



# 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 have only 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

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 the highlands, a world-famous city park, scenic route, mountains, the 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

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 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 primarily 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 more on your right side. Turn left at the end of the road, 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 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.

### **After that**

After a bit of 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.

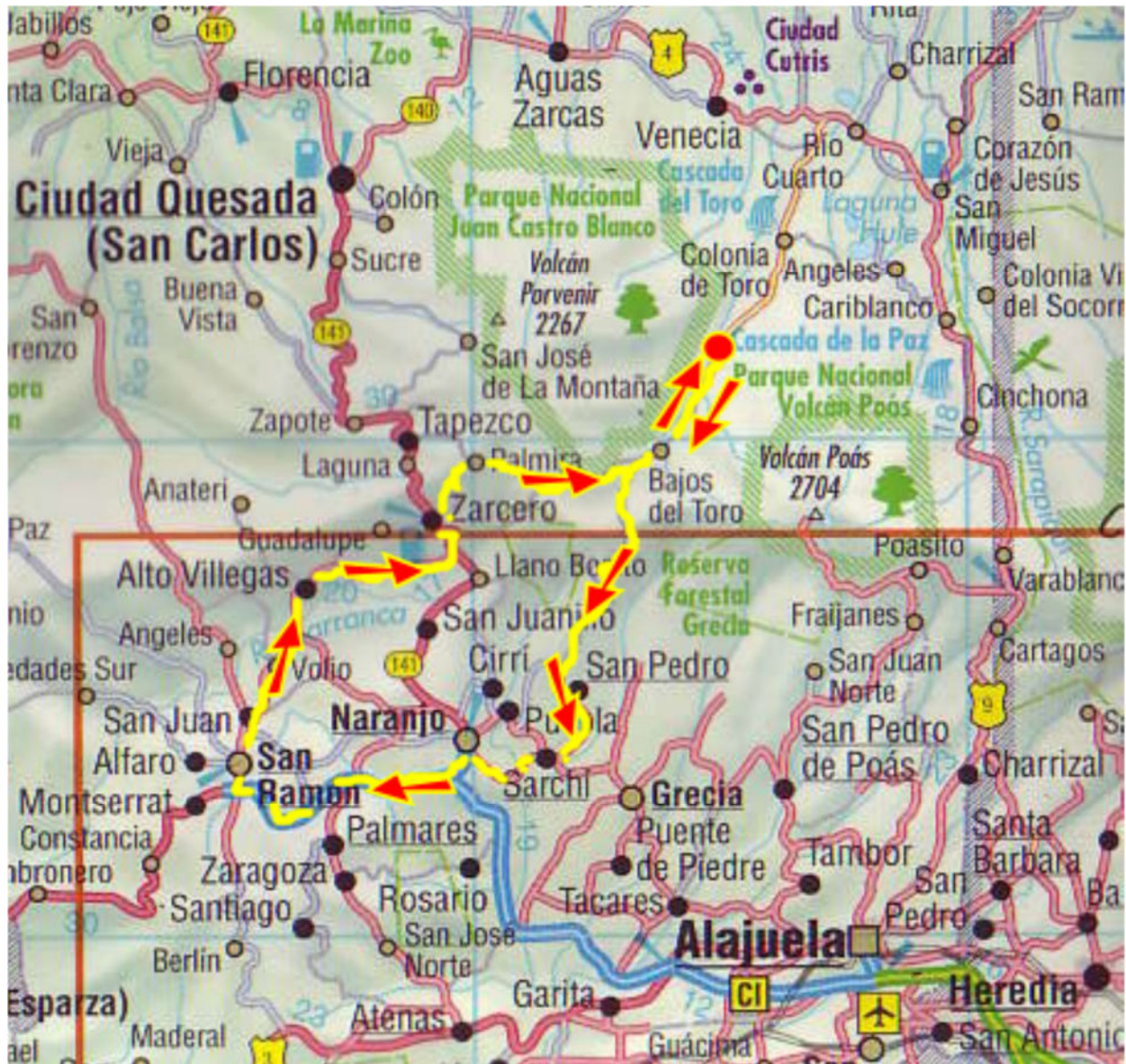
Depending on the time left, drive back to your hotel. After passing the third and last bridge before Bajos Del Toro, turn right to the national park Juan Castro Blanco. Drive for two kilometers until you reach the park ranger's house, Minaet, and start walking, either left or to the right. The chances 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 artisans 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 Highway 1 or the Inter-Americana. Turn right and drive back to San Ramón and your hotel and relax!

