



TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

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Tamarindo, Costa Rica



Surfing the Day Away

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A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Costa Rica became a country in 1848 after being part of the United Provinces of Central America which had split from Mexico in 1823. Its initial economy was focused on coffee which drew in investment from England. During the early 20th century it had multiple land disputes with its neighbors specifically over the American's use of San Juan river. Its democratic transition began with an election in 1913 and has largely been uninterrupted. Political violence during the 20th century hurt Costa Rica's tourism industry and led to an influx of refugees from other Central American nations. The two party system in the country collapsed in the 21st century and in 2010 the country elected its first female president. Its current president is Rodrigo Chaves Robles, and the country is known for its strong performance on political rights and civil liberties. Current political issues surround the increase of asylum seekers from its neighbors.

Tamarindo, Costa Rica



Some quick tips for Tamarindo :

- The airport is about 1.5 hours away so schedule a transfer before to save money
- Everything is walking distance the town, so try to stay in the center to be close to everything
- Restaurants charge for water unless you ask for “agua de grifo”

FOOD

EAT AT JOE'S

They claim to have nachos as big as your a**. I can say that is true and the nachos are really good. We shared it for the appetizer and I was very satisfied. I also got the fish tacos which were aesthetically pleasing but also really delicious. Joes is right on the beach so the vibes are really great, but it is entirely outside. If it is hot out be prepared to be sitting in the heat. The food was totally worth it to be sitting in the heat. The prices at Joes are fair and cheaper than similar places.



LITTLE LUCHA

Little Lucha is a little down the road from the center of the town, but the 10 minute walk is worth it. They have really good margaritas and if you go earlier in the day the margaritas are part of a happy hour. We went on Saturday which had a special for their super burrito which was also really great. They are famous for their tacos and have a wide range and all of them looked really good. On the weekends there is live music, at night which makes the vibes even better.



PIKATAS

Right in the center of Tamarindo this restaurant was packed when we walked by, so we decided to check it out. Service can be a little slow (for 6 people it took 2.5 hours) but the food was really good. They have a few options for a Pikata which is basically a bunch of appetizers of the same cuisine, and it was really really good. I got the Mexican one and it had nachos, tacos, and a mini burrito. These plates are also huge so great things to share.



Tamarindo, Costa Rica

BREAKING BREAD

If you are looking for coffee or breakfast food, this is the best place for vibes. The restaurant is breaking bad themed which was pretty funny and also had a great breakfast selection. Compared to other places it was also very fair in price.



PAN DE AZÚCAR

This had me feeling like I was in Prague again. It is an ice cream place that serves chimney cakes! I had really low expectations because this is Costa Rica but I was very pleasantly surprised. It was really good and a great place to stop in and cool off while you are in Tamarindo



LA BOCA

La Boca is an Argentine themed restaurant and offers everything from steaks to pastas. It had pictures of Messi and Maradona everywhere that made me feel like I was in Buenos Aires again (jaja). I got the mushroom risotto and it was pretty good, but did leave a little to be desired (probably my bad for ordering risotto at an Argentine restaurant). Overall food here was very good and on par price wise with the rest of the Tamarindo restaurants.



SAZON CRIOLLO

This was the first restaurant we ate at and claimed to have traditional Costa Rican food which includes rice, beans, and meat. For traditional Costa Rican food it was semi-expensive and I think there are better option for traditional food in the city. Expect to pay \$10 per person for a meal here. It is right by the beach so vibes here are solid.



BEER!

I would also recommend trying some Costa Rican beers, they are usually cheaper than foreign ones. The three I enjoyed were Imperial, Bavaria, and Pilsen. Imperial light is 3.4% ABV (take with that info what you will).



Tamarindo, Costa Rica

EXPERIENCES

There are a lot of really cool activities you can do right in the town of Tamarindo. From surfing to just enjoying the sun, the town has a lot to offer tourists. If you venture out of Tamarindo you can find beautiful natural wonders with amazing hikes. Obviously the drinking aspect is a big draw for the tourists, but I would recommend spending time in some other activities because they are equally if not more enjoyable.

BEACH CLUBS

We spent two days at two beach clubs Noguis (on the left) and Ocho (on the right). Both clubs had a deal for \$20 a day for a chair which I thought was fair. They both have happy hours around 3pm. At the beach vendors come selling Piña Coladas out of Pineapples and a great treat if you negotiate the price down. The beach clubs are a great option for the day because it is not too expensive and you have a dedicated spot on the beach. Great option if you plan on spending at least 3 hours at the beach. The sunsets here are also fantastic.



