

Puerto Limon (San Jose), Costa Rica

- Saturday, Jan 7, 2023
- Docked from 8:00AM to 5:00PM
- Tourist Info
 - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/costa-rica/caribbean-coast/puerto-limon>
 - <https://www.whatsinport.com/Puerto-Limon.htm>
 - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica/things-to-do/culture/historical-walks/limon>
- Weather
 - Jan temperatures range 70°-84°F; mean 77°F; Jan is the coldest month
 - 4.75" precipitation with 80% relative humidity

Essentials

- **Money** - Colon (630 CRC = \$1.00), US \$ widely accepted; no ATM in the cruise terminal, but several in the city; banks usually have an ATM (Banco de Costa Rica & Scotiabank exchange US \$)
- **VISA** - None for US passport holders
- **Safety** - Theft is a problem; take precautions against pickpockets during the day, especially in the market and along the sea wall
- **Clothing** - If going out of town, protection against mosquitos is important
- **Internet** - Free WiFi in terminal building and in various cafes
- **Cell Service** - Spotty 3G coverage by Claro Movil; spotty 4G coverage by Kolbi Movi & Movistar
- **Taxi** - Fares are posted, but are negotiable. Driver's English is patchy so check 1st before hiring one as a guide; typically charge \$20-30/hour for a taxi; official taxis are red; tour vans are usually white; drives don't expect a tip, but it is appreciated; \$1- \$5 for longer drives
- **Bus** - Terminal Caribeno is on Avenida 2, between Calle 7 and Calle 8; within walking distance to the pier; bus routes can be sporadic and traffic can be gridlocked; local buses run to many destinations on the coast, but are ex-US school buses; not comfortable for extended travel
- **Car Rental** - Adobi car rental within walking distance of pier; <https://www.adobecar.com/>
- **Tipping** - 10% service charge usually added to the bill; if service was exceptional, it is acceptable to tip an additional 5% to 10%
- Area is a bit rundown due to the many earthquakes

Puerto Limon



- Puerto Limon is the biggest city on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast and the 2nd largest in Costa Rica
- It is the capital of the Limon province
- Spanish and Limonese Creole is spoken

Parque Nacional Tortuguero

Limon

Parque Nacional Cahuita

Cruise Terminal

- Cruise ships dock at Hernan Garron Salazar terminal
- Port is industrial
- Can walk to downtown (~250 yards)
- Telephone, internet cafe, craft market, manicurists, tourist information, and tour operator desks are inside the air conditioned terminal
- Most vendors in terminal take US \$
- Before leaving terminal, you will see a map displayed with 2 recommended city walks. Take a photo and use it to navigate to the 18 attractions



Zuiderdam docked in Limon



Shopping

- Mon-Sat 9:00am-6:00pm; may be variations
- **Municipal Market** - few blocks north of pier; lively enclosed market; be careful of pickpockets
- **Plaza Puerto Limon** - mall in downtown area
- **Costa Rican coffee** - highest quality from boutique roasters like Dota or Café Britt
- **Souvenirs** - artisan made housewares using mango wood, pachuco T shirts featuring sayings in local slang, and greeting cards made from recycled banana paper

Attractions (1)

- **Playa Bonita** - ~15-20 minute drive from port; ~\$10pp; sandy beach with a few bars & restaurants; rental chairs
- **Isla Uvita** - 15 minute boat ride; not much in terms of tourist facilities, but might see local surfers; Christopher Columbus landed here on his last journey across the Atlantic to the Americas; 15 acres 0.5 miles long & 1,000' wide; historical and architectural heritage site
- **Parque Vargas** - located directly to the right side as you exit the port terminal; public park along the waterfront with historical statues, and some wildlife (like sloth and owls)



- **Catedral Sagrado Corazon de Jesus** - retro architectural landmark cathedral in center of town



Attractions (2)

- **Museo Etnohistorico de Limon** - interesting museum featuring a variety of artwork and artifacts; Recently renovated and occupying the second floor of the city's Post Office building; free

