

REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR TRAVELERS ENTERING COSTA RICA

AS OF July 9th, 2021

***As of November 1, 2020 travelers from all over the world (all countries and US states) can enter.** Travelers still need to meet entry requirements (see below).

Fully Vaccinated Travelers and Minors (July 9, 2021): Starting on August 1, fully vaccinated tourists and all minors will no longer be required to show Covid travel insurance. See more below.

Covid Test for Entry (Oct. 26, 2020): As of October 26, Costa Rica no longer requires a negative Covid test to enter the country.

Covid Test for Return Home: If you need to get a Covid test in Costa Rica before you go back home, check out our post, [Where to Get a Covid-19 Test in Costa Rica](#). This has a detailed list of where to get a PCR or antigen (rapid) test by town.

Tourists visiting Costa Rica are asked to abide by the sanitary protocols implemented for carrying out all tourist activities in the country.

Entry requirements for the country. The following requirements remain during the pandemic:

1. Complete the digital form called **HEALTH PASS** and it is available at <https://salud.go.cr>. This pass will be available 72 hours before boarding. **The form can only be filled out within 72 hours of your flight, not sooner.**
 - a. It must be accessed in an updated browser (except for Internet Explorer). **TIP: The form only works 72 hours or less before your flight.** You can't fill it out sooner than that. If you are within the 72 hours, the problem may be your web browser. Some people have reported problems when using Chrome. Microsoft Edge seems to work without any glitches.
 - b. If you need to show Covid travel insurance because you are not vaccinated, you will need to indicate if you are using one of the Costa Rican companies or an international provider. If an international provider, you also will need to upload your policy certificate to show it meets Costa Rica's requirements.
 - c. You will also need to provide your hotel/accommodations in Costa Rica on the form. This is Pura Vida's address:
 - i. Pura Vida Retreat & Spa
800 Mts SW From Minisuper

Pavas Pavas, Carrizal, Alajuela, 020103 Costa Rica

- d. The Health Pass ends with making you agree to declarations. One is that you do not have symptoms of Covid-19 now and that you will comply with a quarantine order if you get Covid-19 during your visit.
 - e. **English Language Option:** The Health Pass defaults to Spanish, but there is an option at the top right to change to English.
 - f. An individual form must be completed for every person, including minors.
2. RT-PCR diagnostic test with a negative result is **NO LONGER REQUIRED**, although it is recommended; the sample must have been taken within 72 hours of travel to Costa Rica.
3. **Get a Travel Insurance Policy if You Are Not Fully Vaccinated or a Minor**
- a. Visitors must purchase travel insurance for the duration of their stay to cover their expenses in case they get Covid-19 (**SEE EXCEPTION BELOW FOR THOSE FULLY VACCINATED AND CHILDREN UNDER 18**). The insurance must cover medical expenses and accommodation expenses for 14 days of quarantine. Specific coverage amounts are provided below.
 - b. **FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELERS AND MINORS:** On July 9, 2021, the Costa Rican government announced that fully vaccinated travelers and all minors (under 18) do not need to show Covid travel insurance starting on **August 1**. The specific requirements are detailed below in **Section 7**.
 - c. You have two options for the insurance. One is to purchase it directly through a provider in Costa Rica. **These have been preapproved by the Costa Rican government to offer Covid-19 insurance, so these policies will be automatically accepted.**
 - d. Alternatively, you can buy insurance that meets the requirements through an international insurer of your choice. Then you will need to go through an additional verification process. See below for more details.
 - e. For coverage amounts, \$20,000 USD in Covid-19 medical coverage is required if you use a Costa Rican insurance company. If you use an international insurance company instead, the minimum amount is \$50,000 USD. Accommodation coverage in case of quarantine is the same no matter which coverage you choose (\$2,000 USD).

4. Costa Rica Insurance Options

Currently, there are three companies in Costa Rica that are approved to sell Covid insurance, [INS](#) (the government insurer), [Sagicor](#) (a private company), and [Blue Cross Blue Shield Costa Rica](#) (a private company). You can buy the INS insurance through their [website](#) directly or using a local broker for no additional cost. You can buy a policy from Sagicor or BCBS directly through their websites.

Sagicor's rate is a flat daily rate, which usually makes it less expensive for shorter trips than INS.

The INS rate is more variable based on your age, trip length, etc. We have heard from people that it is usually cheaper for longer visits than Sagicor.

Blue Cross Blue Shield bases the cost on your trip length only. Here is a [link](#) to a chart with pricing.

5. International Insurance Options Overview:

International insurance policies are also acceptable, provided they meet the minimum requirements. Specifically, the insurance must cover at least \$50,000 USD for medical expenses associated with Covid-19 and \$2,000 USD in accommodation expenses to cover at least 14 days of quarantine. You can find these requirements on the Tourism Institute (ICT)'s [website](#).

