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## Cano island costa rica map

Could you tell me why Costa Rica was left off its list of the 18 best retirement places? wonders reader Stephen L. of the United States. Costa Rica is perhaps the world's best-known foreign pension haven. Back in the 1980s, it worked hard to earn that status, with the government even hiring a Madison Avenue advertising agency to help spin the country's world's top choice for Americans looking to go abroad. Costa Ricans managed to get the attention of tens of thousands of foreign pensioners, Americans and Europeans attracted by the state's retirement program for discounts and tax savings... as well as its natural beauty and beautiful Pacific coast. In addition, Costa Rica was cheap then. Cheap enough that foreign retirees don't mind putting up San Jose (unpleasant place, dirty and overcrowded). They were even happy to forget about the country's crumbling infrastructure. What did it matter if the road was unpaved and rutted? Your dream home at the end of the day, when it crashed in the Pacific Ocean, behind your front door, was a bargain purchase. That was 20 years ago. Costa Rica is a different place today. San Jose is as unpleasant as ever... and increasingly dangerous. The rest of the country is still beautiful, yes, but not at all safe either. Crime has become a serious concern for both travellers and foreign pensioners. Plus, in 1992, after working so hard last decade to woo American and European retirees, Costa Rica seemed to change its mind. Costa Rica did not eliminate the pensioners' programme; they simply eliminated most of the tax credits it had promised as part of the deficit reduction austerity package. And they don't grandfather existing retirees. So those who had chosen Costa Rica to retire the benefits he offered were surprised and disappointed to find that these advantages no longer exist. Pensioners have since paid the same taxes on imported cars and household goods, such as in Costa Rica. Now the Costa Rican government is considering further retirementado program adjustments. They're talking about a growing, perhaps significant, minimum income requirement to qualify. And again, once the change is made, existing pensioandos are not grandfather. To extend the status, you must qualify based on the new requirements. Many existing pensioners cannot afford it. They're worried... and start making and planning moves. Many come to Panama, for example. They are looking to leave Costa Rica now not only because his retirement benefits have disappeared, but for other good reasons too. The cost of living has gone up... the cost of the property is ballooning in some areas... and in the meantime, infrastructure has remained the status quo. It's broken down. After I didn't travel the country for five or six years, I returned last summer to find that the roads are not in better shape ... and they're gone. Your dream house is still rutted at the end of the gravel road... but in many places it is Discount. Costa Rica correspondent David Stubbs, who has been living in the country for the past five years with his family, tells the story of friends who bought a house in an unreachable spot... Because they were assured that the road was going in. Years later, their home is so hard to get when the day they bought it. Still, no way... So goes it in this country, which has long infrastructure promises and a brief follow-up. A new road from San Jose to the Pacific coast has been discussed for more than two decades. It's even drawn some maps. It's now, today, finally, under construction. I've been looking for and reporting on international real estate markets for about 25 years. I've come to accept that emerging real estate markets attract what I'm starting to think of as a carpetbagger element. If these Wild West situations develop, the guys from the United States and Europe will swoop in to make as much money as possible as quickly as possible. In these heated, frantic, unregulated conditions, you can expect to see real estate agents and land developers who were travel agents or contractors back in Florida, say, maybe only a few months ago. They're seizing market opportunity. They haven't been in it for a long time. These guys make big promises, make net commissions, and generally do everything they can to make sales. Again, they exist in every unregulated, emerging market... including Costa Rica. Maybe especially including Costa Rica. Like many real estate markets around the world right now, Costa Rica's real estate market is down. In particular, the Costa Rican market has fallen to the level of crisis. Still, I had an email from the developer recently asking if we'd be interested in marketing his development to him. His project is located on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica in the Guanacaste region. I know that well. It rose earlier this decade. And now it's in trouble. A good place to buy an emergency. At least that's my shot. The developer who wrote to me, though... He saw things differently. It's a fast-moving market right now, he assured me. Prices are going up. You can bank on continued recognition. Your readers want to get in quickly because there are only so many batches available... I'm through. Because I realized from his initial e-mail that this was one of those guys. One of those guys who says everything to sell. And because men like that say everything... You can't believe a word. As I said, this syndrome is not unique to Costa Rica. But I also have to say that I've met more of these guys in this country than maybe anywhere else. For all these reasons, I left Costa Rica out of my recent Top 18 Overseas Havens list. From the other end... When a friend, David Stubbs, wanted to relocate his family from the United States to Central America five years ago, he was shopping five years