



# The perfect day trip

**Hello,**

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

## **Route**

San Ramón - Zarcero - Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica - Nacional Park Juan Castro Blanco - Bajos Del Toro Amarillo - Sarchí - Naranjo - San Ramón.

## **Goals**

The goals are to see: highlands, world-famous city park, scenic route, mountains, most beautiful waterfall, hiking, hummingbirds, typical Costa Rican meal, blue river, blue waterfalls, blue water swimming, abundant nature, national park, winding mountains roads, spectacular views, and fantastic 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 San Ramón via a scenic route to Zarcero, where you can visit the world-famous city park with all the plant sculptures. After this short stop, you turn right after church and drive uphill to Palmira y Pueblo Nuevo towns where they grow mostly vegetables. Shortly after Pueblo Nuevo, you will have some excellent 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.

After you start descending, you will enter the cloud forest. The road is steep, so use the engine compression to brake, narrow, and have impressive curves. At the bottom, you will cross a little bridge over the Rio Toro, which originates a little more on your right side. At the end of the road, turn left, and you will soon enter the little town of Bajos Del Toro. Keep going for six more kilometers in this virgin valley, do not stop (we will do all those things on the way back). Until you reach Catarata Del Toro on your left side, the driving time is 60-90 minutes.



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Drive in the parking lot, park, pay the entrance fee, use the bathrooms, and do the hike 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 incredible 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. The entrance fee is \$14 per person.

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

### After that

After a little relaxation, 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 three times in three 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 in the area.

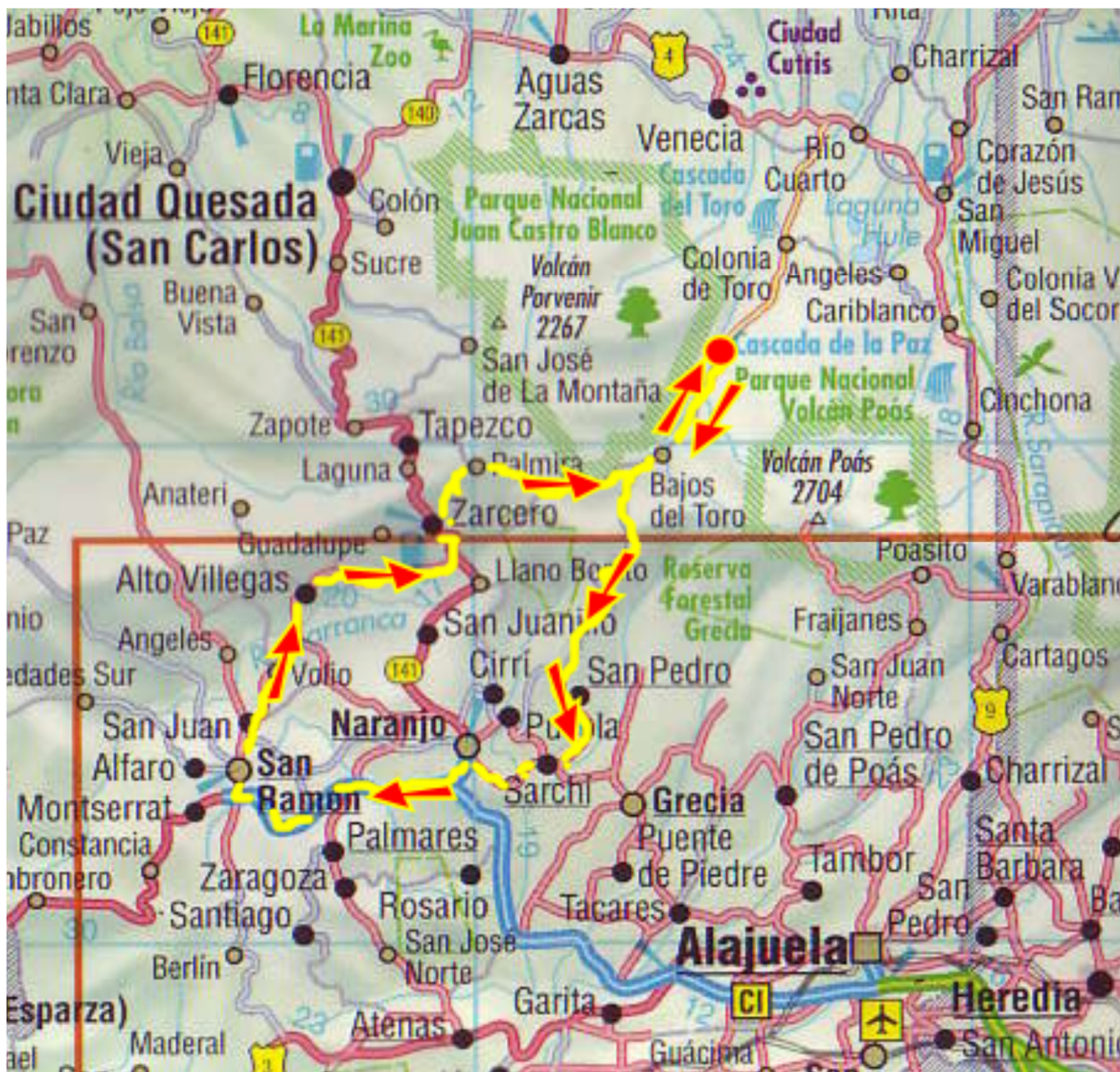
Depending on the time left, drive back to your hotel, or after passing the third and last bridge before Bajos Del Toro, turn right to the national park Juan Castro Blanco. Drive for two kilometers until you reach the park rangers house, Minaet, and start walking. Either left or to the right. Chances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

Back to the main road, turn right, check the little town of Bajos Del Toro, drive on, and take the scenic way to Sarchí, you have to pass the entrance of hotel El Silencio. Enjoy the views, and just after the highest point, 2.000 meters above sea level, you have some lovely views of the central valley. Drive down to Sarchí; this is the craftsmen town of Costa Rica. Check the oxcart and the stores where they sell all kinds of souvenirs. After Sarchí drive to Naranjo and back to the highway 1 or the Inter-Americana. Turn right and drive back to San Ramón and your hotel and relax!

Thank you for your interest and have a beautiful day,



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If you think you have seen it all and did not see Catarata Del Toro, 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 inadequate.
- Not possible on Sundays as Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica closes that day.