



# The perfect day trip

## Hello,

We have a great idea if you are in the **San Carlos** area and have a day without plans. We have made you a beautiful day itinerary. Check it out and avoid wasting your valuable time in a hotel room. Enjoy!

## Route

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

## Goals

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

## 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 San Carlos to La Marina, Aguas Zarcas, to Venecia. After Venecia, keep going straight for 3 kilometers, pass a big metal bridge over the Rio Toro, then first turn right and uphill to La Colonia and Catarata Del Toro. The total driving time is 60 minutes.

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

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.



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### 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 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.

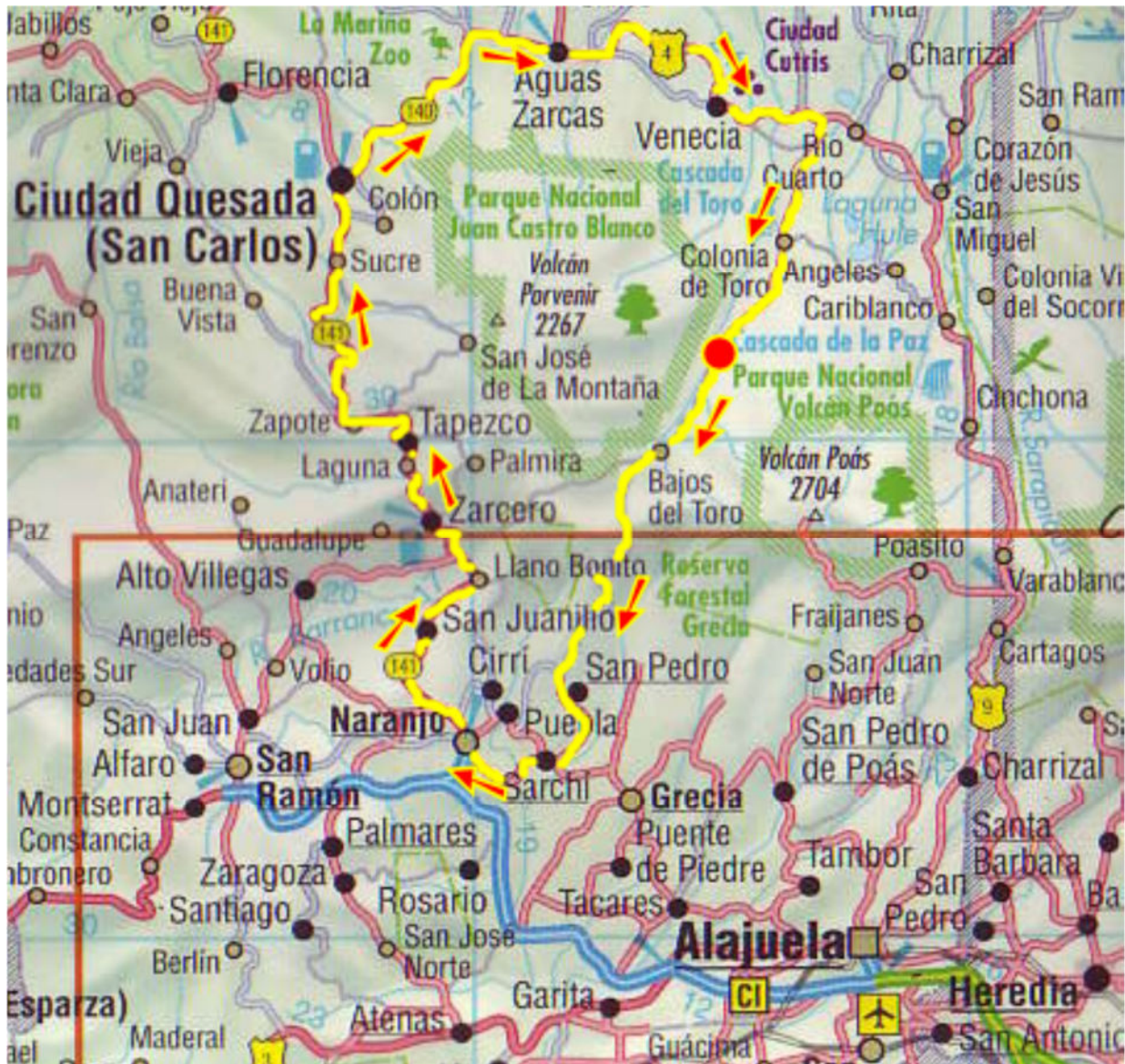
Depending on the time left, drive back to your hotel. After passing the third and last bridge before Bajos Del Toro, turn right to the national park Juan Castro Blanco. Drive for two kilometers until you reach the park ranger's house, Minaet, and start walking, either left or to the right. The chances of seeing wildlife here are high!

