



The perfect day trip

Hello,

If you are in the **Alajuela** area and waiting for your flight back home, you just arrived or you just have a day without plans then we have a great idea for you. We have made you a nice day itinerary, check it out and make sure not to waste your valuable time in a hotel room, enjoy!

Route

Alajuela - Grecia - Sarchí - Catarata Del Toro & Blue Falls of Costa Rica - Bajos Del Toro Amarillo - Nacional Park Juan Castro Blanco - Zarcero - Naranjo - Sarchí - Grecia - Alajuela.

Goals

Coffee fields, winding mountains roads, spectacular views, scenic route, mountains, most beautiful waterfall, hiking, hummingbirds, typical Costa Rican meal, blue river, blue waterfalls, blue water swimming, abundant nature, national park, highlands, world famous city park and amazing handcraft.

Duration and cost

Full day, and costs will be approximately \$99 for two persons, including entrance Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica, big lunch and 20 liters of gas.

Description

Start as early as possible, download the offline Google maps → Catarata Del Toro. This route takes you from Alajuela using the old road to Grecia to Sarchí. Turn right to Bajos Del Toro when you see a big oxcart at the Fábrica de Carreta Joaquin Chaverri. There are 2 ways from here: the new road through Trojas and the old road through La Luisa. You will go uphill through the coffee fields and will end up in the cloud forest. Road is steep, sometimes narrow and has some interesting curves! Just before the highest point, 2.000 meter above sea level, you have some nice views of the central valley. Enjoy this scenic route. After a nice descent, using the engine compression, you will soon enter the little town of Bajos Del Toro. Keep going for six more kilometers north this pristine valley, do not stop, we will do all those things on the way back, until you reach Catarata Del Toro on your left side. Driving time 90-120 minutes.

Drive in, park, pay entrance fee, use the bathrooms and do the hike all the way to the bottom of this spectacular waterfall. The waterfall throws itself into an old volcanic crater. Take your time to get back to the top and take the forest trail back to the restaurant. Enjoy the amazing number of hummingbirds flying around you. Enjoy a cold drink, coffee or an ice-cream. This place will be a highlight of your entire Costa Rican vacation so, do not miss it. Entrance fee is \$14 per person.



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Depending on the weather and time you also can do the Blue Falls of Costa Rica tour. Will bring you to a really blue river with two waterfalls, some rapids and a swimming area. Time needed 2 – 3 hours. Entrance fee is \$15 per person, but you will receive a discount if you did already the Catarata Del Toro, combo price is \$25 for both.

Thereafter

After a little relax get in the car and drive left, downhill, for only one kilometer. On your right side you will see a communication tower. In front of it you can park, take a quick look at the Hydroelectric plant Toro I. The big green pipe you have noticed before is thus for hydroelectric purposes. They use this water 3 times in 3 different plants. Then turn back and go uphill back to Bajos Del Toro. Stop just after the first bridge, and walk 25 meters to the river. Just taste the water but do not swallow. It tastes like lime soda and the ingredients come straight from the Poás Volcano. At bridge number two you will see the second blue river of the area.

Now, depending on the time left, drive back to your hotel, or after passing the third and last bridge before Bajos Del Toro, turn right to the national park Juan Castro Blanco. Drive for two kilometers until you reach the park rangers house, Minaet, and start walking. Either left or to the right. Chances to see wildlife here are high!

