



# The perfect day trip

**Hello,**

If you are in the **Alajuela** area waiting for your flight back home, you just arrived, or you 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 avoid wasting 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**

The goals are to see coffee fields, winding mountain roads, spectacular views, scenic routes, mountains, the most beautiful waterfall, hiking, hummingbirds, typical Costa Rican meals, blue rivers, blue waterfalls, blue water swimming, abundant nature, national parks, mountains, a world-famous city park, and fantastic handcraft.

## **Duration and cost**

The whole day will cost approximately \$99 for two persons, including entrance to Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica, a 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 Joaquín Chaverri. There are two ways to get there: the new road through Trojas and the old road through La Luisa. You will go uphill through the coffee fields and into the cloud forest. The road is steep, sometimes narrow, and has some exciting curves! Just before the highest point, 2.000 meters above sea level, you have beautiful views of the central valley. Enjoy this scenic route. You will soon enter the little town of Bajos Del Toro using the engine compression after a gentle descent. Keep going for six more kilometers north of this pristine valley. Do not stop until you reach Catarata Del Toro on your left side, with a total driving time of 90-120 minutes.

Drive in the parking lot, park, pay your 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 to the restaurant. Enjoy the incredible number of hummingbirds flying around you. Enjoy a cold drink or a coffee. This place will highlight your entire Costa Rican vacation, so do not miss it. The entrance fee is \$14 per person.



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Depending on the weather and time, you can also 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 is 2 – 3 hours. The entrance fee is \$17 per person, but you will receive a discount if you have already done the Catarata Del Toro; the combo price is \$25 for both.

### **After that**

After some 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 and 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. 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 ranger's house, Minaet, and start walking, either left or to the right. The chances of seeing wildlife here are high!

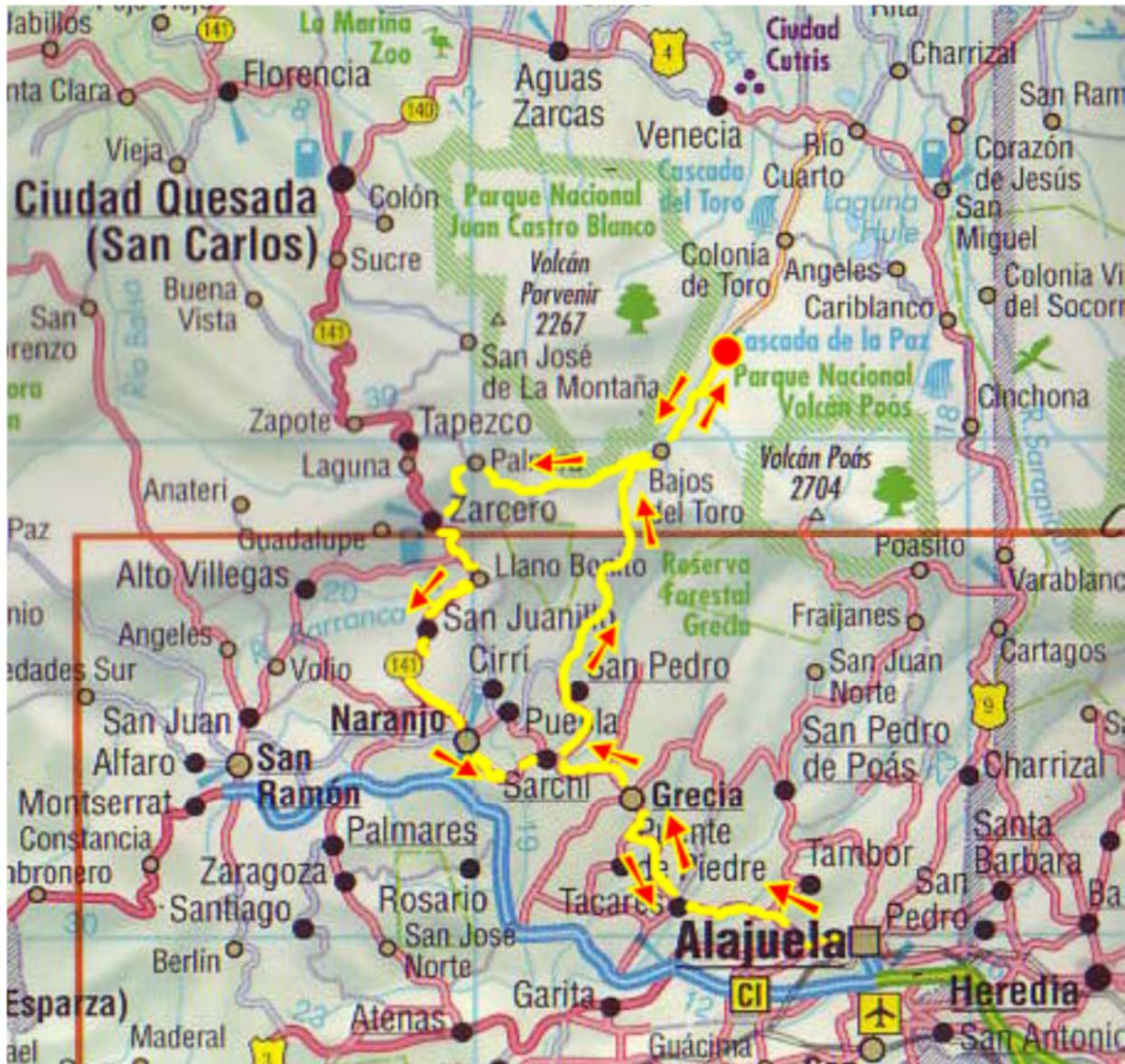
Back to the main road, turn right, check the little town of Bajos Del Toro, drive on, and just before Hotel El Silencio, turn right to Zarcero. Drive uphill on this scenic road, and you will have excellent views of the valley of Bajos Del Toro. If the weather permits, you will look straight into the Poás Volcano's crater on the valley's opposite side. 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 the world-famous plant sculptures.

