

The Perfect Day Trip

Monday to Saturday.

Dear guest,

We are pleased to have you as our guest and we want to assist you with some ideas for a beautiful day trip. Do know that you can use our hotel as a base to discover a beautiful part of Costa Rica.

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

Goals: 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 amazing handcraft.

Cost: Approximately \$99 for two persons, including entrance Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica, big lunch and 20 liters of gas.

Duration: Full day.

Description: Start around 08.00 hours or as early as possible. Use the app Waze or 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 sculptures (free admission). After this little stop the route will bring you uphill (after church turn right) to the towns of **Palmira y Pueblo Nuevo** where they grow vegetables. Shortly after Pueblo Nuevo 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.

After you start descending you will enter the cloud forest. Road is steep, narrow and has some interesting curves. At the bottom you will cross a little bridge over the rio Toro, which originates a little more on your right side. Now you will drive for two kilometers more, at the end 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. Time should be 10.00 – 11.00 hours.

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 amount of hummingbirds flying around you. Here you can enjoy a typical Costarican meal and drink. **This place will be a highlight** of your entire Costa Rican vacation. Entrance fee will be \$14 per person.

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 will be \$15 per person.

Interesting: combo price for both projects is \$25.

After you are refreshed and refilled, get in the car and drive left (downhill) for only one more 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 water in the big green pipe is used three times in three different power plants). Get back in the car and make carefully an 180° turn and go up back to Bajos Del Toro. After passing the Catarata, you will cross the **first bridge**, pull over, get under the fence and walk to the river (25 meters). Just taste the water, 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.

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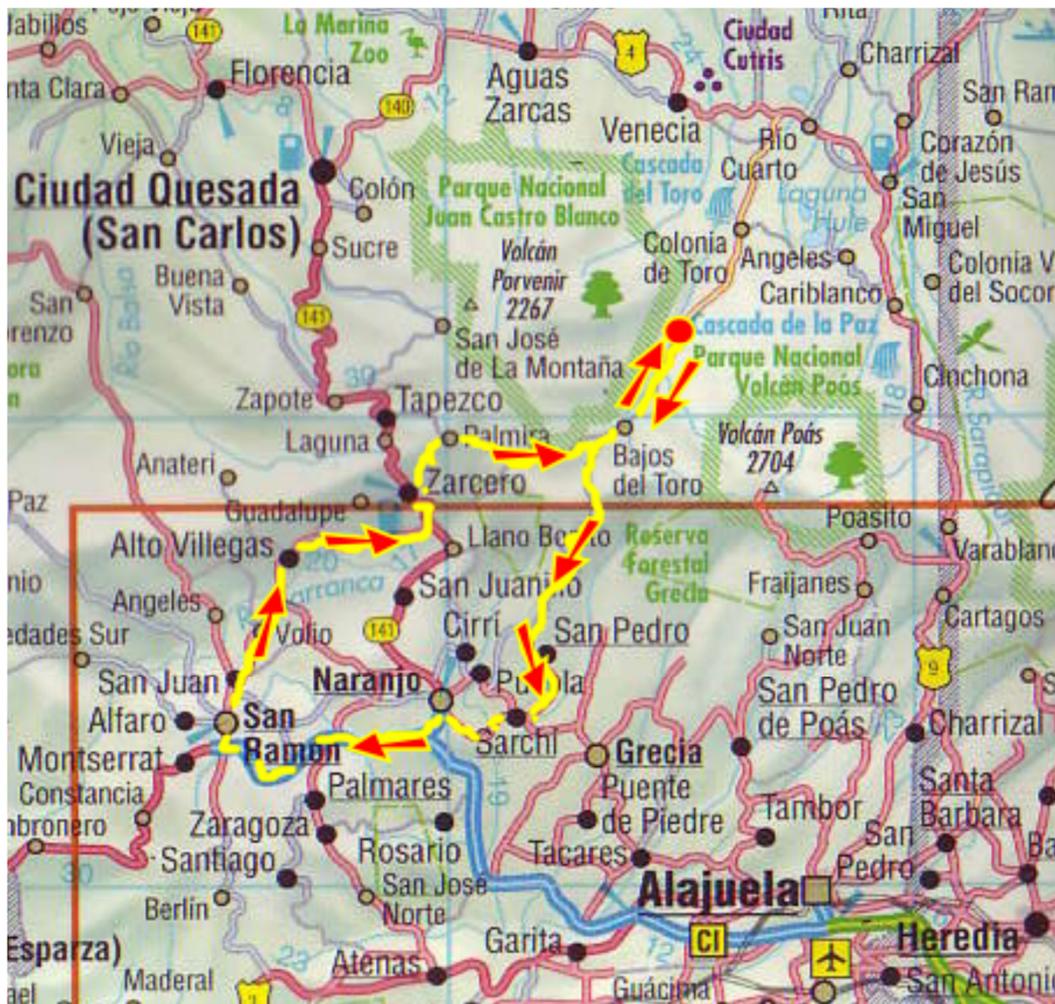
Back on track, depending of the time left, you either can go back to your hotel or, after crossing the third and last bridge just before the town turn right (at **Villa Neilly**) drive for two kilometers straight into the **national Park Juan Castro Blanco**. Depending on your energy levels and time you can park at the corral/houses and start walking in the park for free. **Chances to see wildlife here is high!**

From here back to the main road, turn right, check the little town of **Bajos Del Toro**, drive on, take the mountain road to **Sarchí** (not the one you came from), drive, enjoy the views and the road and keep going uphill, just after the highest point (2.000 meter above sea level) you have some nice views of the central valley. Drive all the way down to **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 to **Naranjo** (to the right/west) and back to the highway or **Interamericana**. Turn right and drive back to **San Ramón** and your hotel.... **and relax! Thank you for your interest.**

Tip:

- Do not rely on your GPS provided by your car rental company – it does not work!
- Instead use the app Waze or Google Maps – ‘Catarata Toro’.

- This daytrip is not possible on Sundays as Catarata Del Toro and Blue Falls of Costa Rica are closed that day.



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