

15-Day Road Trip Itinerary

Option B

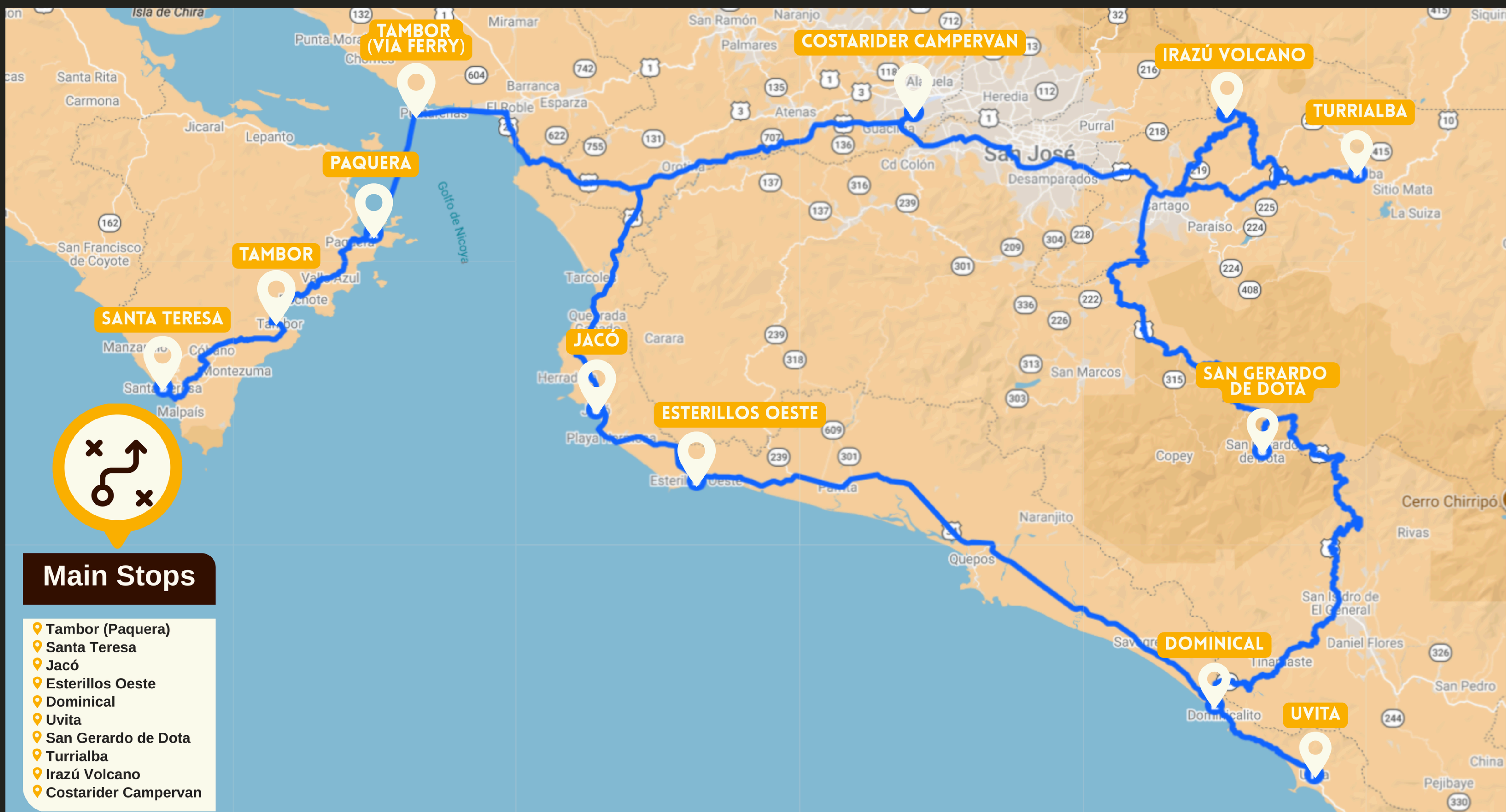
COSTA RIDER
CAMPERVAN



Ferry Crossings, Pacific Roads & Mountain Highlands

This 15-day itinerary follows a smooth and logical route across Costa Rica, designed for travelers who value progression over repetition. Starting with a ferry crossing to the Nicoya Peninsula, the journey flows south along the Pacific coast before climbing into high mountain landscapes and volcanic regions.

