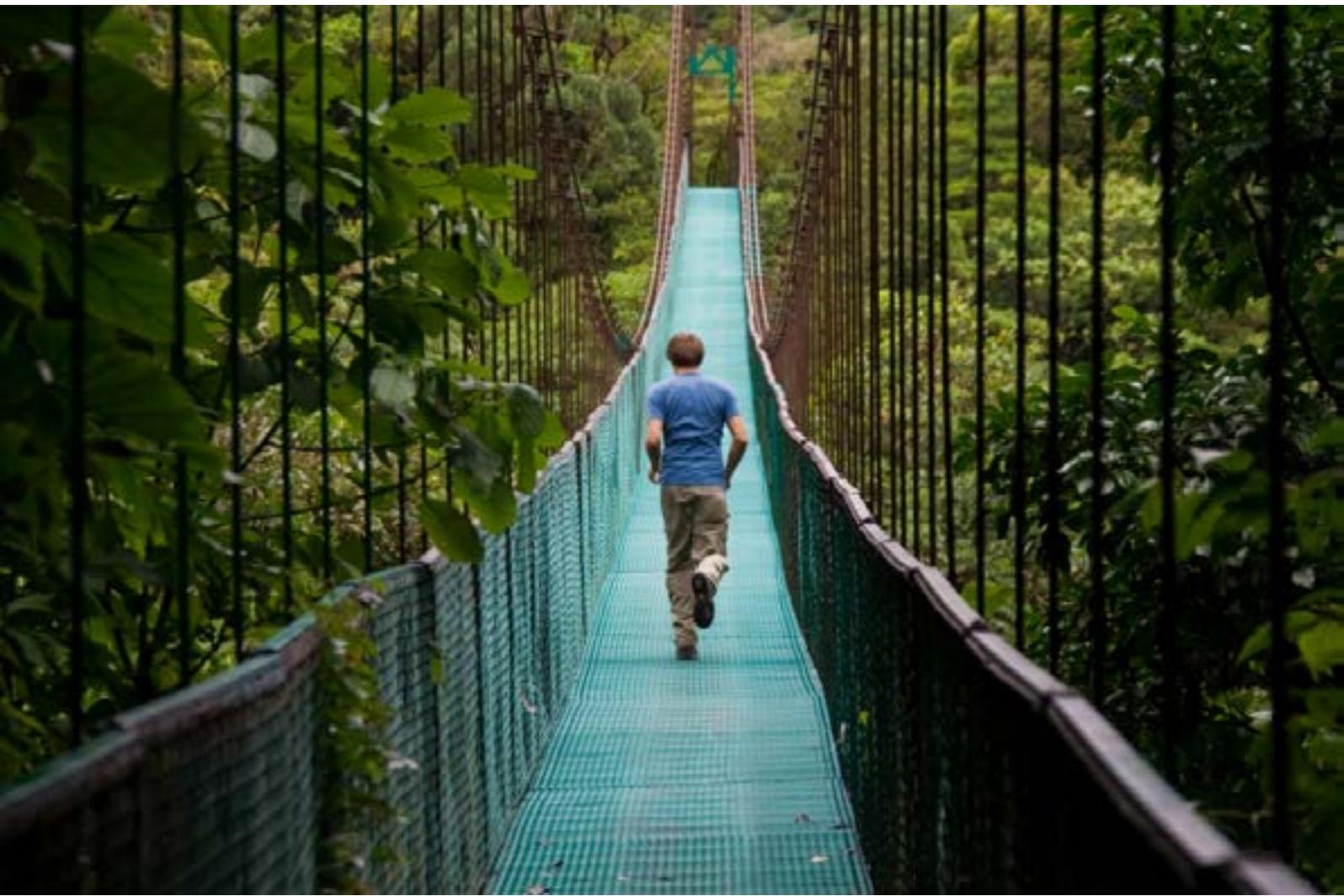


# Travel Guide: Best tourist activities in TAMARINDO

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Whole generations of tourists have been in love with Costa Rica for decades, and still nowadays is a main destiny for families, groups, couples and individuals looking for their next great vacation spot.

