

Peninsula de Osa

The Corcovado National Park is located on the Peninsula de Osa, on the south Pacific coast of Costa Rica, and has extensive beaches with white sand and exuberant vegetation. Getting to Corcovado National Park: The park is not easily accessible. However, it is your best opportunity to experience nature in its most majestic and untouched state; in Corcovado you can find over 500 species of trees (this figure represents a third of all known to exist in Costa Rica).

The park's impressive forests are like cathedrals of huge trees and open spaces towards the foliage. There are several ways to get to Corcovado National Park. First: by land via public transport or a rented vehicle, arriving either at Puerto Jiménez or at Drake Bay. Second: by air, taking a domestic flight to either Puerto Jiménez or Drake Bay. And third: by sea, you can take a ferry to Puerto Jiménez from Golfito. Regardless of which option you choose, you must make a prior reservation in the park or at Toucan Travel, a travel agency based in Puerto Jiménez. This is because only 30 people may stay at Sirena ranger station at a time, in order to help preserve the park.

The Sirena ranger station is at the center of the park and is the best place to see all kinds of animals, including Tapirs and Crocodiles. You can reach this station from any one of the main park entrances (La Leona, Los Patos, or San Pedrillo). About Corcovado National Park: According to biologists, Corcovado National Park contains more species of large trees than any other place in Central America. An investigation found 22 species of more than 50m of height, some of which were over 60m tall and even a Ceiba Pentandra tree which is 80m tall and 3m in diameter.

Another place of great interest is the area around the River Tigre, located 20km from Puerto Jiménez and with one of the very few low-altitude cloud forests in Costa Rica, a perfect place for bird watching and taking a refreshing bath in the river. You'll also have the chance to take home a local souvenir; gold, extracted directly from the River Tigre and before your very eyes, a snorkeling, offering calm waters in which you can enjoy yourself without the dangers of open sea. The Corcovado National Park area boasts a large number of turtles, including green turtles, hawksbill turtles, and olive ridley turtles. As many as 102 turtles (23 of which were mating) have been sighted in a single day.

On walks of several days duration you can see a large variety of animals, including all four species of monkeys that exist in Costa Rica, these being the capuchin, squirrel, spider, and howler monkeys. There is also a large number of scarlet macaws, and numerous toucans, poison dart frogs, spiders, coatis, tayras, collared peccaries, giant anteaters, and with a little luck tapirs or snakes such as boas. Also, wildcats can be found in abundance, but it is difficult to observe them as they are very easily startled.

If you decide to visit Corcovado National Park, don't forget to take: A swimsuit, sun cream, a cap or a hat, sunglasses, trainers or walking shoes and sandals (ones that don't slip and are comfortable and light), fresh, light cotton clothes, a camera, binoculars or a camcorder (in water resistant bag), a towel, spare clothes, a raincoat, insect repellent, and any medication you take regularly.

Tips:

Once you are prepared and ready to start a great natural adventure, it is important to remember that for your security and that of the local resources, use only the authorized paths and do not leave them. Although there are few accidents in the park, we urge you to be prudent. The primordial goal of the National Park is conservation. Hunting, damaging plants and extraction of any material is strictly prohibited.

A serene and peaceful attitude is the ideal way to observe wildlife and enjoy your time in the park. We recommend you contract the services of an experienced guide with good knowledge of the area. It is an area where you must take lots of care, because it is home to many wild animals. The guide will also help you to find the animals and you will have a better chance to observe and understand the wildlife of the Corcovado National Park.