ago. And he chose Costa Rica over all odds in this part of the world. For two good reasons: first, the weather in the hills surrounding San Jose pleasant than the weather in Panama City. Cooler and less humid. Second, international education opportunities in San Jose are perhaps the best in the region. Panama City offers top choices too, but David was most impressed by the international standard, the English language options that Costa Rica offered to educate his two children. And you can't argue with that. Kathleen P.S. Countries, which I included on my list? Argentina Belize China Croatia Dominican Republic Ecuador France India Ireland Italy Malaysia Mexico Canada Panama Panama Philippines Thailand Uruguay These, you have countries that we need to live and personally and with the help of experts and expats from all over the world during our How to Retire Overseas Conference, starts tomorrow morning here in Panama City ... Comments on Facebook Tweet Send a text message from the city between the sea and rainforests, volcanoes and mountains. Costa Rica is a paradise of options. You can restaurant-hop in the capital, fly through the woods, hike the volcano, spot toucans and laziness, tour a coffee plantation, reboot at a retreat, and dive into the sea for an all-all single trip. But there's still so much to do, to see, and to eat, you want to return over and over again. Let this list of 19 things to do in Costa Rica inspire an unforgettable trip. 01 19 Erin Donaldson/Getty Images While sunset signals the end of the day a lot, this is just the beginning of some residents of Costa Rica like laziness, armadillos and a beloved red-eyed tree frog. To spot the nocturnal creatures in action, head to the jungles for a guided night hike. You can arrange a guided night hike at the Chilamate Rainforest Eco Retreat in Sarapiquí, Toucan Rescue Ranch in Heredia and Desaño Adventure Company Arena. Wave Expeditions also offers a twist on the nightly experience: a wildlife float down the Peñas Blancas river under the light of stars and moons. 02 19 MB Photography/Getty Images The concept of shinrin-yoku (having a forest atmosphere or bathing in the forest) has Japanese roots, but the practice of spending time in the wild is common in Costa Rica. And with so much green space in the country, there are endless possibilities for forest bathing. Book a guided forest bathing experience with Sentir Natural and Manuela Siegfried, the first certified forest therapy guide in Costa Rica, will take you through invitations, activities to help you slow down, take note and connect the natural environment around you. Forest bathing and retreats, including peace university forest reserves. San José City Parks and SarapiquíChirraín Forest Eco Retreat. must be booked in advance. 03 19 Chris Jimenez/Getty Images Do you need to be a birder, you could easily become one here where you can see a variety of colorful birds including toucans, scarlet and rednecks, hummingbirds, kingfishers. Keep an eye on quetzal while birdwatching Monteverde cloud forests. Count the green macaws while the bird walk into the Mesoamerican biological corridor, where reforestation efforts have helped increase macaw numbers. If you are staying in Punta Islita, visit the Wild Scarlet Macaw Reserve to observe the birds and learn from dedicated biologists there. Or spend several days birdwatching with an expert part of the peninsula, where there are 453 species of birds. 04 19 It's almost impossible to sit down when you hear Costa Rican music. And why sit down when you can dance? A fun, no-pressure way to learn is an unofficial lesson for a local family in rural Sarapiquí community (you can book on demand in advance). If you need liquid courage, sign up for wine and salsa lessons in La Fortuna, where you can learn the basics of salsa, merengue, bachata and cumbia. Or get a doll up and head to El Cuarteal de la Boca del Monte San José. They have live music on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Scan the crowd with the patient partner to help you practice your steps. Proceed to 5 for 19 below. 06 19 OGphoto/Getty Images The colors of this country are sometimes so spectacular, the eyes are flashing to adjust. Some mineral-rich rivers have one blue-green in blue tones. Guests can take a dip in La Fortuna Waterfalls, which can be reached through steep stairs. A little further and much less crowded is the waterfall on the Kinkara property in Santa Elena, where you can book a river walk or waterfall experience. 07 19 be happy! /Getty Images Every year from July to October, turtles nest on the beaches of Tortuguero. If you are visiting tortuguero national park at this time, be sure to book a night's walk on the beach. Turtles tend to come up in the sand to put their eggs in and babies usually wiggle their way out of the eggs and head to the water after sunset as well, so you have the best chance of seeing the action then. Plan to spend at least one night here because it is a long journey by car/bus and boat. Hotel Punta Islita is located on the Pacific coast from July to November, so you can watch turtle breeding and hatching on Camaronal Beach. 08 out of 19, take trust to the next level. On this waterfall excursion to Gravity Falls, we will make five waterfall jumps in addition to the 140-foot rappel, with some scrambling and swimming through the canyon's narrow sections. While you'll find waterfalls across the country, this experience is exclusive to Gravity Falls. Proceed to 9 19 below. 09 19 billboardphotography /Getty Images Costa Rica is home to active volcanoes, which means there are also thermal hot springs here. Water is rich in minerals that are good for your skin. And time surrounded by the sounds and sights of the rainforest is undeniably good for the soul. Save time on your schedule to slow down and soak natural hot springs at EcoTermales La Fortuna. Or if in the San José area, make a day trip to hacienda orosi hot springs. 