A road trip defined by scenic transitions, diverse climates, and a true sense of movement.



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

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Day 1 – Alajuela → Santa Teresa / Mal País (via ferry)

Driving time: approx. 6 hours

Start the journey by driving to Puntarenas and boarding a scenic ferry across the Gulf of Nicoya, an iconic introduction to the road trip.

Things to do:

- **Drive** to the ferry terminal.
- **Ferry crossing.**
- Sunset arrival in **Playa Mal País.**

[Click here to book your Ferry Ticket](#)



Where to sleep:

Santa Teresa or **Mal País** area. We recommend **Rancho Victoria Coyote Guanacaste**

Day 2 – Santa Teresa / Mal País

Travel through the rural heart of the Nicoya Peninsula toward the Pacific coast.

Things to do:

- **Scenic** peninsula drive.
- Beach time.
- **Sunset** at the **Santa Teresa** beach.

Optional activities:

- **Surf lessons** with **Nalu Surf School.**
- **Yoga class** at **Horizons Yoga Center.**
- **ATV tour** through coastal backroads with **Sun Trails Costa Rica.**



Where to sleep:

Same area in **Santa Teresa / Mal País**

Day 3 – Santa Teresa / Mal País

A full day to enjoy one of Costa Rica's most iconic surf and bohemian destinations.

Things to do:

- Surf or beach time at **Playa Santa Teresa** or **Playa Carmen**.
- Visit **Cabuya Island Cemetery** (low tide access).
- Sunset at **Playa Mal País**.

Optional activities:

- **Surf lessons** with local surf schools
- **Yoga** or **wellness** classes in Santa Teresa



Where to sleep:

Same area in **Santa Teresa / Mal País**

Day 4 – Santa Teresa → Jacó (via ferry)

Driving time: approx. 6 hours

Leave the Nicoya Peninsula by ferry and reconnect with the mainland before continuing south along the Pacific coast. This transition adds a scenic and relaxed break to a longer driving day.

Things to do:

- Scenic drive toward the **ferry terminal**.
- **Ferry crossing** across the **Gulf of Nicoya**.
- Coastal drive south along the Pacific.
- Evening walk in **Jacó**.

Click here to book your Ferry Ticket



Where to sleep:

Near Jacó area. We recommend **Camping Don Juan Playa Azul**

Day 5 – Jacó → Esterillos Oeste

Driving time: approx. 1 hour

A short and relaxed drive south leads you away from busier beach towns and into a quieter, more local stretch of the Pacific coast. Esterillos Oeste is ideal for slowing down, enjoying long beaches, and reconnecting with the rhythm of the ocean.

Things to do:

- **Long beach walks** along wide, open shoreline.
- **Swimming** or **relaxing** by the ocean (**conditions permitting**).
- **Sunset views** over the Pacific with minimal crowds.



Where to sleep:

Near Esterillos Oeste. We recommend **Camping Turístico Las Brisas**.

Day 6 – Esterillos → Dominical

Driving time: approx. 2.5–3 hours

Follow the coastline south through palm-lined beaches and jungle scenery.

Things to do:

- Stops at **Playa Bejuco** or **Playa Palma**.
- Afternoon in Dominical.

Optional activities:

- Surf lesson in Dominical with **Dominical Surf School**.
- Beach horseback riding with **Osa Canopy Tour**.



Where to sleep:

Near **Dominical** area.
We recommend **Camping El Chaman**.

Day 7 – Dominical & Surroundings

A slower day that blends jungle landscapes with the Pacific coast. The area around Dominical offers easy access to waterfalls, beaches, and quiet natural spaces, making it ideal for slowing down after several days on the road.