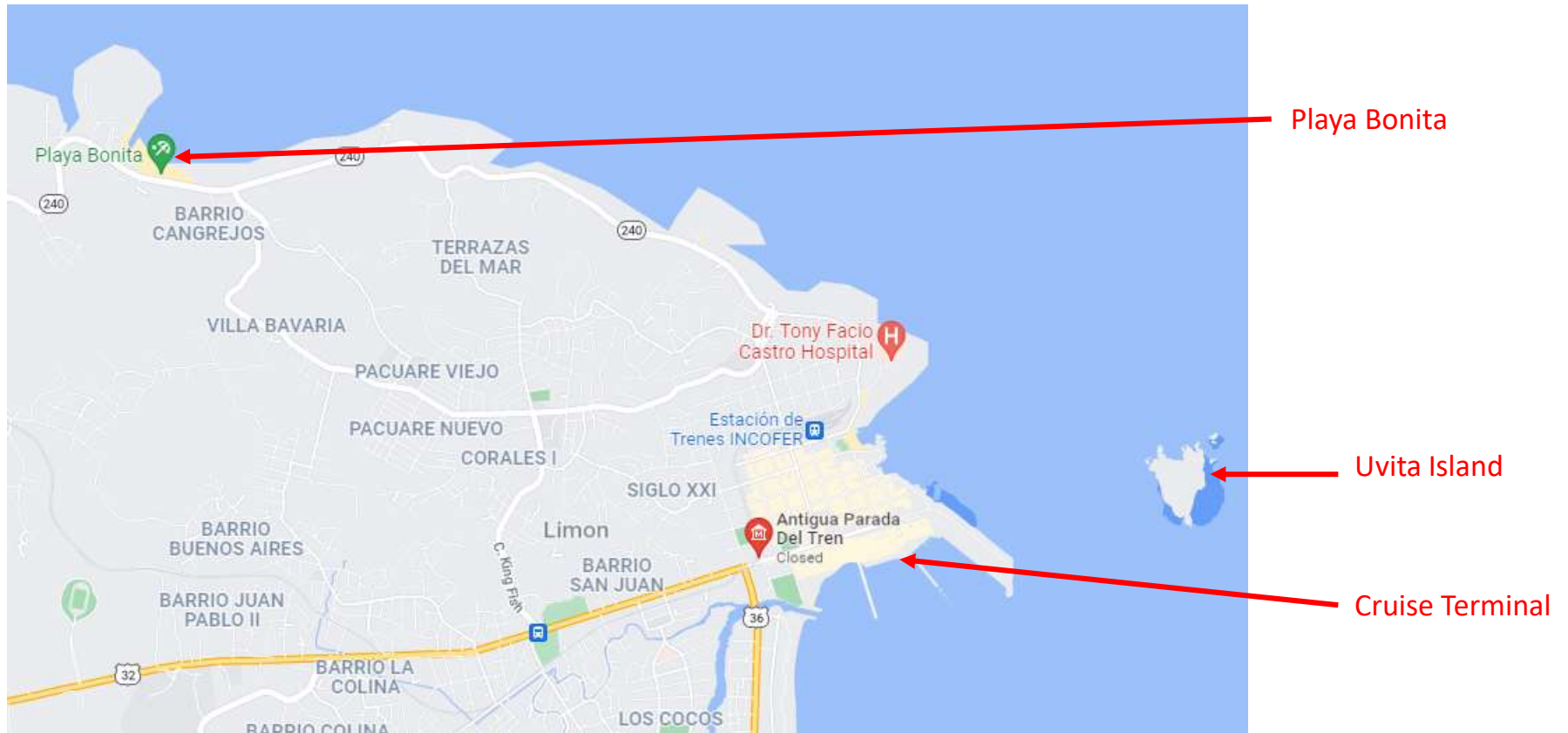


- **Veragua Rainforest EcoAdventure** - 4,000 acre nature theme park ~30 minutes west of Limon; very informed guides take you through nature trails; gondola ride overlooks the complex; <https://veraguarainforest.com/>; \$72 or \$99 with Canopy tour
- **Original Canopy Tour** - 11 zip lines; located in Veragua Rainforest; \$55