10 19 TripsSavvy / Kathleen Messmer Several regions of Costa Rica are ideal conditions for growing coffee: favorable climate, height, and mineral-rich soil. And when you land in San José, you'll be flying to the Central Valley, one of the country's coffee-making regions. Just 20 minutes from the airport, at Finca Rosa Blanca, you can tour an organic coffee plantation and even make a coffee cupping where you can learn how to identify aromas and flavors like a pro. Or visit Mi Cafecito, a rural coffee tour and restaurant that serves up traditional Costa Rican food and supports local farmers, less than 1.5 hours from the airport. 11 19 OGphoto/Getty Images In almost perfect conical shape, the Arenal volcano is one of the world's most striking volcanoes. Trek across the lava fields at the base of the Arenal with a knowledgeable guide and learn the history of this area. This is best set early; parts of the trail are open sun, which can warm things up quickly, and in the green season, rains often arrive in the afternoon. Join The Desaño Adventure Company for a group hike or book an exclusive eco experience with greenspot. 12 of 19 Tour chocolate farms to see how the cocoa plant turns into a chocolate bar. You will also learn history and of course taste samples along the way. Costa Rica's Best Chocolate leads gripping and fun tours through your family-run organic chocolate farm. If you're traveling to The Part Peninsula, you can book a chocolate tour that culminates in tropical fruit and chocolate fondue through Osa Wildi, which is a local, community-minded ecotourism company. Proceed to 13 of 19 below. 13 of 19 Jen Edney/Getty Images Coasting on both sides of the country, it's no wonder Costa Rica attracts surfers and those eager to learn. Gentle waves, fewer crowds and patient instructors are black. Playa Samara on the Nicoya Peninsula is all the fore. Spend time with C & amp; C Surf School get the basics down, and soon you'll be popping up on your own, cruising toward the beach on your board. On the Caribbean side, Puerto Viejo has surf breaks to suit different skill levels. Caribe Fun Tours can organize a 2.5-hour lesson so you can get to work (or rather surfing!). 14 19 Malena Barrios/Getty Images If you've ever wondered what it's like to soar through the rainforest with a bird's-eye view, you'll find out about Costa Rica. Zipline canopy tours are one of the most popular activities. Fly the longest zipline cable over La Fortuna Waterfall on the Arenal Mundo Aventura Big AMA tour. Or zip through the cloud forest near Barva Volcano with Canopy Adventure. 15 of 19 You will likely eat a lot of tortillas on your Costa Rica travels. But it looks like they're testing better when you do them with your hands. Take a tortilla making lesson at home with Doña María, the local chef at La Fortuna, which exudes pura vida spirit. He welcomes the your kitchen to prepare tortillas before sitting in a feast compida típica (typical or traditional food). 16 of 19 raularosa/Getty Images Racing down rapids and floating on the river is one of your most memorable experiences. Costa Rica has a Class 1 Class V rapids, so whether you're a beginner or advanced, you'll find a route that suits your skill level. If you're in the Arenal area, Wave Expeditions and Desaño Adventure Company both offer a variety of rafting tours that can also be combined with other adventure activities such as zipline. About an hour from Arenal, chilamate Rainforest Eco Retreat is located by the Sarapiquí River and hosts the largest river festival in the area. They work with guides that prioritize safety, so you can feel confident booking a white water rafting tour with them. Any area you travel to, be sure to use a reputable company that follows warnings related to weather and water levels. Proceed to 17 of 19 below. 17 of 19 courtesy of Harmony Hotel If our tech gadgets freeze, crash, or stop running properly, the first thing we're told to do is reboot them. Costa Rica, with its abundance of rainforest and sea on both sides, farm-to-fork foods, and pura vida attitude are the perfect place to reboot themselves. Try retreating from the Living Forest near Arenal Lake (and if you don't have time for a full retreat, you can check out weekly yoga classes or private healing sessions). Feed your body organic food from the land and feed your soul to restorative experiences like the sound of healing at Kinkara. Or book restoration week at the Harmony Hotel Blue Zone, an area where people live past 100 years old, and learn some of the secrets of a happy and healthy life. 18 of 19 There are several indigenous tribes that live in Costa Rica. GreenSpot organizes visits to the Bróran community, where guests can learn how to process cocoa and make traditional masks before it sits down to share food together. If you are in the Arenal area, Desaño can coordinate private visits (with advance notice) with members of the Maleku tribe to learn about their culture and traditions. Experience Bri Bri Ancestral Culture at Koswak Usure Lodge in Talamanca. If you don't have the opportunity to visit the community, you can learn indigenous cuisine in Sikwa San José. 19 19 AndamansE/Getty Images Although there are many adventures to be on land, it'd be a shame to come to Costa Rica and not explore under the sea. Travel across gulfu Belize's tropical fords and snorkel near Piedras Blancas National Park with Osa Wild. If you're here sometime from July to November, you can also spot dolphins and whales on the way. Or join the bioluminescence tour and experience an underwater light show in your kayak. Dive deep into nearby Caño Island with The Mad About Diving option to see stingrays, whale sharks, turtles, white tip sharks and more. More.

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