Here is a list of international insurance options.

Trawick International is the most popular because of their affordable rates. Many people have told us their policy was easily accepted when entering Costa Rica. Trawick offers the [Safe Travels Voyager](#) plan for US residents. The mandatory \$2,000 accommodation coverage is included under Trip Delay.

Recently, Trawick added two plans for travelers from other countries (outside the US). These plans meet Costa Rica's requirements as well. They are the [Safe Travels International](#) plan and [Safe Travels International Cost Saver](#) plan.

Other international insurance companies that travelers have used include [Insubuy](#), [Travel Guard Preferred](#), and [Seven Corners](#). Seven Corners offers coverage for residents of almost every country, with some exclusions.

Canada Residents: For Canadian residents, we have heard of people entering with [TuGo](#) and Blue Cross Blue Shield. For BCBS, they request a confirmation letter from them saying that it covers Covid and the \$2,000 USD accommodation expense.

Another option we recently heard has worked for Canadian residents is [Manulife](#). We have also heard that it worked for a couple of other people in December.

If you're using international insurance other than the widely used options above, we highly recommend emailing ICT/the Tourism Board with your policy information in advance so that you don't have any problems. Print the email response from ICT and bring a hard copy in case you need to show it at the airport.

ICT's email is seguros@ict.go.cr

6. **Verifying Your International Policy:**

The country's Tourism Institute is in charge of verifying that international policies comply with the requirements. The process is now digital. You will give your insurance information as part of the online Health Pass (see above).

You will upload to the Health Pass an insurance certificate (issued in English or Spanish) stating the following. It would still be a good idea to bring this document with you.

- The validity of the effective policy during your visit to Costa Rica.
- That it guarantees coverage for medical expenses associated with the pandemic disease COVID-19 in Costa Rica, for at least \$50,000 (US dollars).
- That it includes a minimum coverage of \$2,000 for extended lodging expenses due to pandemic illness.

After you complete the Health Pass, it will automatically generate a QR code that you can show Immigration when you check in for your flight.

7. **Show Proof of Vaccination if Fully Vaccinated:**

If you are fully vaccinated, starting on August 1, 2021, you do not need to show Covid travel insurance to enter Costa Rica, provided you meet certain requirements.

You need to show proof of vaccination (a record or vaccination card) with Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, or Johnson and Johnson. These are the only approved vaccines.

The document/vaccination card must include:

- Your full name
- Date you received each dose. *The last dose must have been administered at least 14 days prior to travel.
- Formula (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Astra-Zeneca, or Johnson and Johnson)

You will still need to fill out the online health pass.

The exact way this will work has not been explained yet; however, it is likely that you will upload your vaccination card to the health pass in advance. You may also need to show it to the airline and/or immigration in Costa Rica.

Minors: All children under 18 do not need to show Covid travel insurance to enter Costa Rica starting on August 1.

8. Long-Term Visits and Visa Lengths:

If you are planning a long-term visit to Costa Rica and are entering the country on a tourist visa, you should know about an important government circular.

On November 1, Immigration [announced](#) that the number of days granted to tourists upon entry would depend on the travel insurance purchased. So, for example, if someone purchased 14 days' worth of insurance, they would be granted a 14-day visa stamp.

Normally, the standard visa duration in Costa Rica is 90 days. (The exact number of days is up to the discretion of the immigration official, but 90 days is standard.) However, because tourists were purchasing insurance to cover only a small part of their stay (e.g., insurance for 7 days with the intention to remain in the country for several months), Immigration issued this rule.

So be sure to purchase insurance for the full duration of your stay. If you want to stay for 90 days, purchase 90 days' worth of insurance and make sure your plane ticket out of Costa Rica matches and is for the same date.

9. Showing your QR Code and Documentation to Airport Officials:

The process seems to have become fairly streamlined and straightforward. As long as you have the right insurance and have a QR code, you shouldn't have any problems.

At the airport during check in, the airlines usually want to see only your QR code and not the actual paper insurance documents. Still, if you're using international insurance, it's not a bad idea to bring a hard copy of the insurance certificate showing the necessary coverage, just in case.

When you arrive in Costa Rica, officials will check your QR code and only need to review your documentation if needed based on what you submitted online through the Health Pass. We have heard from many people that getting through customs and immigration at the airport has been very fast.

Passengers who fail to comply with these requirements may not enter the country.

Upon landing in Costa Rican territory, travelers must wear face protection and comply with the strict protocols of the air terminal with regard to physical distancing, disinfection of carpets, and taking temperature readings, and must follow any other sanitary instructions.

The government has stated that if you do not wear a mask, you may be denied entry. Businesses can temporarily lose their operating permit if customers are found in violation, so most establishments take the rules very seriously.