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

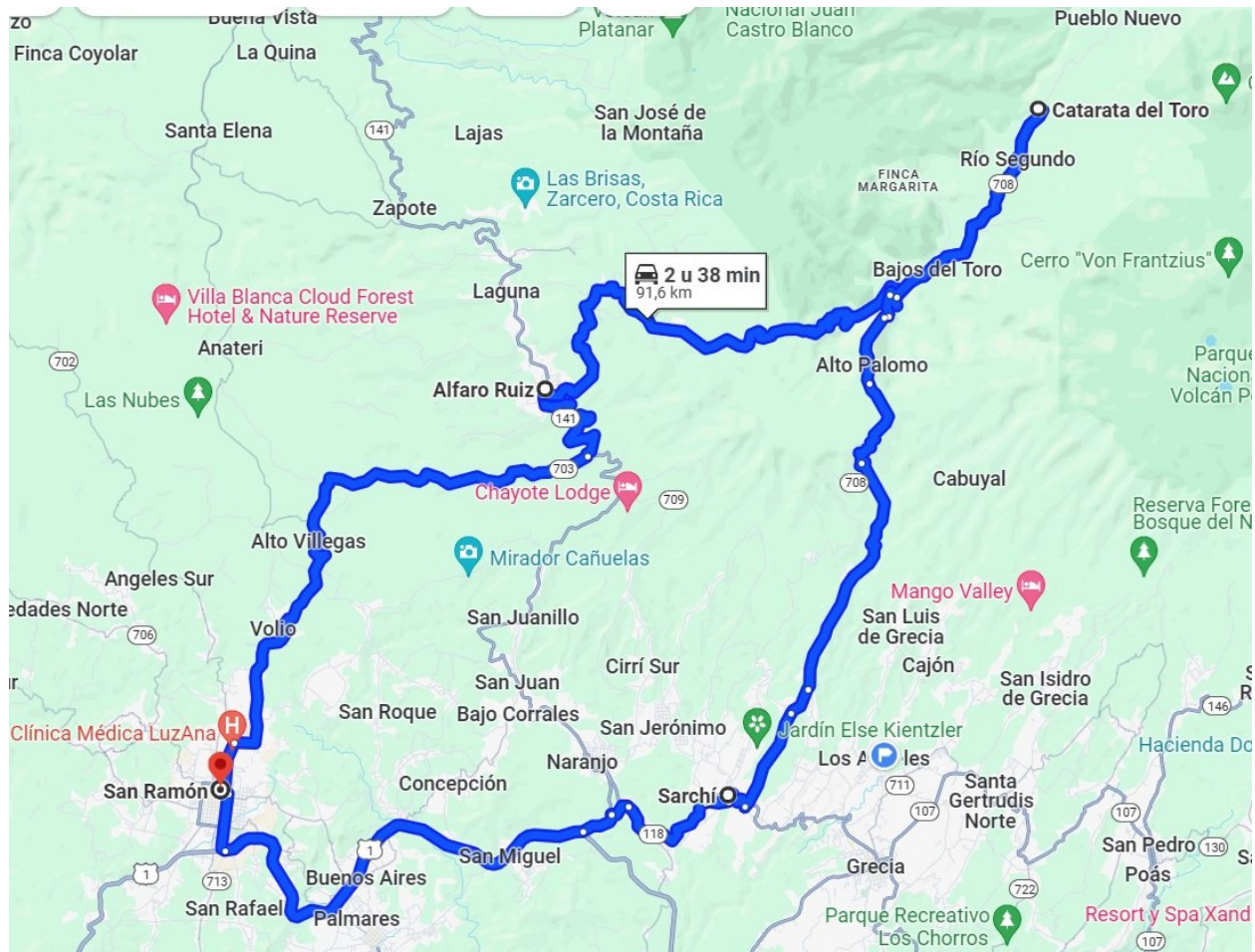


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### Tip

- 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 not possible on Sundays, as Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica close that day.