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

Thank you for being so interested, and have a beautiful day,

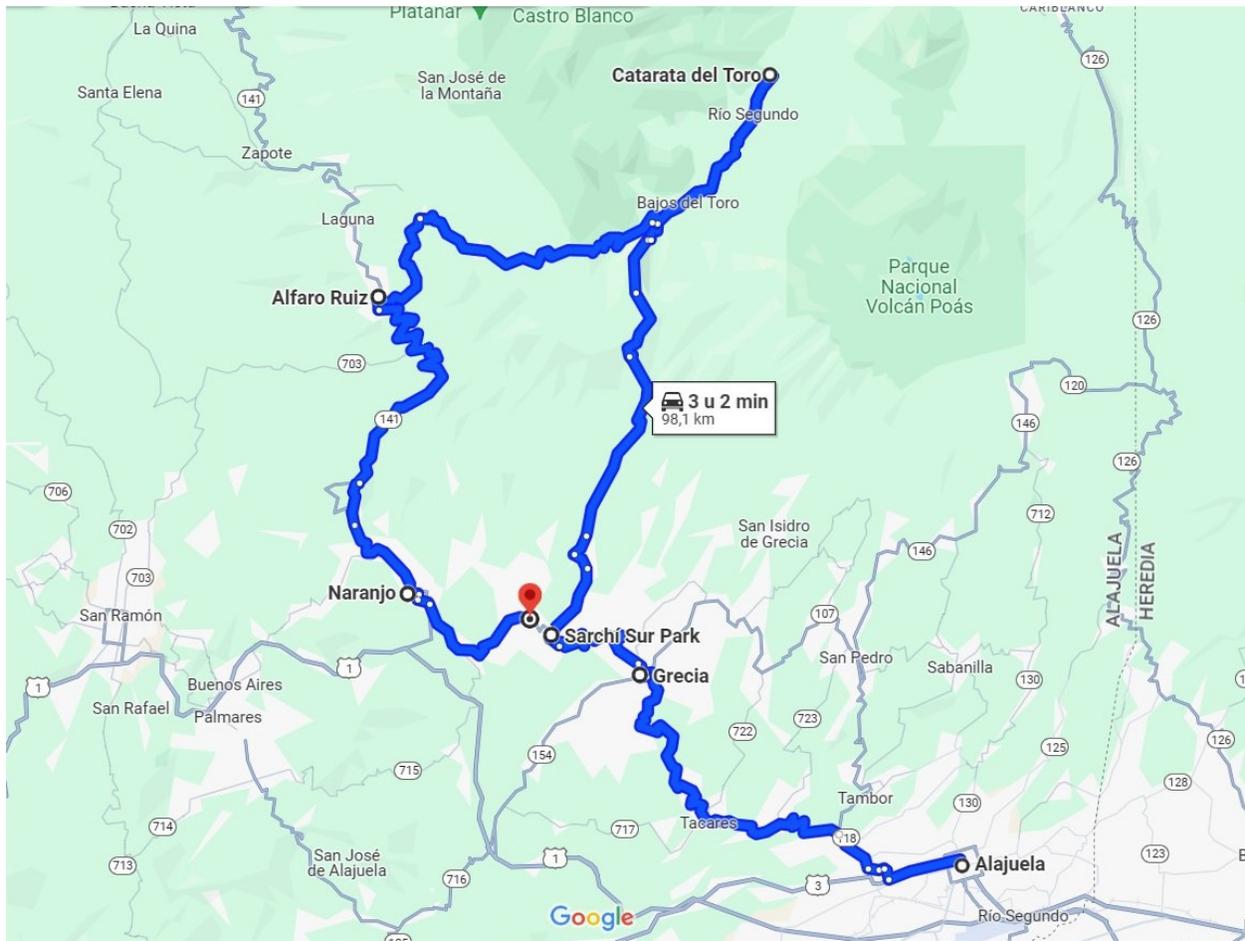


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### Tip

- 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.
- This is impossible on Sundays, as Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica close that day.