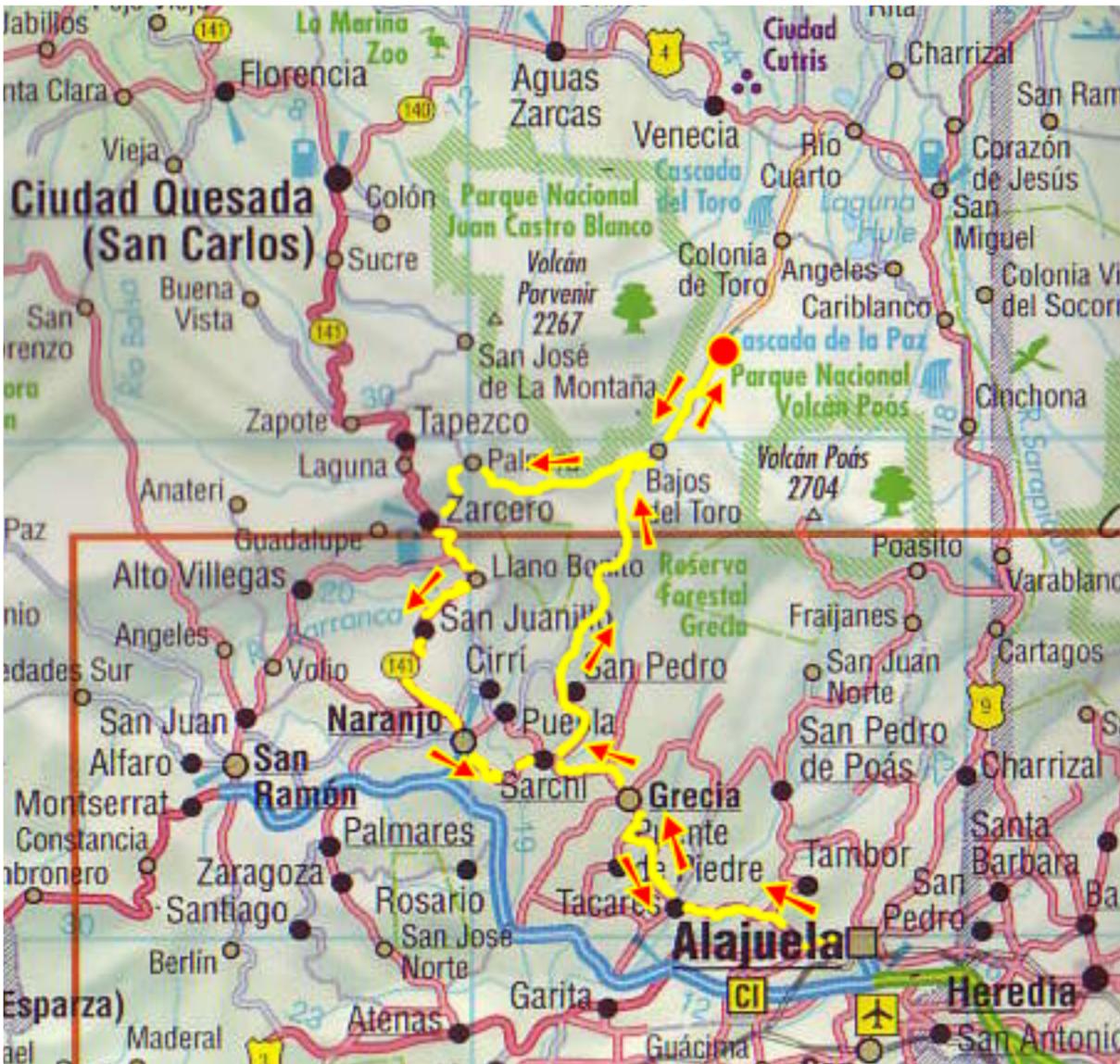
Back to the main road, turn right, check the little town of Bajos Del Toro, drive on, and just before hotel El Silencio, turn right to Zarcero. Drive uphill on this scenic road, and you will have some nice views of the valley of Bajos Del Toro and if the weather permits it, you will look straight into the crater of the Poás Volcano at the opposite side of the valley. A few minutes later you will enter the towns of Pueblo Nuevo and Palmira, where they grow mainly vegetables. This area looks a little bit like England. Finally, you will enter Zarcero, park your car and visit free of charge the world-famous plant sculptures.

After the park visit turn left to Naranjo and in Naranjo choose Sarchí. This is the craftsmen town of Costa Rica. Check the oxcart and the stores where they sell all kind of souvenirs. After Sarchí drive back to Grecia to Alajuela and your hotel.... and relax!

Thank you for your interest and have a wonderful day,



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If you think you have seen it all and did not see Catarata Del Toro then you have not seen anything.

Tip

- Do not rely on your GPS provided by your car rental company – it does not work.
- Download the offline Google map as mobile coverage can be poor to zero.
- Not possible on Sundays as Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica closes that day.
- If the above does not fit or you just want to do something else then please consider 'ZooAve - Wildlife rescue center' in La Garita, Alajuela – worth it!

