

A classic car, possibly a Range Rover, is driving through a deep, muddy puddle on a dirt road. The car is splashing a large amount of mud and water, which is captured in mid-air, creating a dynamic and energetic scene. The background is filled with dense, vibrant green foliage, suggesting a tropical or jungle environment. The overall mood is adventurous and rugged.

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.



Zoques

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) Dinner in Equis I

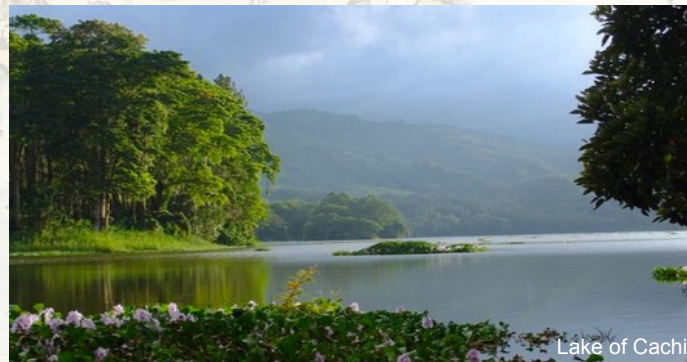
b) Nice restaurants in the area would be:

- 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.



Volcano Irazú

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... [Report on the 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 Póas.

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

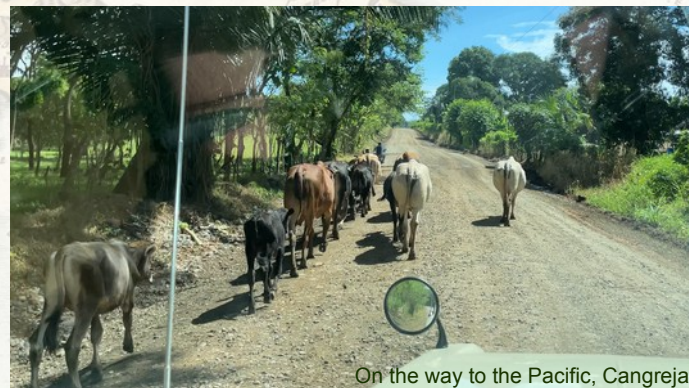
www.waterfallgardens.com

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 Volcano 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. Rio Celeste: 193 km / approx. 5:30 hours)



Rio Celeste

composition. If you wish, we can make a detour to the Rio Celeste, it's definitely worth it. [Details Rio 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

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 Rio 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



Monteverde

free time. Hanging bridges, canopy, bird watching, coffee, 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>

<https://goo.gl/maps/njmJV9kpbj4w526p7> (Alternatively, if desired)

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.

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...”.



Nicoya Peninsula

Day 7 (Sun.) Equis I - Tarbaca - Uvita - Sirpe – Rincon de Osa (approx. 234 km / 5:30 hours)
(incl. Drake Bay 262 km / 6:45 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/jhtD6Nrn6gn14kKN6>

With your 'old' or 'exchanged' classic, we set off to 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 via Quepos and Uvita to Sirpe on 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.



Manuel Antonio



Humpback whale, Marino Ballena National Park, Uvita

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 track 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 few roads so far, we drive mostly dirt roads on the first section from Sirpe to Rincon, 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.

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 partly not shown on the maps. Several river crossings on this section of the route.

Should the water levels of the rivers to be crossed be too high (which is relatively rare), we will take a fantastic alternative route through the jungle and leave out Drake



Drake Bay, Osa

Bay. We continue along the coast of the Golfo Dulce to the north-eastern tip of the peninsula.

Welcome to Kunken Lodge, located on the beach of Golfo Dulce: <https://kunkenlodge.com>

A newly opened lodge that is even more beautiful in reality than in the photos on the internet.

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



Bridge... Osa

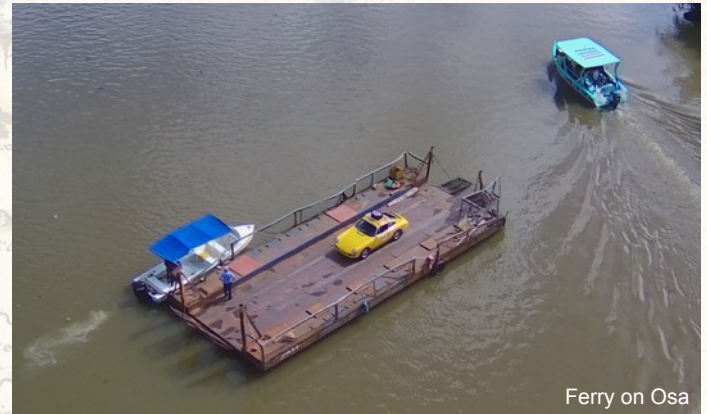
Day 8 (Mon) Rincon de Osa – Free at leisure

After the track yesterday we deserve it!
This day is at leisure.

