either in the morning or in the afternoon after consultation with you.

Free day - today you have several options to organize your day.

For example, you can spend a day at the pool in the Equis I, relax and enjoy the view of the high valley.

Or you can take a trip to the nearby areas.

The many sights, museums and theaters make San José the ideal travel destination for culture lovers. Marvel at the gold treasures of the Diquís culture at the Museo del Oro Precolombino or the world's largest collection of American jade at the Museo de Jade.

Architecture fans are enthusiastic about the numerous well-preserved buildings in the Spanish colonial style. A good example is the Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica, which impresses not only with its imposing facade but also with the magnificent interior design.

Or immerse yourself in the lively "Mercado Central", the old covered market hall in the heart of San José. Also fantastic for a Gallo Pinto, a typical Costa Rican breakfast.

You could also take a tour around Lake Cachi and visit the ruins of Ujarrás.

However, there are many more adventures waiting for you on your round trip. San José is just the first stop.



Equis I: Rancho, bar & pool

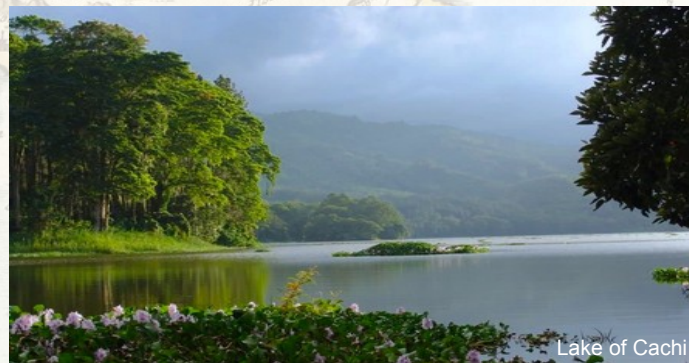
In the evening if desired:

- a) Cooking session with Inga, cocktails and dinner or
- b) Dinner without cooking class but with cocktails or
- c) Nice restaurants in the area would be:
 - La Terrasse, 20min, dining in the living room, French, authentic, fantastic: [Details](#)
 - Ram Luna, 10min., international, traditional, with Panoramic view over the high valley: [Details](#)
 - Grano de Oro, 20min., international, colonial style Hotel in the heart of San Jose: [Details](#)
 - Park Cafe, 25mins, fantastic, here is water more expensive than wine: [Details](#)
 - Hacienda Salitrillos, 5min., typical Costa Rican cuisine, pleasant ambience: [Details](#)
 - Antologías, 5mn, open air bar and restaurant with vintage American cars: [Details](#)
 - La K'sa de la Chuleta, 5 minutes, "Chuleta" = schnitzel, CR cuisine, simple but nice: [Details](#)
 - El Dorado, 25 minutes, absolutely authentic cuisine from China by prior arrangement: [Details](#)

Please ask us about the restaurants, we would be happy to share our experiences with you.



Ruins of Ujarrás



Lake of Cachi

Day 3 (Wed.): San José - Irazú - Sanatorio Durán - Waterfall Gardens (approx. 160 km / 4:50 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/GMQfMzhrHjiD2HGN6>

After breakfast our rally begins. We drive through small villages in the mountains south of San José and enjoy fantastic views over the entire high valley. We pass a coffee-growing region and then drive through the old capital of Cartago into the mountains. We climb to around 3,400m (11,200 ft.) and visit the (national park) Irazú, the highest volcano in Costa Rica.



Short hike through the lunar landscape of the primeval crater to the vantage point. We look at different craters and the green crater lake. The views from up here are absolutely spectacular, on a clear day you can see the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean at the same time.

Small champagne brunch to emphasize the view. (You'll find matching jars in your survival kit.)

Important: It is sometimes very cold up here, so make sure you bring a warm pullover or sweater. And a good pair of sunglasses.

After visiting the Irazú, we descend into the mountains of Tierra Blanca to the old Sanatorium of Durán, a mysterious complex of clinics founded in 1918 by Doctor Carlos Durán. Thousands of ghost hunters have already seen it haunted here - maybe we will see one or the other ghost... [Bericht über das Sanatorium](#)

After the 'horror' we continue – of course - preferably with a ghost - through small villages and we touch the two national parks Braulio Carrillo and Volcano Poás.

Around noon we reach our destination for the day, La Paz Waterfall Gardens and the Peace Lodge.

www.waterfallgardens.com

The rest of the day is at leisure because there is no shortage of sights and activities in Waterfall Gardens: The five magnificent waterfalls de la Paz, butterfly, big cat and bird houses, reptile, monkey and hummingbird gardens, the old 'Casita Tipica', an old Costa Rican farmhouse, are just some of the must-sees.