Things to do:

- Visit **Nauyaca Waterfalls**.
- Surf or beach time.
- Relaxed evening.

Optional activities:

- Guided visit to **Nauyaca Waterfalls** with **Nauyaca Waterfall Tours**.
- Yoga session at **Danyasa Yoga Retreat**.



Where to sleep:

Same area near **Dominical**.

Day 8 – Dominical → Uvita

Driving time: approx. 45 minutes

A short and scenic coastal drive leads into one of Costa Rica's most iconic Pacific regions, where wide beaches, marine life, and lush hillsides define the landscape.

Things to do:

- Visit **Marino Ballena National Park** and explore its coastal trails.
- Stop at **coastal viewpoints** along the way.
- Sunset views over the **Pacific**.



Where to sleep:

Uvita or **Dominical** area. We recommend **Camping Casalta**.

Day 9 – Uvita → San Gerardo de Dota

Driving time: approx. 4–5 hours

Leave the coast behind and climb into the high mountains via the **Cerro de la Muerte**.

Things to do:

- Scenic mountain drive.
- Stops at viewpoints.
- Cool mountain evening.



Where to sleep:

San Gerardo de Dota area.
We recommended **Hacienda la Lucha**

Day 10 – San Gerardo de Dota

A peaceful day surrounded by cloud forest and rivers.

Things to do:

- Forest walks.
- Birdwatching.
- Relax by the river.

Optional activities:

- **Quetzal birdwatching** tour with **Savegre Lodge Tours**.
- Guided cloud forest walk with **Dantica Cloud Forest Lodge**.



Where to sleep:

Same area near **Dominical**.

Day 11 – San Gerardo de Dota → Turrialba

Leave the cool highlands behind and descend gradually into fertile valleys shaped by volcanic activity. The landscape changes from cloud forest to open farmlands, coffee plantations, and small rural communities.

Things to do:

- **Scenic inland drive through** mountain roads and valleys.
- Pass through **coffee-growing regions** and rural villages.
- Short stops at viewpoints along the route.

Optional activities:

- Ziplining with **Selvatura** or **Sky Adventures Monteverde**.



Where to sleep:

Turrialba area.

We recommend **Finca Las Virtudes Volcán Turrialba**.

Day 12 – Turrialba Region

A slower day to explore the rural and volcanic landscapes around Turrialba, where small villages, farmlands, and natural attractions define the pace of life.

Things to do:

- Visit the pre-Columbian ruins at **Guayabo National Monument**.
- Short hike to nearby waterfalls such as **Catarata Las Trillizas**.
- Drive through the coffee-growing village of **Aquiáres** and surrounding rural roads.

Optional activities:

- White water rafting on the **Pacuare River** with **Exploradores Outdoors**.
- Coffee & sugar cane tour with **Aquíáres Coffee Estate**.



Where to sleep:

Same area near **Turrialba**.

Day 13 – Turrialba → Irazú Volcano

Driving time: approx. 2–3 hours

Climb steadily into Costa Rica's volcanic highlands, where open landscapes, cool temperatures, and wide panoramic views replace the lush valleys of Turrialba.

Things to do:

- Visit **Irazú Volcano**.
- Drive through **Cartago highlands**.

Optional activities:

- Guided volcano visit with **Oropopo Experience**.
- Mountain biking in the Cartago highlands with Costa Rica **Adventure Guides**.



Where to sleep:

Same area near **Turrialba**.
We recommend **Rancho Camurí**.

Day 14 – Cartago → Alajuela (Central Valley)

Driving time: approx. 1.5–2 hours

A relaxed return through the Central Valley.

Things to do:

- Local stops.
- Prepare for departure.



Where to sleep:

Alajuela area.
We recommend **Finca Koki**.

Day 15 – Departure from Alajuela

Driving time: approx. minimal

Return to the Central Valley, closing a true coast-to-coast road trip.

Things to do:

- Scenic drive back to **Alajuela**.
- Return vehicle 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!