

7-Day Road Trip Itinerary

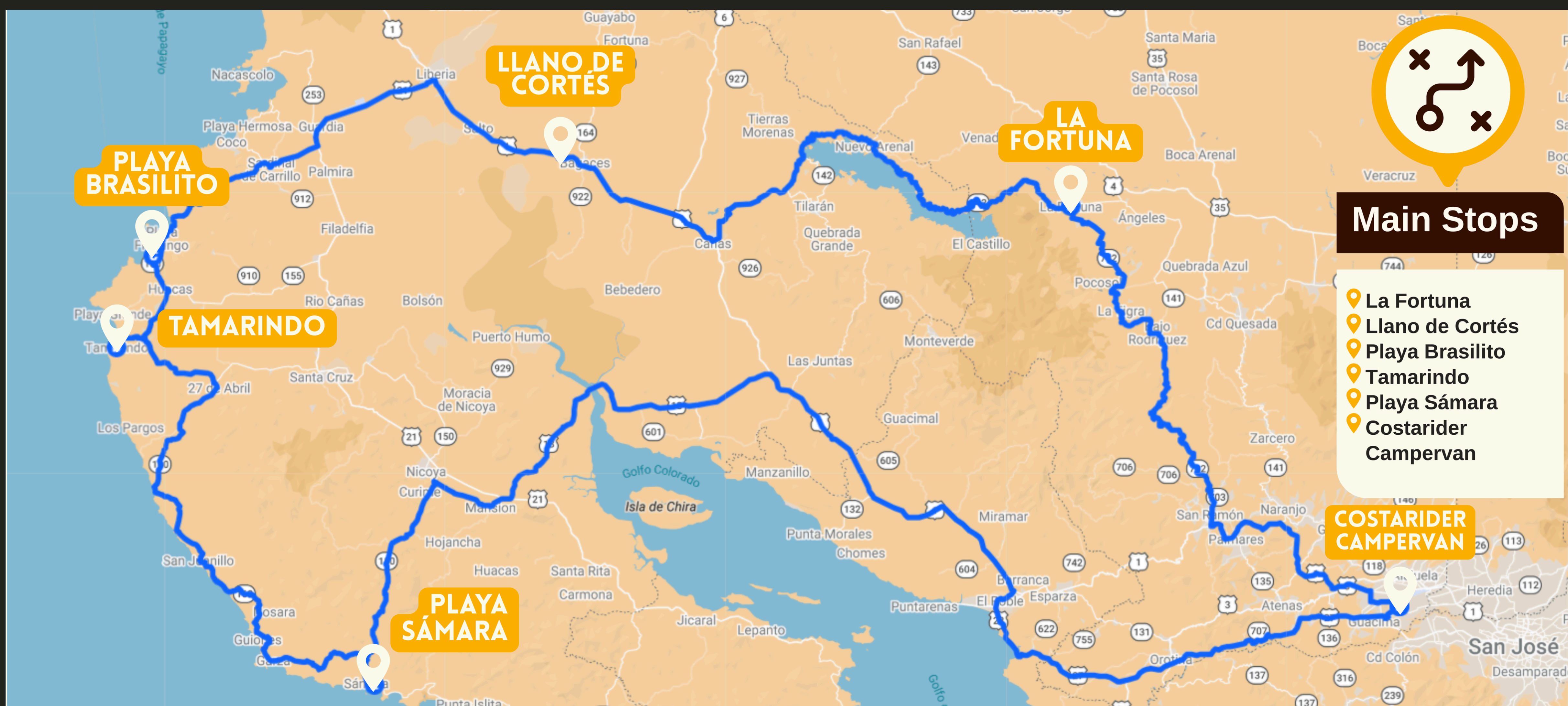
COSTA RIDER
CAMPERVAN



Arenal Volcano & Guanacaste Coast

Designed for travelers who want a balanced Costa Rica experience: volcano, jungle, waterfalls, and some of the most beautiful beaches in Guanacaste.

This itinerary is ideal for campervan or 4x4 travel, allowing flexibility, comfort, and access to off-the-beaten-path spots.



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

COSTA RIDER
CAMPERVAN

Day 1 – Alajuela → Arenal Volcano Area

Driving time: approx. 3–3.5 hours

Your adventure starts in Alajuela. After pickup and briefing, head north toward the Arenal Volcano region. This is a relaxed driving day, perfect to get familiar with the vehicle and Costa Rican roads. The route passes through small towns, farmlands, and lush landscapes.

Things to do:

- Scenic stops along the route for photos and local sodas
- Visit La Fortuna town to stock up on groceries
- Short walk or viewpoint to see Arenal Volcano (weather permitting)



Where to sleep:

Camper-friendly campsite near La Fortuna or Arenal. We recommend **Camping y Mirador El Castillo**.

Day 2 – Arenal Volcano National Park & Hot Springs

A full day to enjoy one of Costa Rica's most iconic regions. Jungle, lava landscapes, and thermal waters make this one of the highlights of the trip.

Things to do:

- Hike in Arenal Volcano National Park (lava trails and viewpoints)
- Hanging bridges or an easy rainforest walk
- Afternoon or evening at a thermal hot spring

Optional activities:

- Ziplining with **Sky Adventures** or **Arenal Mundo Aventura**
- Visiting **La Fortuna Waterfall**



Where to sleep:

Same area near Arenal / La Fortuna

Day 3 – Arenal → Lake Arenal → Llanos de Cortés → Playa Brasilito

Driving time: approx. 5–6 hours

One of the most scenic driving days of the trip. Leave Arenal early and drive around Lake Arenal before heading toward Guanacaste. On the way, stop at Llanos de Cortés Waterfall for a refreshing swim.

Things to do:

- Scenic drive around Lake Arenal
- Swim and relax at Llanos de Cortés Waterfall
- Sunset walk at Playa Brasilito



Where to sleep:

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

Day 4 – Brasilito, Conchal & Tamarindo

A relaxed beach day with short driving distances and plenty of time to enjoy the coast.

Things to do:

- Morning swim or walk at Playa Brasilito
- Visit Playa Conchal, famous for its crushed shell sand
- Afternoon in Tamarindo: beach time, surf, cafés and shops

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

This day is all about coastal driving and discovering lesser-known spots. The route passes small towns and beaches where a 4x4 can make a difference.

Things to do:

- Stops at beaches such as Playa Avellanas or Playa San Juanillo
- Lunch in a small coastal town
- Sunset at Playa Sámara



Where to sleep:

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

Day 6 – Playa Sámara

A full day to slow down and enjoy one of Costa Rica's most laid-back beach towns. Ideal for a relaxed pace after several driving days.

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 – Playa Sámara → Alajuela

Driving time: approx. 4–5 hours

After breakfast, begin the drive back toward Alajuela. Depending on your schedule, enjoy a final stop for lunch or souvenirs along the way before returning the vehicle.

Things to do:

- Scenic drive back to the **Central Valley**
- 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!