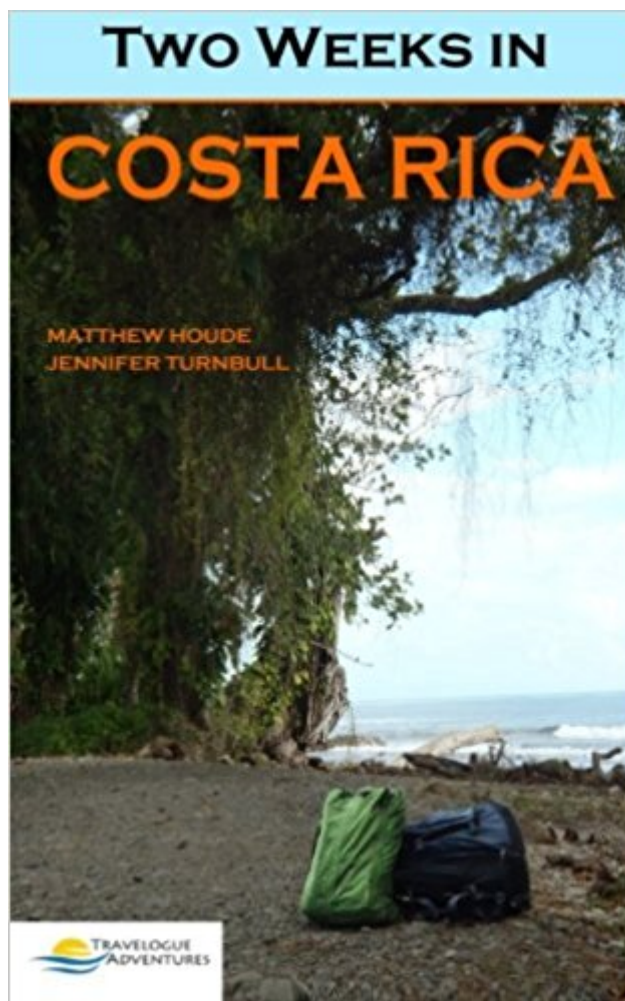


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# Two Weeks In Costa Rica



## Synopsis

A TRAVELOGUE WITH A GUIDEBOOK TWIST Have you ever been attacked by monkeys, hiked in one of the most biologically diverse places on earth, or had your wallet stolen, then given back? Matthew Houde and Jennifer Turnbull share these adventures and more in the book, *Two Weeks in Costa Rica*. In a style that is part narrative, part guidebook, these seasoned travelers bring us along as they trek through lush jungle, brave the local bus, and explore far-off towns. They introduce us to the vibrant culture of Costa Rica and teach us how this jewel of Central America is best traveled. But this book isn't just another travel story. Through their journey, Matt and Jenn learn that life is about more than the daily grind and discover what it means to live *pura vida*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[Two Weeks in Costa Rica] offers an engaging story line as they traipse from one environmental wonder to the next . . . ." --The Portland Daily Sun  
"I love the way Matt & Jenn have written [Two Weeks in Costa Rica], it's not a full on travel guide but perfectly mixed with their own experiences and helpful tips should you decide to visit." --The Kindle Book Review  
"[O]ffers the reader sagacious tips on what to pack, where to eat and where to find reasonable hotels." --Boston Post-Gazette Book Review

Jennifer Turnbull and Matthew Houde discovered Costa Rica through a friend and native Tico whose intriguing stories inspired their first visit. It didn't take long for the country's friendly culture and unmatched natural beauty to cast its spell. Today Matthew and Jennifer call Costa Rica home. They moved in 2013, leaving behind their day jobs in the United States for a chance to experience

the pura vida lifestyle. Get travel insights and follow along as they stumble through life in Costa Rica on the blog, [twoweeksincostarica.com](http://twoweeksincostarica.com).

This is a good travel book for people who like to read about the kind of things that really happen on trips. The authors do a good job of describing their transition from city-folk to near locals, something that lots of people dream about. I especially enjoyed their description of how easy it is to get around Costa Rica, as long as you are willing to embrace the idea that not everything will go according to plan. The book is really well-written with a clear narrative and lots of action. It maybe lacks some of the crushing drama one so often finds in travel books these days, but I prefer to count that as one of its primary charms. *Two Weeks in Costa Rica* presents an account of a trip anyone might take, and does so with a breezy, intimate voice. Recommended.

