

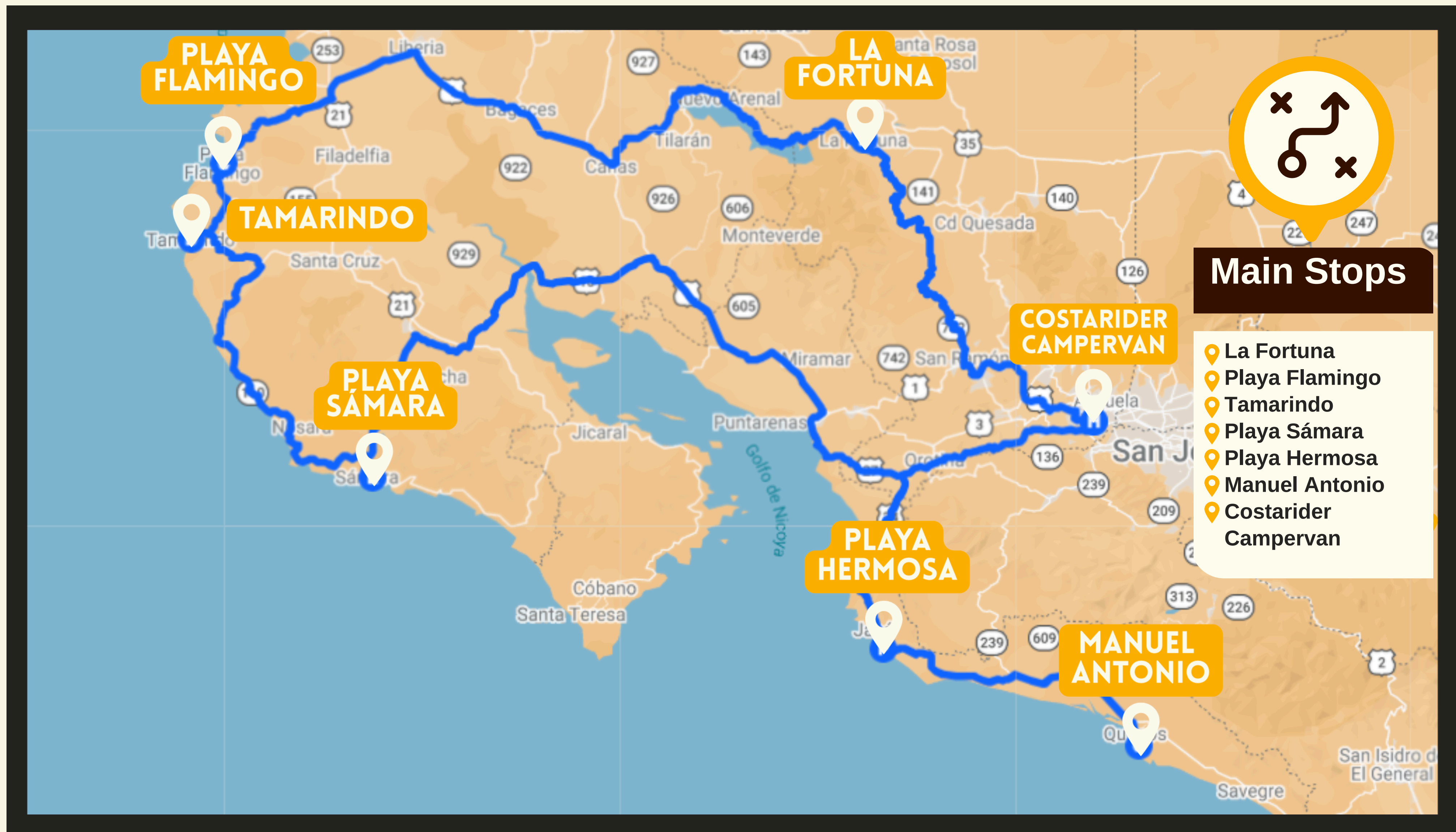
# 10-Day Road Trip Itinerary

COSTA RIDER  
CAMPERVAN



## Volcanoes, Guanacaste Beaches & Central Pacific Wildlife

This 10-day route is designed for travelers who want to slow down and go deeper into Costa Rica. It combines volcanic landscapes, long beach days, coastal drives, and rich wildlife areas, with extra time to enjoy each region without rushing. Perfect for campervan or 4x4 travel, especially for those who enjoy scenic drives and flexible plans.



Scroll down and explore what this itinerary has in store for you.

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# Day 1 – Alajuela → Arenal Volcano Area

**Driving time: approx. 3–3.5 hours**

Pick up your vehicle in Alajuela and begin your road trip toward the northern lowlands. Today is about easing into the journey, enjoying the scenery, and arriving early enough to settle into the Arenal area

## Things to do:

- Enjoy the changing landscapes on the drive north
- Stop in **La Fortuna** for groceries and supplies
- **Volcano viewpoints** or a short nature walk in the afternoon



## Where to sleep:

Camper-friendly campsite near La Fortuna or Arenal.  
We recommend **Natural Camping Arenal Volcano**.

# Day 2 – Arenal Volcano, Forest & Hot Springs

A full immersion day in the Arenal region, mixing light adventure with relaxation.