Do you like fly fishing?
Perfect! You are in the right place.



One of the five La Paz waterfalls



On the way to the Pacific, Cangrejal

Day 4 (Thu.): Waterfall Gardens – La Fortuna, Arenal (approx. 167 km / 4:15 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/mAAdYwuqpiSBkcJSA>

Today we first visit the Poás volcano at 2,700 m altitude, which, by the way, is very different from the Irazú. The Poás is active, we will see steaming and sometimes spewing fumaroles.

The Poás is surrounded by two crater lakes, the better known northern and active crater has a diameter of about 1.5 kilometers and is about 300 meters deep. Its water is intense turquoise blue. When the weather is good, there are fantastic views of the Central Cordillera and the Caribbean lowlands.

Details Vulkan Poás

Then we continue along the northern cordillera to the artist towns of Sarchí and Zarcero. Among other things, we visit the world's largest ox cart and the animals cut from trees and hedges in Zarcero.

Continue to La Fortuna to visit Arenal Volcano, the country's most impressive cone volcano. It rises from the plains around San Carlos with its near-perfect, classic cone shape.

The surrounding area with evergreen, tropical vegetation is one of the most beautiful landscapes in northern Costa Rica.

By the way: Our hotel "The Springs - Resort & Spa" is one of the few that has several private pools, fed by the natural hot mineral waters of the Arenal Volcano.

The water temperatures in the individual pools are between 28°C and 40°C - look forward to an unforgettable bathing experience with a spectacular view of the Arenal Volcano. www.thespringscostarica.com



Lake & Volcano Arenal



Day 5 (Fri.): La Fortuna, Arenal – Monteverde (approx. 119 km / 3:20 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/TAKXvrDHWQIXgw6PA>

<https://goo.gl/maps/6pasxeLN4NrfqrfM9> (incl. Río Celeste: 193 km / approx. 5:30 hours)

Today we drive around the sparkling Arenal Lake - the largest inland body of water in Costa Rica - on partly unpaved roads to Monteverde, which exudes an incredibly friendly atmosphere with its lovely small-town charm. The Monteverde cloud forest reserve, together with the neighboring protected areas, forms the largest contiguous

cloud forest area in Costa Rica.

On the way you will see the two volcanoes Tenorio and Miravalles. The beautiful hiking trail to the Río Celeste waterfall begins at the foot of the Tenorio volcano. The river is known for its intense turquoise blue hue, created by the union of two rivers with different mineral composition. If you wish, we can make a detour to the Río Celeste, it's definitely worth it.

[Details Río Celeste](#)

The Monteverde region, centered on Santa Elena, is located in the Tilarán mountain range, at an altitude of between 1,200 and 1,500 meters. With its protected cloud forest reserves and extraordinary flora and fauna, Monteverde is one of the most popular regions in Costa Rica.

Our mountain lodge “Senda Monteverde”:

<https://www.sendamonteverde.com>

In Monteverde you have countless opportunities for your free time. Hanging bridges, canopy, bird watching, coffee,



Monteverde

cocoa and horseback riding tours, visit to the Quaker cheese factory, night tours in the cloud forest, yoga, beer brewing courses etc. The latter is highly recommended... ...we advise you detail.

Day 6 (Sat.) Monteverde - Puntarenas - Tarcoles - Santiago - Equis I (approx. 200 km / 4:50 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/yGUqy25AzmyvBXIH6>

After breakfast in Monteverde we head towards the Pacific coast. On the scenic drive there - partly on gravel - you will regularly see the glittering Gulf of Nicoya. Fantastically beautiful.

We visit the picturesque harbor town of Puntarenas, drive briefly along the Pacific coast on the Panamericana and then turn back into the mountains.



Nicoya Peninsula

If desired, we can make a detour to the lower bridge of the Rio Tárcoles. Under the bridge there are sometimes 60 specimens of the American crocodile, which can be up to five meters long, guaranteeing thrills.

We continue past small towns in the southern Cordillera, spectacular views of the high valley are guaranteed. Only a few tourists get lost in this area and here Costa Rica is definitely still the - original - Costa Rica. We arrive back at Equis I in the early afternoon, have another sundowner by the pool or on the terrace.

The first part of the rally trip is over, and "technical talks" about cars and Costa Rica usually take place now. With one or the other warm or cold drink.

