

Costa Rica continues to attract expats, as it has done for decades, and it's easy to see why. Its well-established expat communities, *Pura Vida* lifestyle, and low cost of living continue to keep it high on the list of those looking for a relaxed lifestyle at a cheaper price in an idyllic surrounding. If it's not the breathtakingly beautiful scenery, the year-round warm climate or the excellent health care, it's the friendly people of this Central American country that compel expats from around the globe to call it home. *International Living* editors have been visiting and exploring Costa Rica for decades. To learn more, visit: [Costa Rica – Internationalliving.com](http://CostaRica-Internationalliving.com)

Proximity to the U.S.—Only a **2 hour and 40 minute** flight from Miami.

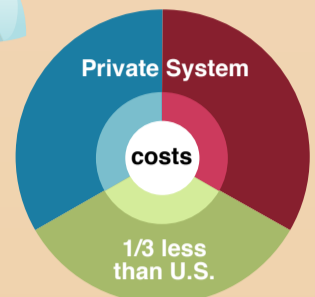
**1**



**2**



Costa Rica offers high quality and **affordable medical care**. A couple could pay as low as \$80 a month to join the public healthcare system and receive free care after that. And costs in the **private system** are **1/3 or less** than you'd pay in the U.S.



**3**

**Year-round warm climate**

(70s and 80s° F) means only one set of clothing. Never pack away your spring and summer clothes again.



**4**

Well-established **expat community**.

There are more than 20,000 North American expats in Costa Rica, and that's not including the part-timers.



EXPAT COMMUNITY

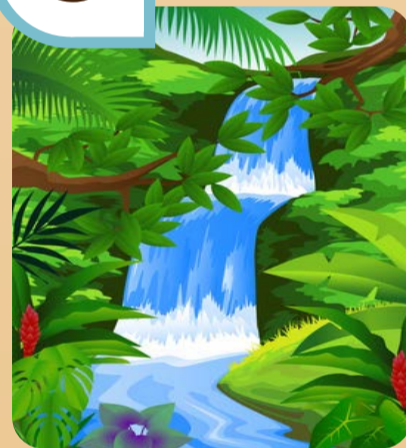
**5**

**Safe retirement haven.**

A stable government and economy, one of the most admired democracies, and no army since 1948 all add to the appeal of the country.



**6**



**Relaxed lifestyle.**

*Pura Vida*—literally “**pure life**,” it means much more than that. It's a way of life in Costa Rica.

**7**



The cost of **real estate** in the areas *International Living* recommends **is low**.



In the Southern Zone, for example, you can have an **ocean-view home** for just **\$200,000**.

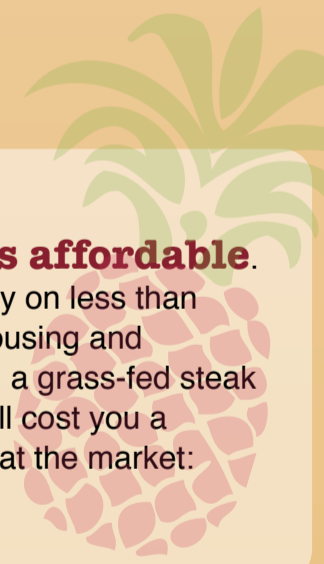


Compare that to coastal southern **California**, where similar properties go into the **millions**.

**8**

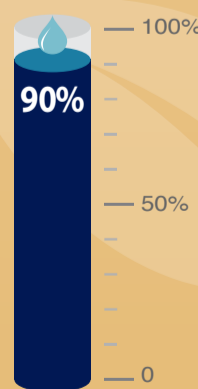
**The cost of living is affordable.**

A couple can live comfortably on less than \$2,000 a month including housing and transportation. For example, a grass-fed steak in a high-end steakhouse will cost you a mere \$10. A **pineapple** at the market: **75 cents**.



Costa Rica generates more than **90%** of its energy through **renewable sources**.

**10**



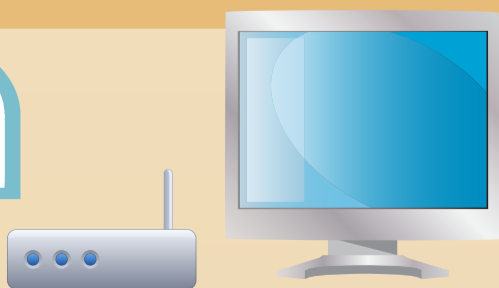
**9**

Those already living there are happy. Costa Rica has topped the **Happy Planet Index**—



a study that is based on producing long and happy lives in a supportive environment.

**BONUS**



**Bonus Reason:** Costa Rica has modern conveniences like high-speed **Internet** and a widespread **cellphone** network, including 3G and even 4G.