Relax by the lodge's pool, swim in the Golfo Dulce, hike one of the lodge's trails or visit the Corcovado National Park.

We can warmly recommend a canoe or boat tour on the Golfo Dulce. The Mogos Islands are great for snorkeling and the dolphins sometimes swim within arm's length of the boat.

If you are lucky you can also see humpback whales.



Ferry on Osa

There are many possibilities, here are a few more:

<https://kunkenlodge.com/tours/>

You could also make a detour to the old gold mining town of Puerto Jiménez.

Here is one of the largest populations of Scarlet Macaws located - right near a great Italian restaurant 'Il Giardino' - overlooking the Golfo Dulce.

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



Golfo Dulce

Day 9 (Tue.) Rincón – Golfo Dulce – Mogos – Golfito – San Vito – Cerro Chirripó (approx. 330 km / 6:10 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/Y27bkKfzkCYPPviT9>

Today we have an exceptionally beautiful but also challenging route ahead of us. We drive north around the Golfo Dulce - magnificent views - then a short stretch on the Panamericana, touching the Piedras Blancas National Park and Golfito National Wildlife Refuge, visit the Esquinas Rainforest Lodge and then enter the Bay of Golfito.

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



With 4x4 we can also take an adventure alternative route to San Vito. Almost unriden and incredibly beautiful.

There is, however, a rather unusual 'bridge'...

... but we can discuss that beforehand in the Kunken Lodge.

After San Vito we pass the Cordillera de Talamanca and the Cerro Chirripó, at 3,820 meters the highest mountain in Costa Rica. It is also the highest elevation between Guatemala and the South American Andes.

Many years ago, the coming stage 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



Cerro Chirripó

near the summit, simply unprepared for the temperatures that prevailed at over 3,000m.

Until 2015, the Cerro was still used by many heavy trucks. Luckily this has changed for the better, most trucks now use the coastal road.

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.

Our destination for the day is San Gerardo de Dota. A 'Forest of Great Natural Beauty'. Located at the foot of the Cerros, crossed by the Río Savegre. Our Trogón Lodge www.trogonlodge.com/home is idyllically situated directly on



