

DEAR COSTA RICA

PUERTO VIEJO • 3-DAY PLAN

Three days in *Puerto Viejo*

Town first, coast road second, forest third. Every afternoon left loose. No rental car needed: bikes and one bus day.

01

Town & Cocles

Settle in, don't rush



MORNING

Arrive and rent bikes

Drop your bags, then rent bikes for the whole stay.

AFTERNOON

Playa Cocles

Beach time. Swim where the lifeguards are assigned, and ask about the sea before going in.

EVENING

Salsa Brava, then dinner

Walk into town to see Salsa Brava breaking, then eat Caribbean: rice and beans in coconut milk, or rondón if a kitchen is making it. Early night.

02

The coast road

Ride south to the point



MORNING

Playa Chiquita, then Punta Uva

Cycle the flat road south and stop at the small beach entrances. Swim and snorkel the calm cove at Punta Uva, then have a long lunch.

AFTERNOON

Manzanillo

Carry on for the walk into the refuge toward Punta Mona. About 20 minutes from town by local bus if your legs have had enough.

EVENING

Back before dark

Tuk-tuk the bikes home if you are tired.

03

Into the forest

A morning in the park



MORNING

Early bus or taxi to Cahuita

About 25—30 minutes on the local bus. Walk the flat coastal trail from the Kelly Creek gate: sloths and howler monkeys are commonly seen, especially with a guide.

AFTERNOON

Lunch in the village, then home

Eat in the village, then head back to Puerto Viejo. Not a forest person? Swap the park for a locally run cacao morning or a guided reef snorkel.

Shorter or longer

Only two days

Keep Day 1 and Day 2. Skip the park; snorkel the Cahuita reef if the sea is calm.

Four or five days

Add a slow beach day at Punta Uva and a cacao morning. Add less, not more.

Here to surf

Base yourself at Cocles and give Day 2 to the water. Keep the park day.

With kids

Swap Manzanillo for a second Punta Uva morning; make the park a short out-and-back.

Good to know

- **Best months.** February to March and September to October are the driest, calmest windows. Rain is possible in any month.
- **Getting around.** Bike by day, taxi after dark, the local bus down the coast. Agree taxi fares before you get in. Keep the road past Punta Uva to daylight.
- **The sea.** Rip currents are the main risk. Swim where it is calm and flagged, never alone, and ask your hotel what the sea is doing today.
- **Small bills.** Carry cash: many small places on the coast take cash only.
- **Times change.** Bus timetables and opening hours change with the season. Confirm before you travel.

More guides

- Where to stay: dearcostarica.com/where-to-stay-puerto-viejo/
- Getting around: dearcostarica.com/getting-around-puerto-viejo/
- When to go: dearcostarica.com/best-time-to-visit-puerto-viejo/
- Is Puerto Viejo safe: dearcostarica.com/is-puerto-viejo-safe/
- Things to do: dearcostarica.com/puerto-viejo/things-to-do/