Tomorrow we're going to the south of Costa Rica. Depending on the time of year, now would be the right time to think about a vehicle swap. To paraphrase Shakespeare, "Shower or 4x4, that's the question...".

Day 7 (Sun.) Equis I - Tarbaca - Cangrejal - Manuel Antonio - Uvita (approx. 157 km / 3:45 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/JcYw2auHZAUFkAsA7>

With "old" or "new" classics, we set off for the Pacific in the morning. A dream slope, 30% of it on gravel.

Small champagne brunch in the mountains near Cangrejal. Enjoy spectacular views over the mountains to the Pacific.

We continue past tropical plantations and landscapes along the Pacific coast to Manuel Antonio. Explore the beautiful beaches with crystal clear waters of Manuel Antonio or visit the national park of the same name. Sloths, toucans, howler monkeys and many tropical birds can be seen on the numerous hiking trails through the national park.

Important: Some animals, but especially the monkeys, have fun checking the backpacks and bags of tourists for food and they take them into the trees for that... ..so be careful.



Manuel Antonio

Then drive through the tranquil fishing and port town of Quepos, then continue on the Pacific coast to Uvita to our boutique hotel Oxygen Jungle Villas

<https://oxygenjunglevillas.com>

In Uvita you can watch Pacific humpback whales from December to April and July to November.

If you wish, book a whale watching tour at the hotel or simply gaze out over the Pacific Ocean, perhaps over a cocktail.



Humpback whale, Marino Ballena National Park, Uvita

Day 8 (Mon.) Uvita - Sierpe - Drake Bay - Puerto Jiménez - Playa Sombrero (Osa) (approx. 160 km / 4:00 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/dZ8MFsa2XPJinSou5> 1st section

<https://goo.gl/maps/QtV18cKTxfEJmSWA> 3rd section

Today we drive to the Osa Peninsula. On the Península de Osa, the unique nature presents itself with the largest contiguous lowland rainforest on earth. Here you will find many rare tree species, over 120 reptile species, over 380 bird species and more than 160 different mammal species. A variety of species that is second to none, a natural spectacle of the first order - a paradise for every nature lover.

The Corcovado National Park on Osa was declared a biosphere reserve by the UNO, precisely because of the enormous biodiversity. Jaguars, pumas, tapirs, monkeys - everything can really walk across the street here.

The region around the Golfo Dulce consists of mountain, cloud and palm forest, but you can also find alluvial land, swamp forest and mangrove swamps.

The Península de Osa is still very original. There are only a



Drake Bay, Osa

few 'roads' so far, we drive mostly dirt roads on the first section from Sierpe to Puerto Jiménez, there are also some rivers to cross.

Adventure is guaranteed. fascination too. And sometimes we might even meet an old prospector. No kidding, informal gold panning is still going on in the streams here.



Bridge... Osa

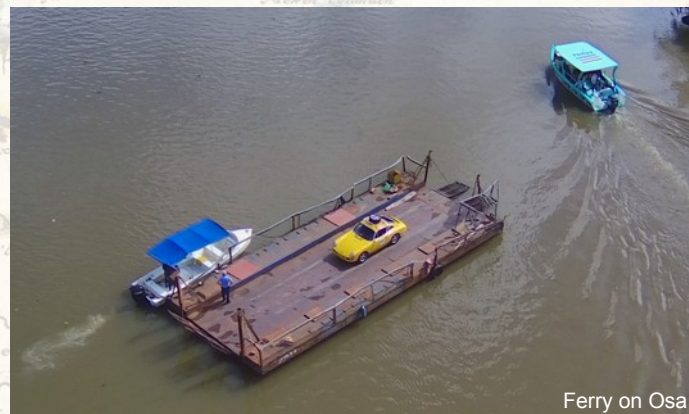
Visit to Drake Bay, the bay where Francis Drake overhauled his "Golden Hind" in March 1579.

Speaking of Drake Bay: There is no Google Maps link for this (second) section of the route. We use a more or less modern ferry, as well as routes that are not marked on the maps. Several river crossings on this section of the route.

Around noon we reach the old gold mining town of Puerto Jiménez.

Here is right near a great Italian restaurant "Il Giardino" [Details](#) – overlooking the Golfo Dulce – one of the largest populations of Scarlet Macaws.

By the way, they are quite easy to find, you can hear the screeching and croaking from afar.



Ferry on Osa

Strengthened, we continue along the coast of the Golfo Dulce to the south-east tip of the peninsula.

Welcome to Lapa Rios Lodge:

<https://www.laparios.com>

Relax & enjoy.

