

Paradise Post

News From Ojochal, Costa Rica
and Beyond

April 2019



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Updates from the Osa

IN June we will be exhibiting at the International Living "Fast Track Costa Rica" event in San Jose, Costa Rica June 12 - 14. We'll be offering tours both before the event and after. (sign up below).

We are super excited about our new ocean view lots in Vista Sin Fin. Come see them before they are gone. The Envision Fest just ended in Uvita, a holistic gathering of both young and old interested in ways to improve both our lives and our influence on others and the planet we live on. Tickets are now on sale for next year's Envision Fest February 20 - 24. See the article on the festival for more information.

We are also thrilled to see the new plaza recently opened in Ojochal and new home to Citrus Restaurant. As one of the best restaurants in the entire southern region, their new home is both beautiful and conveniently located to our

developments. The plaza will also have a new grocery store as well as a new pharmacy.

As always we'll be running lots of tours this summer for all those who want to come experience life in our wonderful International community.

We'll also be offering a Costa Rica/Panama 10 day country and Property tour July 5 - 15. At \$1,800 per single (in a single room) and \$3,000 per couple, most meals are included, as is all lodging, transportation and tours. We start in San Jose, CR and end in Panama City, Panama.

Steve Linder

Steve@PacificLots.com



Citrus Restaurant and the New Plaza



Discovery Property Tour Dates

4 day all inclusive \$299 per person

April 24 - 27

May 8 - 11

May 22 - 25

June 5 - 8

June 8 - 11

June 15 - 18 (after the International Living Costa Rica conference)

June 16 - 19

July 5 - 14 Ten Day Costa Rica & Panama Tour - Sign Up

July 10 - 13

July 17 - 20

August 7 - 10

Aug 28 - Sept 2

(Labor day weekend)

To sign up for the 4 Day Tour Click Here

www.PacificLots.com

The Best Beaches in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is famous for beautiful beaches. With coastlines on the Pacific and Caribbean, it's home to some of the best PLAYAS in the world. Golden sand shaded by palm trees and powdery white sand surrounded by offshore corals. You can enjoy sublime sunrises and Pacific beaches that glow with fiery sunsets!

I am going to list my top 11 choices for the BEST beaches in Costa Rica:

- Manuel Antonio Beach** - Everything people love about Costa Rica with spectacular beaches, calm turquoise water, lush rainforest and abundant wildlife. \$16 per person if you are not a local to enter, allowing you to see the wildlife and visit the 3-4 beaches in Manuel Antonio National Park. The park beaches are much more tranquil than the free beaches in the area because there are no vendors and much less populated due to the entrance fee. If you leave your bag unattended on the beach and have food in it, the monkeys will come out of the forest, look through it, and steal your food from you :)
- Playa Ventanas** - Playa Ventanas (Windows Beach) gets its name from the beautiful sea caves that line the north and south ends of the beach. The two caves on the north end extend from the beach out to the ocean, which is a distance of about 50 meters. Absolutely spectacular!
- Playa Ballena** - Bahia Ballena is located just 15 minutes south of the more well-known surf town, Dominical, and is a breath of fresh air for travelers looking to enjoy the natural beauty of the Southern Pacific region, as well as the laid-back charm of a small, authentic Tico town. Bahia Ballena, which literally means "Whale Bay", has its name for two reasons:
 - At low tide the sandbar on the north end of the Ballena Marine National Park beach forms into what from above looks like a giant whale's tail, aka the Whale's Tail.
 - It provides the perfect place for whales from both the north and south to give birth; for this reason, there are actually whale watching seasons in this lucky town.
- Playa Dominical** - With its great

surfing waves, laid back lifestyle and beautiful landscapes, Dominical captures the essence of an old Costa Rican beach town and continues to captivate the many visitors that come every year. Dominical is one of the top surfing beaches in Costa Rica, attracting people from all over the world looking for a laid-back beach town to catch waves.