In fact Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT), indicates the creation of more than 95,000 additional plane seats in the first month of 2018 alone. So, what is it about this country attracting us tourists as a magnet?

Costa Rica is a global example. In addition to providing 5% of the world's biodiversity, its social, economic and political stability is a great part of this beautiful nation. This is why it has been classified as the happiest country in the world.

This international exposure has been the pillar to consider it a safe, peaceful and democratic tourist destination.

According to the ICT, Costa Rica received a total of 969,188 tourists during the first quarter of the year. 5.4% more compared to the same period in 2017.

In the case of U.S. tourists, 375,107 people entered through international airports, an increase of 6%.





The statistics reflect the true charm of the country. Its beaches, forests and inhabitants are the perfect trident for anyone looking for harmony or adrenaline.

Is not an incoherence. Costa Rica has it all. If you are an adventurer with a desire to satisfy your spirit hungry for excitement, you can find activities such as canopy, kayaking, rappel, scuba diving and more.

On the contrary, if you are in search of inner peace; if you want to create a true connection with nature, it is also the right place.

The diversity of ecosystems present in the country generates the sensation of visiting different parts of the world in a matter of hours. You can move from the enigmatic rainforests to the relaxing coastal areas in just a few minutes.

One of the mandatory places to visit if you travel to Costa Rica: Tamarindo. Enjoy this guide and discover the majestic opportunity to visit a “Beach City”.

# Why Tamarindo is the best place for your vacation?

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Tamarindo is a true paradise. The title 'beach city' is not in vain. Located on the shores of the Pacific coast, Tamarindo is the center of affluence for most visitors from all coastal towns in the province of Guanacaste. This has led to a very active nightlife, and a wide variety of commercial establishments.

Can you imagine living on the beach? It's the dream of many. Tamarindo is very different from what we know. The place emits an indescribable magic that makes the stay a sublime experience.

Being the perfect place for surfing, added to the beautiful landscape and long white sanded beaches, Tamarindo became one of the main tourist destinations of Nicoya Peninsula northwest region, which allows you to enjoy first quality services: hotels and restaurants adjustable to the traveler's pocket.



## Geography

Tamarindo covers an area of 123.53 km<sup>2</sup>. Due to its geographical position, it has become the favorite place for leatherback turtles to lay their eggs; it is the most popular destination for which it is considered a sanctuary for the sea turtle population. As a result, it was classified as a protected area.



## Climate

The tropical climate is typical of this region. The average temperature is 32 °C. It has two seasons: winter and summer, defined by the beginning and end of the rainy season, and not by the time change as in the United States or Europe.

The dry season lasts from November to April and is hot and sunny. It is a pleasant and propitious time to receive sun. The rainy season starts in late April or early May and lasts until October.



## The people

In general, the Costa Rican is friendly and very helpful. Accustomed to welcoming foreign tourists, they are always friendly and warm. “Pura Vida” they express with joy. It won’t take long to hear that phrase so characteristic of the country. A philosophy reflected in their lifestyle and the way they deal with personal difficulties; a smile and an unwavering spirit make each native Costa Rican unique.

In general, they are fun-loving, polite and courteous people. It is a very sociable population, and enjoys meetings and celebrations of all kinds. No doubt they will make you like at home. I assure you.

## Gastronomy

To venture into Costa Rican gastronomy is exciting. The variety of dishes and drinks offer an exquisite experience for our palate.

In Tamarindo, it is almost obligatory to taste the ceviche. An appetizer made from fresh fish marinated in citrus juices such as lemon, with the special addition of chopped herbs and vegetables. Before traveling to Costa Rica, add this delicious tropical delicacy to your itinerary.

If cooking is your thing, there are traditional markets where you can make your food selection and explore on your own the authentic Costa Rican flavors.

# Main tourist attractions in Tamarindo

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Time becomes short and experiences infinite. Here you will find recommendations that'll help you broaden your vision of what to look for in Tamarindo. By the way, you will know the reasons why it is considered one of the major references of Costa Rican tourism.





## Tamarindo Beach

Tamarindo is the most developed tourist attraction of the Nicoya Peninsula, being one of the most representative places of surfing in Costa Rica.