SURFING

Tamarindo is famous for surfing, the location of the town on the coast means that the waves are more tame making it super easy to learn how to surf. We did a 2 hour class with Club 33 and it was \$45 per person. You learn a lot in the class and from that I was able to stand up multiple times on the board. They also have the option to rent boards for \$10-20 a day which is a steal! If you want to learn how to surf they are a great place to go to. I was very surprised at how successful I was in standing up and had a ton of fun.



CATAMARAN

We did a sunset Catamaran that was from 1-6 PM and included snorkeling, open bar, lunch, and great views. It was \$80 a person which was a great deal based on drink consumption. The boat goes along the coast which is really pretty and then stops for an hour for snorkeling and other water activities. Like any other boat they also play music the entire time for ultimate party boat vibes.



Tamarindo, Costa Rica

RINCON DE LA VIEJA HIKE

This was one of the highlights of my trip. It is a national park in Costa Rica and its name translates to Old Women's Corner. Located within the national park are waterfalls and hot springs. The park has volcanoes which allows for natural hot springs. Within the park there is a 3 hour trail hike that takes you past boiling mud, gum trees that indigenous people used to get gum from tree bark, and spiny trees that hours thousands of ants (if you tap on the tree all of the ants come pouring out). Once you finish with the trail cool off in a waterfall that you have to hike down to get too and then heat back up by going in natural hot springs located within the national park complex. We did the las Pailas sector and beware, this part of the park is not open on Mondays so plan your trip accordingly and if you want to go in the waterfall and hot springs you have to enter by 12PM. It costs \$15 to do the trail and then you can get a combo ticket for lunch, waterfall access, and hot spring access for ~\$35. The views on this hike were incredible and we were able to see monkey and a bunch of other types of insects and birds local to Costa Rica.



NIGHTLIFE

Tamarindo is a big spot for tourists and backpackers and there are a bunch of great options for going out without breaking the bank. Although this should not be the main focus of your trip, it is a great way to meet people and let loose.

CRAZY MONKEY BAR

Every Friday for an \$8 entry fee you can get an open bar from 9 until 11... talk about a steal! The open bar include pre-determined drinks but it is hard alcohol which surprised me a lot. This bar is actually really cool, it is located at the top of a huge staircase and has multiple bars, a pool, and live music. I probably would have went even without the open bar, but that was really enticing. It is only open once a week on Fridays, so be sure to factor that in with your plans.



Tamarindo, Costa Rica

SHARKYS

One of the favorites from our group for sure, it probably helped that our Airbnb was 10 steps away from Sharkys. Every night they have a different type of event/activity. We went for karaoke night as well as the beer pong tournament (you get a free beer each round you play). They have a great patio that is opened on the weekends and it is always crowded. Also, great place to watch sports.



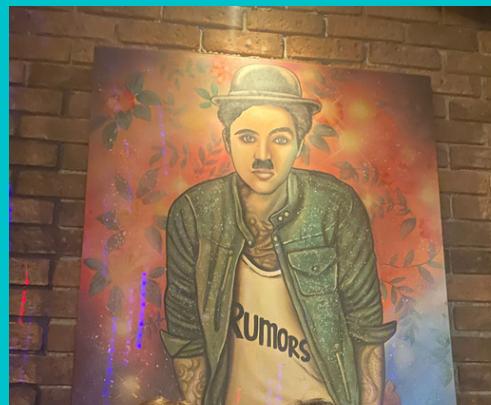
CHIQUITAS

This is actually a restaurant that eventually turns into an outdoor club/bar. They have a live EDM DJ who is mixing with a bunch of trees and vines in the back to really give the earthy vibes of Tamarindo. I felt like I was at a music festival here and enjoyed myself a lot more than I thought. We went on Friday and got in pretty easily and then on Saturday the line into here was jam packed so be on the look out for the line. It is located in the center near Sharkys so easy to hop around to the bars depending on the night.



RUMORS

Right down the street from Sharkys is rumors. Sharkys is more of a sports bar where Rumors is the closest I could say to a club in Tamarindo (that is a stretch). They had a temporary tattoo artist inside and were playing more club music (edm and house mixed in with some Spanish music). It is a little cramped in here when crowded but overall good vibes, good spot for later in the night.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!