I enjoyed this book, having lived in Costa Rica and seen a fair few Costa Ricans and their country (primarily the capital San Jose and the southern Pacific Coast) up close. The country and its people are, largely, a pleasure for the traveler who can easily adjust to more disorder, less creature comforts, simpler food and myriad unexpected and unexplained delays during their visit compared to what they would find acceptable at home. Some people find this sort of tourism fun and fascinating, but keep in mind Costa Rica is not Disneyland - it's a country where crime (usually petty, but certainly not always so) and grinding poverty are evident for anyone who spends much time here outside the usual touristy oases. The average Costa Rican is courteous, but relatively poor and trying to make do in a hard life. Don't pinch pennies - the guidebooks tell you (correctly) that tips are not expected, but they are certainly appreciated. Don't waste things - if you have some groceries or anything else left over before you leave, ask someone if they'd like to have them. And don't expect the locals to speak English well, despite the country's fine education system. Costa Ricans are somewhat shy and reserved, so do what you can to make THEM feel at ease. Don't get angry when things aren't going your way. Don't even show frustration. Smile and have some patience - any other approach will only complicate your holiday here.

The perfect melding of travel guide and narrative, this is a fun read that also offers insightful and useful tips for practical travel in Costa Rica. I thoroughly enjoyed reading of Matt and Jen's adventures. The writing style makes you feel as if you are there with them and has none of the dry style of, well first we went here and then we went there, that so many travel books have. It's been years since I've been to Costa Rica and I didn't think I wanted to go back, but I am re-evaluating my

position now. I really want to find that hidden waterfall and check out some of the beaches they explored. This is a must read for anyone considering a trip to Costa Rica and a fun read if you just want to live vicariously through someone else's travel adventures.

This book is like going out to dinner with friends who have recently returned from Costa Rica and who are telling you many interesting stories about their trip. I am traveling to Costa Rica soon and am glad I read this. It gave me a sense of familiarity with a country I have not yet visited.

I moved to Costa Rica two years ago and since then have been loving every minute of it. However like life is we often get too busy to appreciate everything around us, even in beautiful Costa Rica, fortunately this book *Two Weeks in Costa Rica* allows both tourists traveling around and expats living here to fall in love with it all over again!!! And again!!!! loved the multiple views & tips Matt & Jenn both provide throughout the book. Switching from personal experiences to travel tips everyone will find useful is a fun & engaging way that kept me interested in every page from beginning to end! Detailing their adventures gave me better insight to certain areas & make me want to go travel around this wonderful country!! look forward to them moving here & sharing more stories about their experiences!! If you or someone you know is coming to Costa Rica they should definitely download & read this book. It will prepare them for the good, the bad and the BEAUTIFUL!!! Thanks Matt & Jenn!!! Pura Vida! -Macho Pollo & the Pollo Pass team! [...]@pollopass

Getting ready for our first trip to Costa Rica in a couple of weeks, I had been through some guidebooks but this was a nice change of pace. It has a much more personal tone and provides a nice informal view of their travels. In addition, unlike many books written in this style it is actually written and edited well enough to enjoy reading it. Being a couple in our fifties, we won't be taking quite as active of a vacation but I could still appreciate the writer's perspective. Also if you are looking for a very detailed guidebook this isn't the right choice. Having said that, I did pick up a couple of tips that I think will be useful. Thanks for adding to our ever increasing enthusiasm for our upcoming trip.

I love reading travel books and this well-written, entertaining and informative book is a keeper. It is filled with amusing details and useful travel tips. Written with obvious affection and respect for the country of Costa Rica, the book vividly brings to life Ticos culture -- not just in the better-known tourist resorts but in parts of Costa Rica that are truly off the beaten path. Best of all, authors

Matthew Houde and Jennifer Turnbull allow their adventurous and yet mellow personalities to shine through and this makes the book that much stronger. *Two Weeks in Costa Rica* describes not just a particular country but also a different way of travelling. Houde and Turnbull provide intelligent and sensible trip-planning advice, show unfailing good humor about set-backs and demonstrate how to be genuinely open to new experiences. I look forward to their further adventures and books. In the meantime, I will have to be satisfied with their Twitter feed, @2wksinCR.

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