There are a variety of services and amenities unique to a coastal city. In addition, I noticed a considerable influx of tourists. This is because Liberia's international airport is close to the area, an excellent way to facilitate access for American and European visitors.

The sea, known for its crystalline appearance, conserves one of the most beautiful and diverse marine ecosystems in the area.

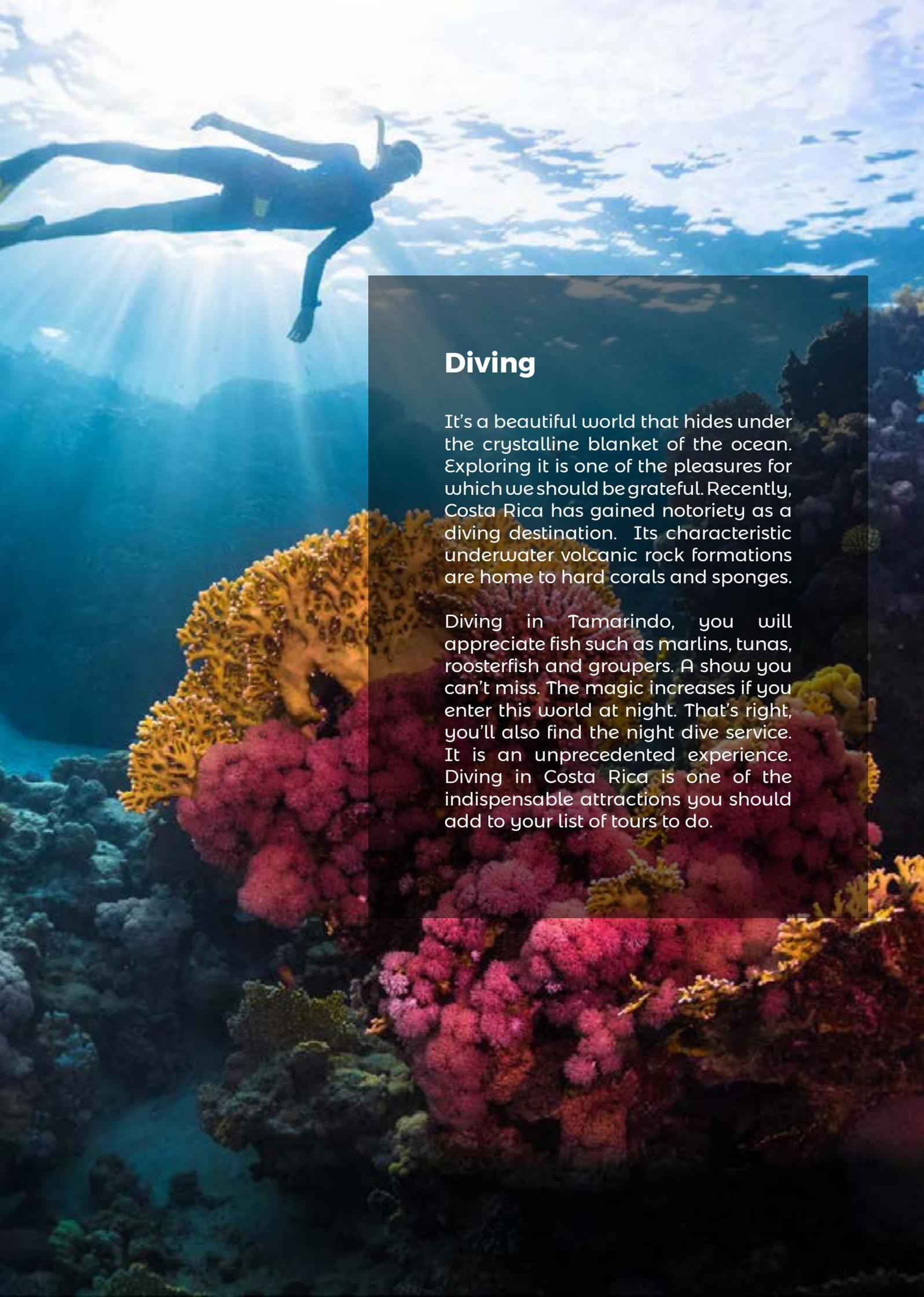
You will be impressed by the indescribable marine beauty that awaits you. You will admire this by practicing aquatic activities such as diving or snorkeling. Besides, it's one of the best spots for surfing.