- Playa Tamarindo** - Picture a tropical paradise and you're likely thinking of somewhere that resembles Tamarindo. You will be busy soaking in the bright sunshine and splashing around in the stunning turquoise water. Those looking to dive in the water can just head to the beach with a towel and have a day filled with fun swimming. Those that are more adventurous can rent scuba gear and spend the day exploring what is underneath the surface of the pristine water.
- Playa Teresa** - With stunning white sand beaches, reliable surfing waves and a laid-back vibe you will love this beach. The sun-warmed clear water ranges from knee-deep to about chest-deep and is filled with all kinds of interesting sea creatures that get trapped when the tide goes out. You can find sea anemones, sea stars, crabs, mussels, hermit crabs and lots of little brightly colored fish. Rocks and volcanic reef create the structure around the tide pool. Since the water is shallow and it's right off the beach, this is a perfect swimming and snorkeling site for everyone.
- Malpais** - offers rocky coves, white sand beaches, waterfalls, rainforests, surfing, and relaxation near a remote fishing village and Cabo Blanco National Park. The prime attraction is surfing at beaches. There is fishing, boating, snorkeling, diving, hiking, horseback riding, biking, and 4-wheel drive touring. A 4-wheel drive vehicle comes in handy for navigating unpaved roads in this still mostly wild area, particularly during the rainy season.
- Playa Hermosa** - Hermosa, which means "beautiful" in Spanish, is an aptly named gray-sand beach that perches between two mountains. It is a fabulous getaway for those seeking quality relaxation.
- Playa Blanca** - Playa Blanca has pristine white sand and alluring water. This is a welcome oasis. Plenty of trees for shade, free loungers (if you're early); picnic and BBQ

spots, warm clear water, rocks pools at low tide for the snorkelers.

- Playa Samara** - The ocean here is shallow, and the waves are present enough to learn to surf but unforgiving enough to enjoy a day splashing around in them. After a day in the waves, there are sunset beach lounges with mellow music, creative cocktails and international cuisine. The magical sunsets during our stay turned the sky various shades of purple and pink, causing a wall of bikini-clad amateur paparazzi to form, trying to capture the stunning scenery.
- Ostional Wild Life Refuge** -Turtle Hatching- One of the two most important areas in the world for nesting of the Olive Ridley turtle. This is the place for nearly guaranteed Costa Rica turtle watching. Every year, millions of sea turtles lumber onto the beaches of Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. Every year, millions of sea turtles are born on the beaches of Ostional Wildlife Refuge. And every year, thousands of lucky visitors come to these beaches to witness this spectacular event!



Lipstick Palm of Costa

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Who hasn't lusted after this tropical beauty, with its scarlet crownshaft and petioles, red as sealing wax. Frustratingly, they grow like weeds in South-East Asia and Costa Rica, yet are so rarely available elsewhere. The small seeds germinate rapidly, and the subsequent seedlings show color from quite a young age. These palms require tropical conditions, such as in Costa Rica, but will also grow happily in the greenhouse or conservatory.



Also known as red palm or red sealing wax palm, lipstick palm (*Cyrtostachys renda*) is appropriately named for its distinctive, bright red fronds and trunk. Lipstick palm is considered by many to be one of the world's most beautiful and exotic palms. Lipstick palm growing conditions includes partial shade while the plant is young. Otherwise, mature trees thrive in full sunlight. This warm climate tree prefers year round temperatures between 75 and 85 F. (24-29 C.). Red sealing wax palm doesn't grow well in dry soil and isn't tolerant of strong winds. It requires high humidity and even grows in swampy conditions or standing water, making this palm a useful pond plant. Although lipstick palm can be started by seed,

it's much easier and faster to remove and replant suckers from the side of an established tree. If you're adventurous and want to try your hand at growing lipstick palm from seeds, remove dry seedheads from a plant, then remove the seeds and plant them in a planting media with excellent moisture retention. Germination generally takes at least two to four months, and seeds may not sprout for up to nine months.



Imagine starting the day under your shaded thatched tiki hut, while sipping on a mimosa to begin your adventurous day! There's a large demand for artificial thatching products that are both realistic and economical. In the past synthetic thatch has been either one or the other. All that has changed with new and eco-friendly thatch work solution that replicates real reed and palm beautifully while still being affordable and long-lasting.

