

# Costa Rica - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture



Costa Rica is renowned for its tropical beauty, the warmth and charm of the Ticosits peoples own name for themselvesand its political stability. This Switzerland of the Americas is widely regarded as an oasis of democracy in turbulent Central America. Since the first edition of Culture Smart! Costa Rica was published in 2005, however, there have been some important changes and, with rapid economic development, some growing pains. Over the past few years there has been a movement of population to the towns of the Central Valley. Higher education is now the norm for young Ticos, and the middle class has expandedbut so has the gap between rich and poor. Tourism took a dive after the 2009 recession, and the national debt has grown, while the arrival of multinationals and significant Chinese investment has been welcomed. Unemployment has risen, people are prepared to go on strike more readily, and there is a general disillusionment with politicians. In the face of mounting difficulties the Ticos remain remarkably peaceable, relaxed, and fun-loving. Their enthusiasm for life is seen as much in their passion for soccer as in their demonstrations in support of human and political rights. Culture Smart! Costa Rica explores and explains the complex human realities of modern Costa Rican life. Armed with this information, you will be better equipped to understand your hosts and to enjoy your visit to this beguiling and beautiful country to the full.

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Alchemical Garden will lead the community to transform on a number of levels : Alchemical Garden with Spring Wheat "Crop Circles" June, 2011 BUILD COMMUNITY: The Garden creates a gathering space for individuals to form a more intimate relationship with their community. The space is designed with visual features and seating areas to compel passers-by to pause, reflect, and have a multi-sensory interactive experience ( sight, smell, touch, taste, smell) with the garden and the community. Read the rest of this entry Categories: Alchemical Garden, Articulture, Current Events, Projects. Tags: alchemy, art, bike, crucible, ecology, garden, green art, hedge, hyper-accumulating, industry, living structure, Newburyport, permaculture, rail, sculpture, soil remediation, trail, tree guilds.

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