## Surf

The wave quality in Tamarindo makes it a must for surfers. There are two main surf breaks: Pico Pequeño y El Estero. Both are for people with advanced knowledge in this sport. In case you are a surf lover, but you are still at an introductory level, it is ideal to practice on the rest of the beach. Waves can rise up to 12 feet during the months of November and December.





## Diving

It's a beautiful world that hides under the crystalline blanket of the ocean. Exploring it is one of the pleasures for which we should be grateful. Recently, Costa Rica has gained notoriety as a diving destination. Its characteristic underwater volcanic rock formations are home to hard corals and sponges.

Diving in Tamarindo, you will appreciate fish such as marlins, tunas, roosterfish and groupers. A show you can't miss. The magic increases if you enter this world at night. That's right, you'll also find the night dive service. It is an unprecedented experience. Diving in Costa Rica is one of the indispensable attractions you should add to your list of tours to do.

## Kayaking

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Costa Rica has meanders, streams and lagoons that you need to explore. The best way to do this is by kayaking. An activity that allows you to explore the wonders of a protected area that serves as a sanctuary for the sea turtle population. Enjoy an extensive tour of the mouth of the Tamarindo estuary.

The estuary is an extensive and vast river mouth surrounded by a beautiful mangrove forest. The expedition lasts approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Navigate the gentle waters of the estuary and observe the immense variety of birds, iguanas and other animals of the ecosystem. Discovering this paradise by kayak is ideal for families, always considering safety as an indispensable factor; that is why it is important to make the trip accompanied by an experienced guide.





## Night walk

One of the situations in which it is necessary to live Tamarindo at night is the arrival of the leatherback turtles. The largest species of turtles in the world, weighing between 250 and 700 kilograms and measuring between 1 and 2 metres in length. Impressive, isn't it?

In Playa Grande, 13 kilometers north of Tamarindo, female Leatherback turtles lay their eggs from October to May. An incredible show reserved for the evening. Appreciating spawning is an exciting experience.

Similarly, if you simply want to stroll along the beach or the various tourist sites in the area, you will not be disappointed. Tamarindo at night is a different and desirable place to explore.

As night falls, Tamarindo becomes more vivid and colorful. It provides a set of positive energies that quickly spreads to the visitor. It's the busiest hours in the place. If you want to enjoy every minute of your stay, you've come to the right place.

# Tours in Tamarindo

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## Ostional National Wildlife Refuge

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Created in the late 20th century, this refuge is the second most important nesting site for sea turtle species in Costa Rica. It also protects marine wildlife and birds for about 3 miles to the sea. The best time to visit is between June and September.

The refuge has an extension of 320 terrestrial hectares and 8,000 maritime hectares. In addition to being home to countless populations of marine invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds.

Visiting this reserve, you will be able to appreciate the flora constituted, in its majority, by trees like the coconut tree, the royal palm, the pineapples, among others.

The estimated time to reach the refuge from Tamarindo is 4 to 5 hours. An entertaining tour that will take you to see places like Santa Cruz, Nicoya, Samara and Nosara. Places that you will fall in love with for their natural and relaxing panoramic views.

The entrance fee is just \$6. A real bargain compared to what it offers. The refuge does not have facilities to stay, however, it is easy to stay in the places close to it. Fully equipped and comfortable hotels awaiting your visit

