

Suggested Reading List for Costa Rica

Books

It's Every Monkey for Themselves: A True Story of Sex, Love and Lies in the Jungle (*Vanessa Woods*)

Set in the jungles of Costa Rica, Vanessa Woods leaves her cushy life in Australia and dives headfirst into the wild jungles of Costa Rica. While this is a true story, the experiences that she has are unreal. The book is quite funny at times but can also be a bit self-indulgent. Not sure if Woods will be your favourite character in the book, but she does have a raw, edgy tone to her writing. Nonetheless, her memoir is a fun, quick read that explores monkeys in a mature and intelligent way.

Green Phoenix: Restoring the Tropical Forests of Guanacaste (*William Allen*)

This is an extremely refreshing and positive look at the ways in which humans can restore the world's tropical forests. There's so much literature out there that casts a gloomy cloud over the destructions of the world's rainforests and open spaces. While it's important to be informed of the matters at hand, it can also be a bit pessimistic. Here, William Allen shares his experience of saving the tropical forests of Guanacaste, which were ravaged by fires. The writing is vivid and inspiring and a must-read for any interested in biodiversity.

Monkeys Are Made of Chocolate: Exotic and Unseen Costa Rica (*Jack Ewing*)

If you want an in-depth look at exotic animals and resurrected ecosystems, then look no further. This is an excellent collection of Jack Ewing's experiences of living in Costa Rica. The book is a compilation of guest columns for publications in Costa Rica. They are beautifully written and laced with careful observations about nature and the myriad of worlds that exist within the jungle. And while this is a superb book that gets the reader excited about the natural world, it is the way that it's written that is most captivating. Ewing is an excellent storyteller, grabbing the attention of his readers. It's a fascinating look at Costa Rica's wildlife that touches on evolution, conservation, and environmentalism.

Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide (*Richard Garrigues*)

This is the only compact, portable, and user-friendly field guide the novice or experienced birder needs to identify birds in the field in the diverse habitats found in Costa Rica. It features descriptions and illustrations of all 903 species known from Costa Rica, including pelagics and species regular to Cocos Island. Fifty-six of these species are placed in a "Rarities" section that includes accidentals, rarer pelagics, and species that have not been reported in more than twenty years. The detailed full-colour illustrations show identifying features—including plumage differences among males, females, and juveniles—and views of birds in flight wherever pertinent. Robert Dean has supplied more than 360 new illustrations, including sixty-four species that are illustrated for the first time in this edition. These include recent additions to the country list, pelagic species, Cocos Island species, and all accidentals recorded from the Costa Rican mainland. Range maps and nomenclature have been updated for this edition, which also has a new user-friendly organizational scheme and an alphabetical quick-find index of groups on the inside back cover.

Costa Rica: A Traveler's Literary Company (*Barbara Ras*)

Journey into the Costa Rican imagination through twenty-six remarkable stories, selected and organized regionally for the curious traveler. Here, for the first time in English, the best of Costa Rica's writers conjures the country's allure and vitality, its coffee fields and palm groves, cicadas and songbirds, shrouded mountains and blazing savannas, while telling stories unique to Costa Rican life.

The Year of Fog (*Michelle Richmond*)

Set in two places, San Francisco and Costa Rica, the reader literally takes a walk down memory

lane as the main character, Abby, tries to piece together clues to find a missing child. It is a thriller; however, the author also manages to interlace some rudimentary lessons in photography, memory, psychology, and philosophy. A fun mystery with two very different landscapes for the setting, the reader is sure to walk away satiated after reading this book.

The Scent of Jade (*Dee De Tarsio*)

From award-winning author, Dee DeTarsio, *The Scent of Jade* is an action/adventure romantic suspense novel:

“Romancing the Stone” meets “Survivor” for Julie Fraser, who was minding her own business, living her life as snug as a bug in a rut in San Diego, California. As the least adventurous person she knows, Julie surprised her husband, who was on a business trip in Costa Rica. Reeling from the discovery that her husband wasn’t who she thought he was, she accidentally steals an ancient artifact and is chased through the wilds of the rainforest, not knowing where to turn, literally, or whom to trust. She knew she should have stayed home.

The Scent of Jade spins its story with wit and wisdom, drawing those who love mystery, suspense, romance, and adventure. While there are no vampires, readers are invited to enjoy the intrigue... *The Scent of Jade* was a finalist in the San Diego Book Awards Association.

The Devil’s Deep (*Michael Wallace*)

Chad Lett is a mute witness to an attempted murder. He suffers from total paralysis, locked within a prison of his own mind. After years of silence, he establishes contact with a young nurse's aid through a single blinking eye, but then she is abducted and a staff member begins to administer dropperfuls of cleaning solution into his communicating eye. A heart-pounding thriller that will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned, *The Devil's Deep* is a top rated suspense that travels from the hell of a long-term care facility to the rain forest of Costa Rica. And a crime committed under tropical waters, the dive known as El Bajo del Diablo--the Devil's Deep.

Websites

<https://www.visitcost Rica.com>

<https://thecostaricanews.com/10-best-books-to-read-about-costa-rica/>

<https://casateresacr.com/6-books-you-should-be-reading-if-you-want-to-visit-costa-rica/>