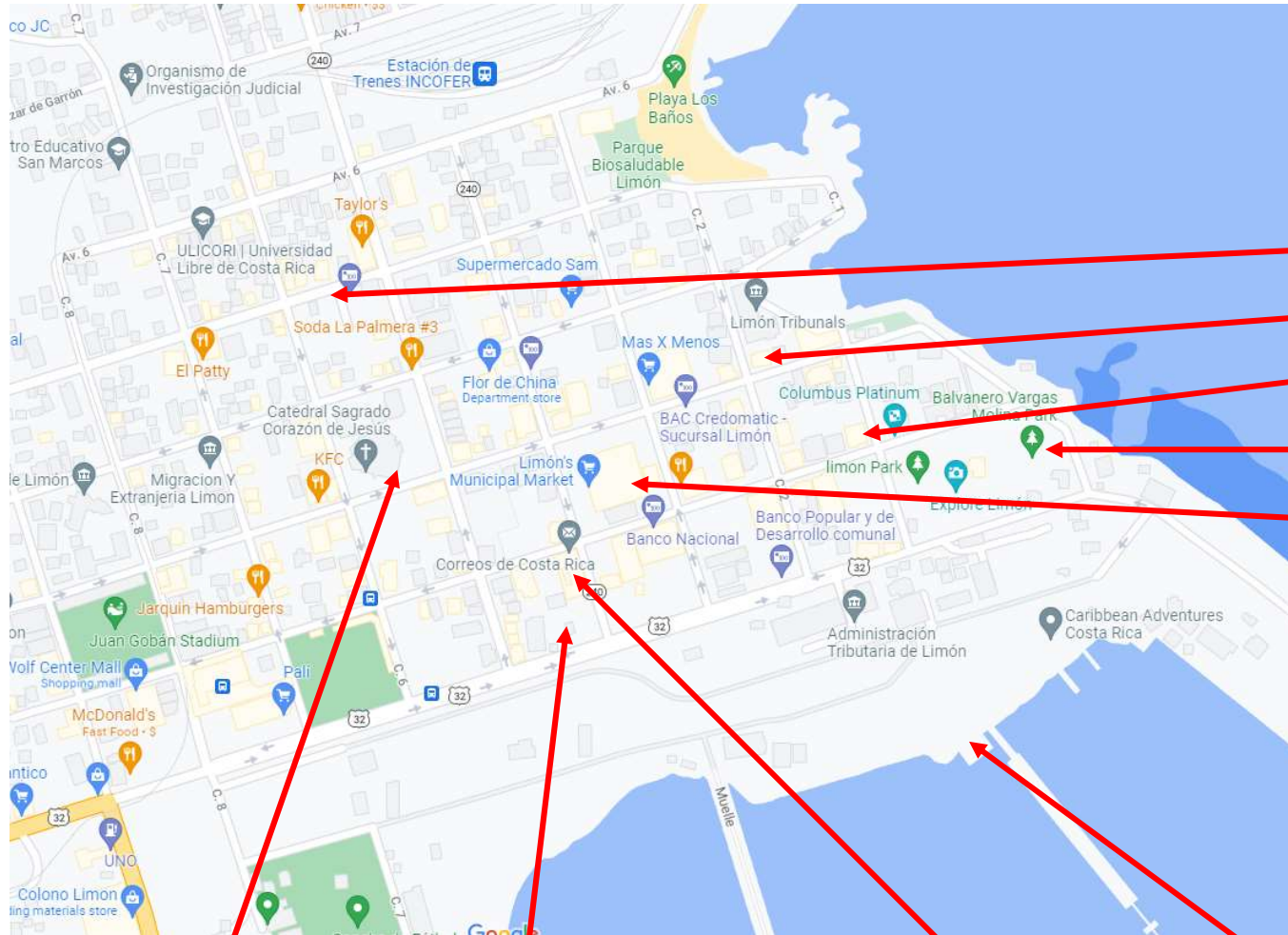
Attractions (3)