## Bahía de los Piratas

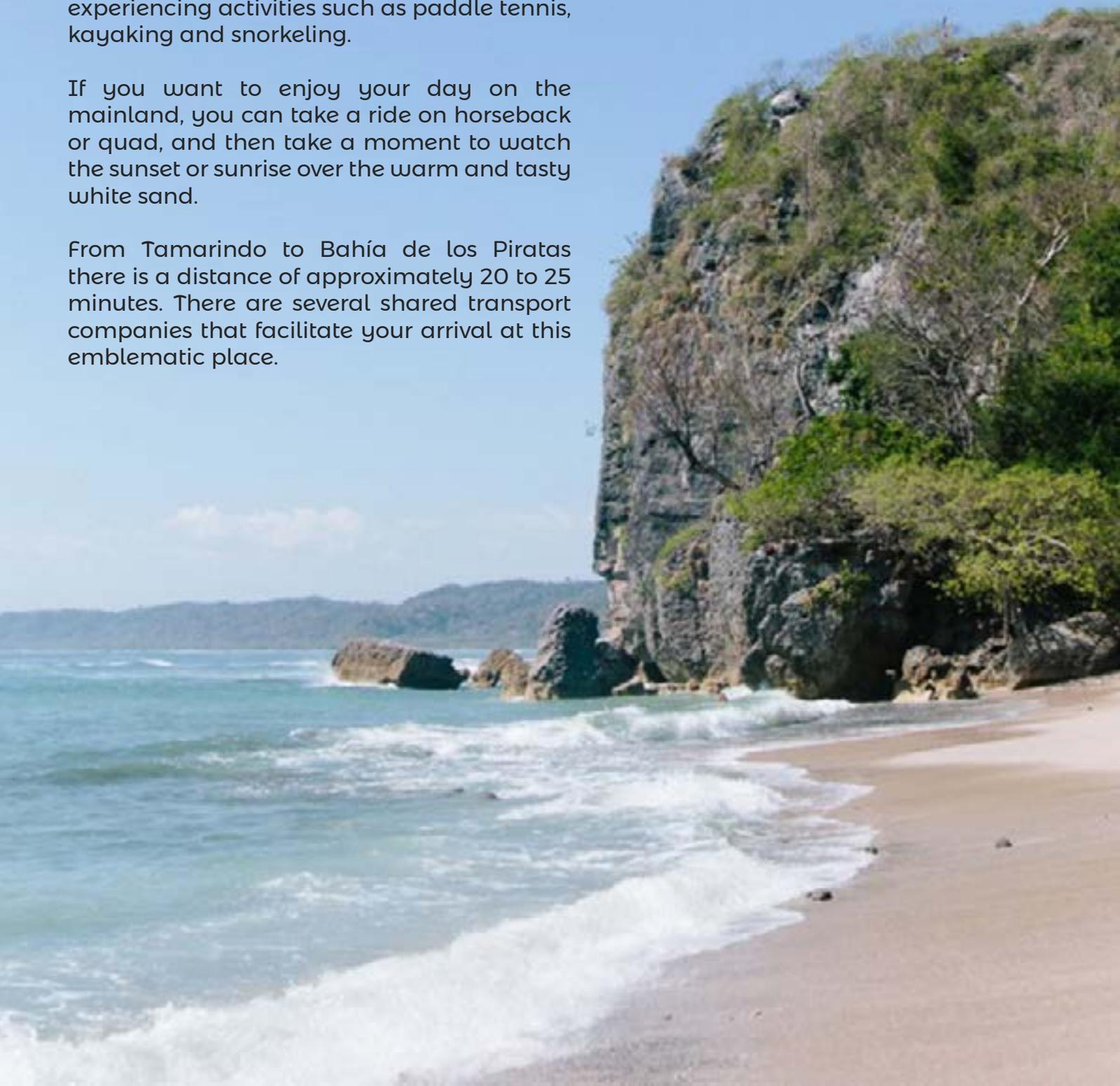
Looking for this place is worth it. I noticed my arrival when a skull flag was flying in the distance. With this scoop, I'm sure you'll be interested in seeing the place. Let me tell you, it's a pleasant and relaxing option.

Do you like spear fishing? I'm telling you, you can do it in this bay. Come with your team and explore the home of grouper and other species.

Although this is not your typical surfing spot, you can do it. You also have the option of experiencing activities such as paddle tennis, kayaking and snorkeling.

If you want to enjoy your day on the mainland, you can take a ride on horseback or quad, and then take a moment to watch the sunset or sunrise over the warm and tasty white sand.

