Costa Rica Presentation

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This is a map of Costa Rica. It is located in South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Costa Rica is divided up into 7 provinces: San José, Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia, Puntarenas, Guanacaste, and Limór. San José is the biggest and most popular city.
The Flag of Costa Rica

This flag became the official flag on September 29, 1848. On the side of the flag, it shows three volcanoes which represent the country’s three mountains which divide the two oceans surrounding Costa Rica. Pacífica Fernández designed this flag.
San José is the capital city of Costa Rica. 4.857 million people live in Costa Rica with a population of 1.025 million people living in San José. The official language in Costa Rica is Spanish but some indigenous languages are spoken as well: Maléku, Cabécar and Bribri. The currency in Costa Rica is Costa Rican colón but US dollars are also accepted in most places as well. One Costa Rican colón is equal to 0.0023 Canadian dollar.
Geography

Costa Rica is in Central America, bordering Nicaragua and Panama. Costa Rica is 51,060 square kilometers and has 40 square kilometers of water. Costa Rica has lots of famous active volcanoes including the Arenal Volcano and the Turriaba Volcano. They also have lots of streams and rivers which attract lots of kayakers and rafters. Costa Rica is a tropical country with lots of beaches, jungles, rivers and lakes. May to November are rainy seasons and December to April are very dry seasons.
Christopher Columbus discovered Costa Rica in 1502 and the land was given to Spain. In 1808, coffee was introduced from Cuba and it became Costa Rica’s main crop. Then, in 1821, Central America finally took Costa Rica’s independence. Costa Rica became fully independent in 1838. Costa Rica is a very peaceful country but did have a 6 week civil war over the presidential election results in 1948. Costa Rica is such a peaceful country that they haven't had a national army since 1948.
Traditions and holidays

Festival of Lights

The Festival of Lights (also known as Festival de la Luz) in San José is one of the most awaited Christmas events in Costa Rica. It is held on the second Saturday of December every year. The festival has an extravagant parade with big floats, dancers and marching bands. Semana Santa is a Costa Rican holiday that occurs the week leading up to Easter, to honour the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Catholic churches make huge bold colourful processions to honour Jesus Christ. Many parades take place during this time and some people dress up as characters from the Bible. The Carnival of Puntarenas is another very popular festival that is held February 11-20. The festival has fireworks, multiple bands, parades and tons of other cool activities. So many people come to see this festival that traffic is lined up for hours. Thousands of people come to Costa Rica to experience this festival.
When you say hello or goodbye, it is polite to give a kiss on the cheek, or a hug. The only exception is men do not kiss men, they will usually shake hands or give an one armed hug. Another custom of Costa Ricans is they are usually 30 or more minutes late to events. It is not considered rude, just something they do. When planning an activity, people will say the time expecting you to be late. A third custom of Costa Ricans is that they don't get mad in public. Costa Ricans will never yell or be rude in public. They also never say no, usually they will just say maybe as they think it is rude to say otherwise. Lastly, women and men dress very nicely. Women usually wear dresses or if they wear jeans, they would likely wear heels and dress them up. Men will almost never wear shorts and usually will wear nice pants and a shirt. Dressing casually is more formal in Costa Rica. Both men and women take pride in their appearance. Women also dress a lot more provocatively than they do in North America outside of work.
Famous People

Silvia Poll is a Costa Rican Olympic swimmer. She was the first person to win Costa Rica a medal at the Olympics. She won a silver medal in the 200 meter freestyle at the 1988 summer Olympics. She also has a sister who has won a gold metal in 200 meter freestyle at the 1996 Olympic games. Silvia and her sister are the only Costa Ricans who have won metals at the Olympics. Nery Brenes is a Costa Rican runner who reached the semi finals in the 400 meter sprint at the 2008 Olympics. He has also won 7 gold metals at the Central American Championships from 2004 to 2011. Franklin Chang Diaz is a engineer and former Nasa astronaut. He also is the founder and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company. His whole life he has wanted to go to space and he finally accomplished that dream when he went on a space shuttle mission in 1986.
A casodo is a very popular meal that has rice, black beans, salad, tortilla and a piece of meat. Some people have different variations of a casoda but they are mostly the same thing. This is served as either dinner or lunch. Another Costa Rican food is a gallo pinto. A gallo pinto is rice with red or black beans. It can be eaten as any part of a meal and is a staple in a Costa Rican diet. Lastly, salsa lizano is a Costa Rican condiment that is used while cooking or to add flavour. It is served with most foods and has a variety of vegetables in it.
Poas Volcano National Park is one of Costa Rica's most popular parks. In the park there is a volcano called Poas Volcano (hence the name). This volcano is one of Costa Rica's most active and biggest volcanoes. Another tourist attraction is Manuel Antonio National Park. It is located on the Pacific coast in Costa Rica. It has three beaches, and different forest trails where you can see many species of animals. It has been named one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Another tourist attraction is the National Theatre of Costa Rica. It was opened on October 21 1897. It was built by the coffee growers who wanted to have their own place to sell coffee and to have a building that represented their culture. It is located in San José and has amazing performances with lavish interior.
Government

Costa Rica has a democratic republican government. A democratic government is when the people elect their own legislature and it is also republican because the head of state is a president who is elected by the people. Every 4 years, national elections are held. The current president is Luis Guillermo Solis. The political system is divided into 3 powers: the Legislative Power, the Executive Power, and the Judicial Power. The capital city is San José which is where the parliament is.
Thank you for watching my presentation! I hope you learned something new!