

AIRPORTS, FLIGHTS, AND FLIGHT TIMES

It takes between 2 ½ and 6 hours to fly to Costa Rica from most U.S. cities. Most international flights still land in San Jose's International Airport. However, more and more direct international flights are touching down in Liberia's International Airport. Also, the regional airport in Quepos can easily be reached from the San Jose Airport by way of Sansa or Nature Air. A quick 30 minute flight brings you to the coast and opens up all that the Central and South Central regions have to offer. Daily flights begin early in the morning and continue into the afternoon. Delta, American, US Airways, America West, and Continental have regular nonstop commercial flights to Liberia from their hubs in Atlanta, Miami, Charlotte, Phoenix, and Houston. Liberia is the gateway to the beaches of the Guanacaste region and the Nicoya Peninsula, and a direct flight here eliminates the need for a separate commuter flight in a small aircraft.

The new Palma Sur International Airport is scheduled for operation in 2010 (it will be the largest in Central America). It will be about a forty-five minute drive south from Dominical, all on a very smooth, paved road. The airport has been in the works for a couple years now, but very recently, a significant amount of necessary funding was received and the project is moving forward.

Numerous airlines fly into Costa Rica. These are some of the major carriers and major cities: American Airlines has flights from Los Angeles, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Dallas-Fort Worth to San José and Liberia. Continental offers flights daily from Houston and Newark to San José, and a daily flight from Houston to Liberia. Delta offers two daily flights from Atlanta to San José and one daily flight from Atlanta to Liberia. Delta also has a once-weekly direct flight from Los Angeles to Liberia. Frontier offers non-stop service between Denver and San Jose. Mexicana flies from many North American cities, most connecting through Mexico City. Spirit Air has three weekly direct flights between Ft. Lauderdale and San José. US Airways has direct flights from Charlotte to San José and Liberia. Taca is a group of Central American airlines, with direct flights or connections to and from Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, New Orleans, New York, Miami, and Washington. Here are some flight times from some major U.S. cities:

New York: 4-5 hours non-stop or 6-7 hours via Miami

Los Angeles: 5-6 hours non-stop or 7-8 hours via Mexico

Miami: 2 hours

Chicago: 4-5 hours

Atlanta: 4 hours

Houston: 3 hours

Seattle: 7 hours

Ft. Lauderdale: 2 ½ hours