- **Standard Fruit Company (Dole)** - hour long tour of banana plantation and packing plant in Bananito
- **Tortuguero Canals** - national park created in 1975 to protect the spawning area of the green turtle (Tortuguero); slow moving 1 hr boat trip along the canals; can see sloths, toucans, monkeys, and crocodiles;
https://www.tortugueroinfo.com/usa/tortuguero_canals_tour.htm
- **Parque Nacional Cahuita** - ~1 hr drive; created in 1970 as a National Monument to preserve the coral reefs; later reformed as a national park; no fee (donations); main entrance located in Puerto Vargas
- **Braulio Carrillo National Park** - ~2.5 hr drive; rainforest and cloud forest; many hiking trails; home to 500+ species of birds and 150+ species of mammals;
<http://www.sinac.go.cr/ES/ac/accvc/pnbc/Paginas/default.aspx>; <https://costa-rica-guide.com/nature/national-parks/braulio-carrillo/>
- **Rain Forest Aerial Tram ride** - 1,000 acre nature reserve next to the Braulio Carrillo National Park

Puerto Limon Map



Puerto Limon Map



Plaza Puerto Limon

Scotiabank Limon

Banco de Costa Rica

Parque Vargas

Municipal Market

Catedral Sagrado
Corazon de Jesus

Adobe Car Rental

Post Office & Museo
Ethnohistorico de Limon

Cruise Terminal

Private Tours

- **Tours by Locals:** <https://www.toursbylocals.com/Limon-Tours>
- **Theresa Tours:** <https://theresatour.com/>
- **Jorge Ramirez:** <https://www.portlimon.com/>
- **Greenway Nature Tours:** <https://greenwaytours.com/puerto-limon-shore-excursions/>
- **Costco Travel Shore Excursions:**
<https://www.shoreexcursionsgroup.com/port/puerto-limon-shore-excursions>
- **Syltravel Day Tours:** <https://www.syltravelcr.com/shore.html>
- **GioTours:** <https://www.giotours.com/>
- **Your Lucky Tour:** <https://yourluckytour.com/>
- **Odyssey Tours:** <https://www.odysseytourscr.com/>
- **Leonardo Tours:** <https://leonardotours.wordpress.com/>

HAL Tours (1)

- **A Day with Costa Rica's Native People:** \$100; 4.5 hrs; 1 hr drive to Las Brisas, home to native Cabecar tribe; visit dairy farm; pick fruit at organic orchard; plant tree seedling; 0.5 mile walk
- **Cultural Journey & Soul Food Delight:** \$90; 4 hrs; drive to Parque Vargas; panoramic drive to Playa Bonita (30 min free time); visit Casa de la Cultura to see live Calypso band and dancers; United Fruit Company; 0.5 mile walk on uneven terrain with steps and cobblestones; 16 steps at United Fruit Company; no elevator; no wheelchairs; bring insect repellent
- **Limon Countryside & Bananito Village:** \$50; 3.75 hrs; United Fruit Company; drive to Bananito Village; 16 steps at United Fruit Company; no elevator; no wheelchairs; limited shade; bring insect repellent
- **Meet the Sloths:** \$120; 4.5 hrs; drive ~1 hr to Aviarios del Caribe Sloth Sanctuary; canoe ride along Estrella River
- **Monster Bus & Rainforest Expedition:** \$85; 3.75 hrs; 6x6 monster bus - all terrain vehicle w/ a/c; ride along Banano River; Costa Rican style picnic; stroll with naturalist guide; banana plantation; 8 steps to (dis)embark monster bus

HAL Tours (2)

- **Rain Forest Canopy & Zip Line Adventure:** \$90; 3 hrs; 12 zip lines; max weight 260lbs
- **Reventazon White Water Rafting Class I, II+:** \$100; 5.5 hrs; raft along El Carmen section of Reventazon River; gentle rapids; max weight 235 lbs
- **Tortuguero Canals:** \$80; 3 hrs; 25 min drive from pier to dock; cruise on jungle pontoon boat
- **Veragua Rain Forest Eco Adventure:** \$130; 5.5 hrs; 3,400 acre reserve; dubbed by National Geographic Traveler “the crème de la crème of the rain forest”; 1 hr drive; tour various habitats with naturalist guide; visit to Foundation for Rainforest Research Laboratories and meet research biologists; 20 min aerial tram through rain forest; light snack buffet; suitable for guests using wheelchair; max weight 350lbs
- **Wildlife Rescue Center & Guided Jungle Walk:** \$135; 6 hrs; drive to Puerto Viego to visit Jaguar Rescue Center Foundation; also visit Puerto Vargas Ranger Station with naturalist in Cahuita National Park