Back to the main road, turn right, check the little town of Bajos Del Toro, drive on, and 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 artisan's town of Costa Rica. Check the oxcart and the stores where they sell all kinds of souvenirs. After Sarchí, drive to Naranjo and to Zarcero, where you can visit, free of charge, the world-famous city park with all the plant sculptures. After the park visit, drive to San Carlos and back to your hotel to relax.

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

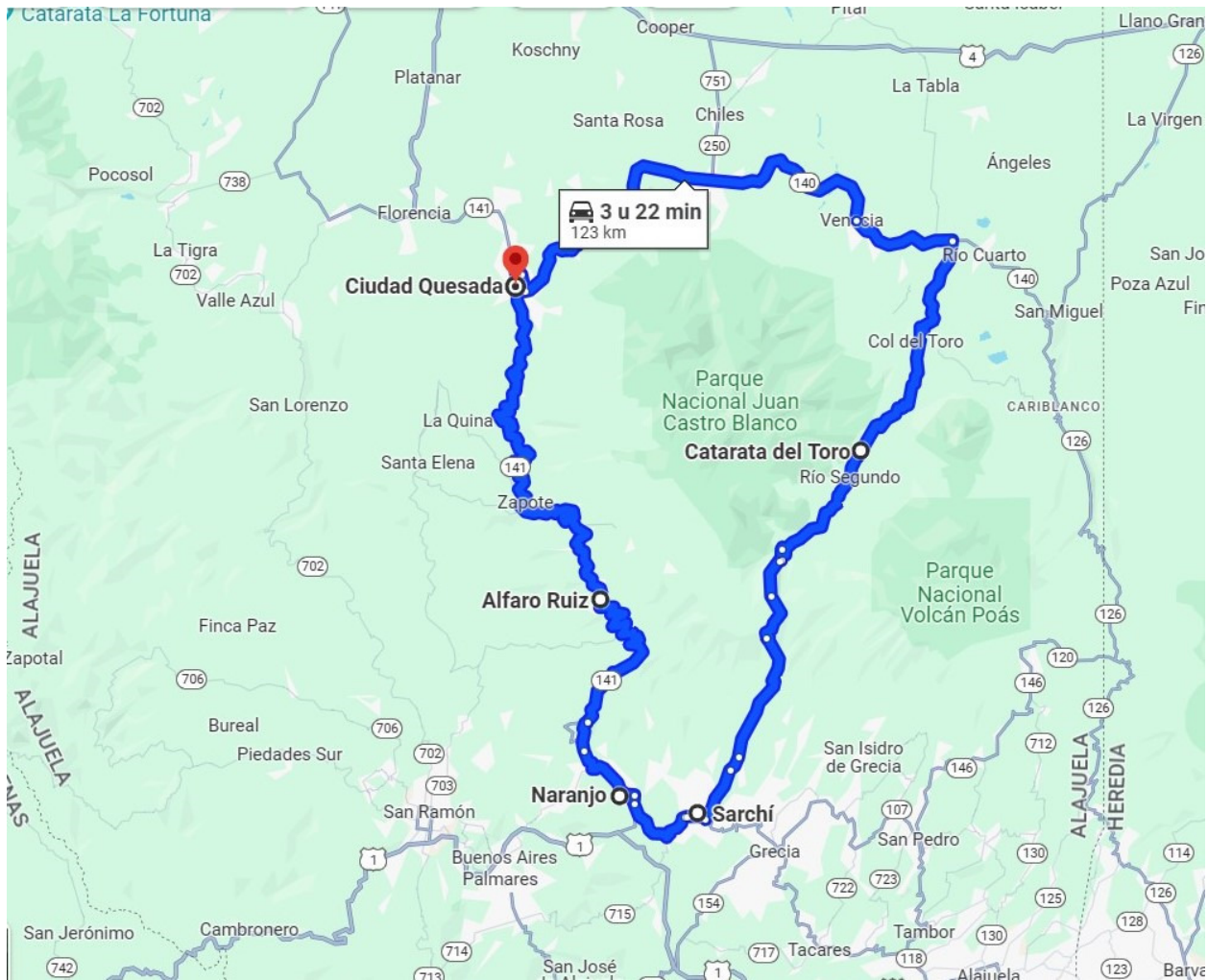


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### Tip

- 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.