From Tamarindo to Bahía de los Piratas there is a distance of approximately 20 to 25 minutes. There are several shared transport companies that facilitate your arrival at this emblematic place.



## Canopy tour

This is probably the most common activity, but it does not detract from the experience of flying through the forest. A canopy ride allows you to glide effortlessly through the treetops. It's a little nervous at first, but the best things are when you get over your fear.

Don't miss the opportunity to get this unique view of the forest. Feel the freedom and enjoy the adrenaline without forgetting the security. The people offering this service have designed the attraction in such a way as to guarantee the physical integrity of the visitors.

Get to know Tamarindo on land, water and air. Three perspectives that will connect you to all the life on this planet.

The canopy "Pura aventura" is located at Hacienda La Norma, 28 minutes away from Tamarindo. Adventure to live this expedition that will take you to know species such as pumas, monkeys, birds, deer, among others.





## Las Baulas National Marine Park

One of the main objectives of this park is the protection and conservation of this endangered species. These turtles come to the beach to lay their eggs.

The park also preserves the mangrove swamp of the Matapalo River estuary, the largest in Latin America.

That said, there are two things you should do in this park; the first is to see the turtles nesting (between October and February); and the second is to take a boat ride through the mangroves.

This park is also a beach, so visiting it is also a logical choice.

If you like to admire nature carefully, you can walk there. That's right, from Tamarindo to the park, it will only take you 2 hours on foot. A trip that will provide you with a unique view of this magnificent tropical place.

You can also opt for a shuttle service. This alternative will take you about 28 minutes to enjoy one of Tamarindo's most popular wonders.

# Lodging and transportation in Tamarindo

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At this point, you'd have already appreciated many activities you can do in Tamarindo.

However, there are two fundamental aspects to consider when travelling to a tourist site or not: lodging and transportation. Let's take it one step at a time. On the lodging side, Tamarindo has hotels to match the circumstances.



## Hotel Diria Beach Resort

Its location is marvellous, as it is located on the shores of the beach. Its restaurant is superb and its rooms are exceptional. Not only comfortable, but because of the beautiful view it offers us. Imagine waking up and seeing the beautiful blue of the sea through the window.

## Hotel Las Gaviotas Condos Tamarindo

These condos offer a captivating view of the valley. It has a large swimming pool and barbecue area. It has 15 residential units. Each one is properly equipped and with a space of 94 square meters. This is one option to consider.

## Hotel Tropicana

Only 150 meters from the beach, this hotel is composed of 44 rooms equipped with air conditioning and fan, safety boxes, hot water, telephone and TV room. The atmosphere of this place is warm, familiar and safe. Its facilities have a swimming pool, bar, jacuzzi and gym.

## Hotel Capitán Suizo

Located on the beach, the hotel is surrounded by beautiful palm trees, native trees and beautiful gardens. The main characteristic of the establishment is its 8 bungalows with thatched roofs, but it also has 22 spacious and comfortable rooms. It has outdoor swimming pools, restaurant and bar.



## Hotel Pueblo Dorado

Less than two kilometers from Las Baulas National Park is this charming hotel. It offers breakfast, swimming pool, wifi access, among others. Its rooms have cable TV, safe box, mini bar and private bathroom with shower and tub.

## Transportation

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Its kinda difficult to get to a certain point using public transportation.

There are times when you'll have to wait more than 2 hours to get around in the surroundings; public transport is very centralized. Many of the stations are located in San José, the capital. This hinders the intention to travel to the wonders present throughout the country.

But not everything is negative. Opportunities arise from adversity, and I found a great option to travel around Costa Rica. In the specific case of Tamarindo, there is an elegant, accessible and comfortable solution: shared shuttle.



*The adventure begins before I reach my destination. The tour also adds or subtracts points from the experience. That is why we recommend this type of transport. This method guarantees a hundred percent of fun and **peace of mind.***



# Discover Costa Rica with comfort and safety.

Don't let transportation be an obstacle to enjoying the wonders that Costa Rica has for you.

Check here one of the best offers of shared or private transportation, and enjoy your stay in this country to the fullest. Make time work for you.



**TAMARINDO**  
TRANSFERS & TOURS