'Pure tropics' with a magnificent dream view of the glittering Golfo Dulce.



Golfo Dulce

Day 9 (Tue.) Playa Sombrero (Osa east coast) - Puerto Jiménez - Golfo Dulce - Mogos - Golfito - San Vito - Cerro Chirripó (approx. 309 km / 5:40 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/uhxX3duNL5Vkfou8>

Today we have an exceptionally beautiful but also challenging route ahead of us. We drive from southern Osa around the Golfo Dulce - grandiose views -, short distance on the Panamericana, touch the national parks Piedras Blancas and Golfito National Wildlife Refuge, visit the Esquinas Rainforest Lodge and then enter the bay of Golfito.

From Golfito we continue north, briefly on the Panamericana to just before the border to Panama. We turn left before the border into the mountains towards San Vito. A dream route with magnificent views.



Our destination for the day is the Hacienda AltaGracia, in an absolutely idyllic location in the foothills of Cerro Chirripó: <https://aubergeresorts.com/altagracia/>

At 3,820 m, Cerro Chirripó is the highest mountain in Costa Rica and is located in the Cordillera de Talamanca. It is also the highest elevation between Guatemala and the South American Andes.

The peace and the fantastic view at the foot of the Chirripó - pure enjoyment!



Cerro Chirripó

Day 10 (Wed.) Cerro Chirripó - San Isidro de El General - Cerro de La Muerte - San Gerardo de Dota - San Marcos - San Gabriel - Equis I (approx. 184 km / 4:30 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/LvgvQWVY5FwS3pQA>

Many years ago today's tour would have spread fear and terror. We drive over the Cerro de la Muerte, the "mountain of death".

Centuries ago, mountain hikers routinely froze to death near the summit, simply unprepared for the temperatures that prevailed at 10,000 feet.

And until 2015, the Cerro was still used by many heavy trucks. They drove quite "idiosyncratically" in the many - sometimes unreasonable - serpentine... Well, fortunately, that has changed for the better. Today



we drive through six different climate zones to the Páramo. It can be found from about 2,500m altitude. The Cerro de la Muerte itself is 3,491m high, but we "only" climb up to 3,345m.

If the weather cooperates, spectacular views are guaranteed.

After the Cerro we turn left at the Parque Nacional Los Quetzales. A long valley of the Rio Savegre follows and you think you are in Switzerland or northern Italy.

The destination is San Gerardo de Dota and the grandiose waterfall of the Rio Savegre (40min. walk).



Rio Savegre

At an altitude of 2,200 meters, San Gerardo offers lush green rainforest and incredible biodiversity. Best sighting opportunities worldwide for the legendary bird of the gods of the Mayas: the quetzal.

Then we continue along the street of the Santos, the saints. San Marcos, San Gabriel etc. Fantastic views, past huge coffee fincas. Tarrazú, the world famous coffee is grown here. If desired, we can also visit a traditional trapiche, an old sugar cane mill. Absolutely worth seeing.

In the afternoon we reach Equis I again with plenty of time to prepare for our farewell dinner together.

But before that, the golden rule applies: relax. Relax.

At the farewell dinner in the evening we celebrate what we have experienced together. It will be a fitting conclusion to an unforgettable adventure in Central America. Guaranteed!

Day 11 (Thu.) Equis I

All good things come to an end.

And today the La Carrera Costa Rica ends through the fascinating little country of Central America.

But who knows, maybe we'll see each other again soon...

Status: January 12, 2022, subject to change.

Download app and route on .kmz or .kml on request.

The historical map used here was drawn in 1706, the original is in the Equis I.

Equis Classic Touring Rallies, Asclepios Hygieia S.A., Costa Rica

www.rally-rally.com



INCLUSIVE PACKAGE – Our services

Own vehicle Our vehicle

- Welcome dinner
- 10 nights in Costa Rica's best hotels & lodges
- All breakfasts or breakfast buffets
- Equis Residence: All breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks & soft drinks
- Support vehicle (usually a Range Rover Classic)
- Multilingual rally manager (DE-EN-ES)
- Replacement vehicle – if necessary
- Fantastic routes & sights
- Possibility to completely personalize your rally
- Classic rally vehicle (car or motorcycle)
- Full vehicle insurance
- All entrance and event fees, national parks etc.
- Rally plates, numbers and stickers
- Medical care in case of emergency
- Extensive 'survival set' with glasses etc.
- Vehicle exchange – if desired
- Extensive vehicle cleaning at the end of the rally
- Farewell dinner