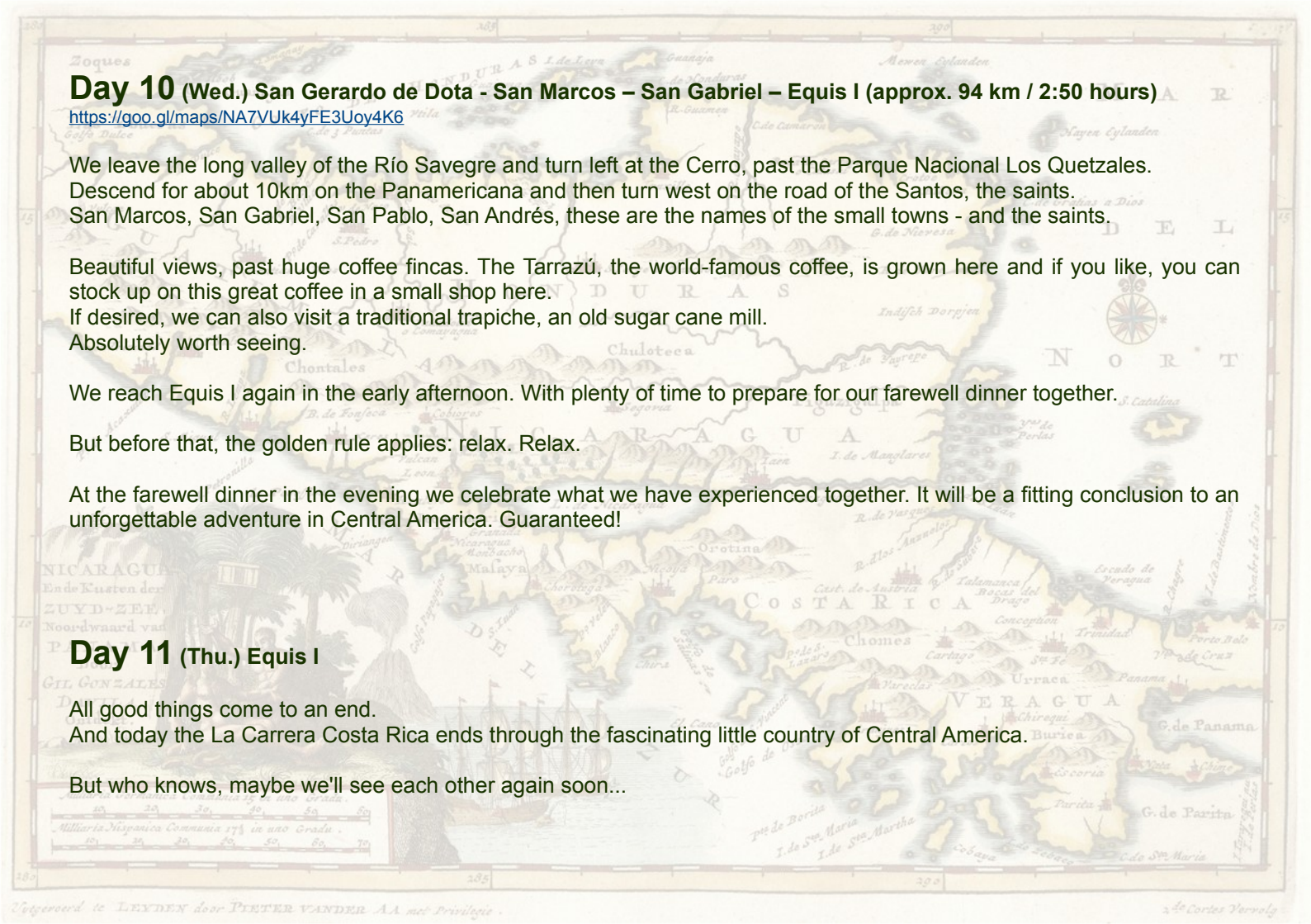
the Río Savegre, at an altitude of around 2,200m. Dress warmly, it can get very chilly here in the evening!

In this cloud forest region there are best chances to see the legendary bird of the gods of the Mayas, the Quetzal. If you are interested, you will find specialized guides here. The tours start around 6:00 am directly at the hotel and last about two hours. You will be back at the lodge for breakfast.

We recommend a hike to the Río Savegre waterfall. Duration: approx. 40 minutes by feet (one way), level of difficulty: easy to medium. Beauty: exceptional.



Río Savegre



Day 10 (Wed.) San Gerardo de Dota - San Marcos – San Gabriel – Equis I (approx. 94 km / 2:50 hours)

<https://goo.gl/maps/NA7VUk4yFE3Uoy4K6>

We leave the long valley of the Río Savegre and turn left at the Cerro, past the Parque Nacional Los Quetzales. Descend for about 10km on the Panamericana and then turn west on the road of the Santos, the saints. San Marcos, San Gabriel, San Pablo, San Andrés, these are the names of the small towns - and the saints.

Beautiful views, past huge coffee fincas. The Tarrazú, the world-famous coffee, is grown here and if you like, you can stock up on this great coffee in a small shop here.

If desired, we can also visit a traditional trapiche, an old sugar cane mill.

Absolutely worth seeing.

We reach Equis I again in the early afternoon. 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...

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





La Carrera Costa Rica La Carrera Veragua La Carrera Panamericana del Sur

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Rallyes clásicos / Vales de lujo
 Distancias: 845 - 4.111 km
 Alturas: 0 - 3.444 m
 Países: 1, 2 o 5
 Días: 6 hasta 18
rally-rally.com

30 km
10 mi



Absolutely not necessary - but nice:

For navigation in Costa Rica we recommend the relatively easy-to-use app ,OSMand' which you can download free of charge for your iPhone and/or Android from the App Store or Google Play.

The paid version is **not required**.

After starting the app, you can download several maps for free. Costa Rica should of course be downloaded.

OSMand **navigates offline**, very precise and comfortable, so that:

- a) you are always aware of where you are,
- b) there are **no costs** for data volume or roaming,
- c) you will be informed about special points of interest (POI's).

We are happy to provide you with our daily routes as .gpx files for OSMand - and Garmin devices too.
Please contact us.

As already mentioned, navigation is really **not necessary**.

If you drive without, that's absolutely no problem.

July 18, 2022. We expressly reserve the right to make changes.

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

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

www.rally-rally.com



R A N G E R O V E R