## Things to do:

- Walk lava trails at the **1968 Trail** or **Arenal Volcano National Park**.
- Explore rainforest paths or hanging bridges at **Mistico**.
- End the day soaking in **natural hot springs**.

## Optional activities:

- Thermal baths at **EcoTermales** or **Baldi Hot Springs**.
- Ziplining with **Sky Adventures**.



## Where to sleep:

Same area near Arenal / La Fortuna

# Day 3 – Arenal → Lake Arenal → Llanos de Cortés → Playa Flamingo

**Driving time: approx. 5–6 hours**

Today is a transition day from jungle to dry tropical forest. Drive around Lake Arenal, one of the most scenic routes in the country, then continue toward Guanacaste with a refreshing waterfall stop.

## Things to do:

- Scenic viewpoints around **Lake Arenal**.
- Swim at **Llanos de Cortés Waterfall**.
- Late afternoon arrival at **Playa Flamingo**.



## Where to sleep:

Near Playa Brasilito or Flamingo area. We recommend **Camping La Odisea**.

# Day 4 – Northern Guanacaste Beaches

A full day dedicated to some of Guanacaste's most iconic beaches, all within short driving distances.

## Things to do:

- Relax at **Playa Brasilito**.
- Visit **Playa Conchal**, known for its white shell sand.
- Spend the afternoon in Tamarindo exploring **shops, cafés, and the beach**.

## Optional activities:

- Surf lessons with **Witch's Rock Surf Camp** or **Tamarindo Surf School**
- Catamaran tours with **Panache Sailing** or **Marlin del Rey**



## Where to sleep:

Tamarindo area or nearby beaches

# Day 5 – Tamarindo → Playa Sámara (Coastal Route)

**Driving time: approx. 3–4 hours**

Follow the coastline south through the Nicoya Peninsula. This is a great day to explore beaches that feel less developed and more local.

## Things to do:

- Beach stops at **Playa Avellanas** or **Playa San Juanillo**.
- Lunch in a small **seaside town**.
- **Sunset walk** along Playa Sámara.



## Where to sleep:

Near Playa Sámara. We recommend **Camping Aloha**.

# Day 6 – Slow Day in Sámara

After several driving days, today is about rest, ocean time, and enjoying the town's relaxed atmosphere.

## Things to do:

- **Beach day** and **swimming** (calm waters).
- **Kayaking** or **snorkeling**.
- **Explore town cafés** and **local restaurants**.

## Optional activities:

- Kayak & snorkel with **Octopus Tours** or **Samara Kayak & SUP**
- Dolphin and whale-watching tours with **Samara Adventures (seasonal)**
- Yoga sessions at **Locanda Yoga** or **Samara Yoga**



## Where to sleep:

Same area near **Playa Sámara**

# Day 7 – Sámará → Playa Hermosa (Central Pacific)

**Driving time: approx. 5–6 hours**

Leave the **Nicoya Peninsula** and head south toward the Central Pacific coast. Along the way, stop at the **Tárcoles River Bridge** to observe crocodiles below.

## Things to do:

- Crocodile spotting at **Tárcoles**
- Scenic coastal and mountain drive
- Evening at **Playa Hermosa** (Puntarenas)



## Where to sleep:

Near Esterillo oeste. We recommend **Camping Turístico las Brisas**.

# Day 8 – Playa Hermosa → Quepos

**Driving time: approx. 1.5–2 hours**

A short driving day that allows plenty of free time to enjoy the beach or relax before heading deeper into wildlife-rich areas.

## Things to do:

- **Morning surf** or **beach walk** at **Playa Hermosa**.
- Lunch stop in **Jacó** (optional).
- Afternoon arrival in **Quepos**.



## Where to sleep:

Quepos or Manuel Antonio area. We recommend **Brisas del Río Horseback Adventure**.

# Day 9 – Wildlife & Beaches at Manuel Antonio National Park

One of Costa Rica's most famous parks, known for its accessible trails, wildlife sightings, and white-sand beaches.

## Things to do:

- Early visit to **Manuel Antonio National Park**.
- Spot monkeys, sloths, and tropical birds.
- Relax at the park's beaches.

## Optional activities:

- **Guided wildlife tour** with a certified local guide.



## Where to sleep:

Same area near Quepos / Manuel Antonio

# Day 10 – Quepos → Alajuela

**Driving time: approx. 3–4 hours**

After breakfast, begin the return drive to the Central Valley. Take your time for a final meal or coffee stop before returning the vehicle and ending your adventure.

## Things to do:

- Scenic drive back to Alajuela.
- Vehicle return and end of trip.

# Good to Know

This itinerary is designed for **campervan or 4x4 travel**, offering flexibility, comfort, and access to a wide variety of landscapes and locations across Costa Rica.

- **Road Conditions**

Some roads, especially near beaches and waterfalls, may be unpaved. A 4x4 vehicle is recommended for added comfort and confidence.

- **Driving Times**

Driving times are approximate and may vary depending on weather conditions, road conditions, traffic, and stops along the route.

- **Flexible Activities**

All activities mentioned are suggestions and can be adapted based on travel pace, personal interests, and local conditions during the trip.

**Pura vida**  
*and happy road trip!*