Now you can have long lasting, recyclable, water resistance, fireproof and great looking synthetic thatch. There are attractive and affordable synthetic thatch selections with high quality, thatching products to choose from and available right in Ojochal. Synthetic thatch is also as

environmentally responsible. Most are made of polypropylene, which is one of the most chemically neutral plastics in the world. This means that the simulated reed and palm panels are safe for use around sensitive water tables, landscaping, and marine environments. And the water runoff from roofs thatched with these products poses no risk to human health, as well.

All of this addresses the demand for safe and sustainable synthetic thatching while also providing optimal realism and durability. Synthetic thatch is a great choice for homes. Artificial thatch products create a welcoming, natural-looking outdoor space where you can relax and enjoy life. Artificial thatching is an excellent choice that will deliver years of worry-free performance.

The largest distributor of Artificial Thatch in Costa Rica is Palmex Costa Rica, headquartered right in Ojochal. Contact www.palmexcostarica.com and tell them Pacific Lots sent you. Their product is guaranteed waterproof when applied at slopes over 30 degrees and is warranted for 20 years.



Where to Go Birding in Costa Rica

Where to go birding? It's a perennial question for those of us who want to lay eyes on some avian life forms. Do we just keep it simple and stare out the back window? Do we bundle up and head to the nearest reservoir, or a favorite park? Maybe a wildlife refuge or nature preserve? Or, do we make that bleary eyed trip to a place where we stand in various lines and pay for overpriced snacks so we can cover large distances in a matter of hours? All that waiting and annoyance so we can see a big new suite of birds?

Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan. Resplendent Quetzal. Blue-and-gold Tanager. Just a few birds with justifiable fancy names and unless you live in Ecuador, Colombia, or Central America, plane travel is more or less required to meet them in their feathered persons. In my opinion, oh it is definitely worth the long ride (!) but even after exiting the airport in a brand new birdy country, we still need to know where we need to go to see those and other species.

Back in the days of fewer people and more habitat, finding birds was probably as easy as pie. Can you imagine going birding in the hardwood forests of the eastern United States or Canada or Britain oh say 300 years ago? As long as the local people allowed birding on their land, you wouldn't need any information on where to find birds because they would have been everywhere. An abundance of shorebirds in the wetlands, multitudes of wood-warblers, vireos, and other songbirds doing their vocal thing from the woodland mosaic. Prairies and other naturally open habitats bubbling with longspurs, meadowlarks, and other species of the grass. By historical accounts and the much greater degree of intact habitat, we know there

used to be a lot more birds, like millions and millions more.

The situation in Costa Rica would have been just as or even more birdy. A constant flow of avian activity ebbing through mature tropical forests from the hot and humid lowlands up into the cool, high mountains. The logistics would have been tougher than a triathlon but the birds would have been everywhere because there was intact habitat everywhere and therein lies the key to finding birds no matter where you bring the bins. Roads made things easier for birding but they also came with a hefty price.

Cut a road through forest and it becomes an avenue of invitation for logging, hunting, and turning bastions of biodiversity into hot cow pasture. Although protecting the lands along roads can prevent such destruction, roadside preserves are much more the objection to the common rule. As with most places on the planet, in Costa Rica, roads followed that typical plan of deforestation leading to pasture or ag. lands long before anyone gave a hoot about cutting down trees. Fortunately, before the entire place was shorn of centenarian trees, protections were put into place to preserve watersheds and biodiversity and this is why, in Costa Rica, we can still drive through cloud forest, take a road to mature lowland rainforest, and drive around and visit several distinct habitats with some fantastic roadside birding. Since there are so many good places to go birding, it really is hard to think of the must-visit sites, the places that host the most. However, if I had to settle on three of the best sites for each habitat and biogeographic region, this is what comes to mind:

Cloud forest

Monteverde area
Tapanti National Park
Cataratas del Toro

High elevation forest

Various sites on Cerro de la Muerte
Irazu
Poas

Foothill forest

Arenal area
Tenorio area
Braulio Carrillo area

Caribbean lowland rainforest

Sarapiquí
Laguna del Lagarto
Various sites near and south of Limón

South Pacific lowland rainforest

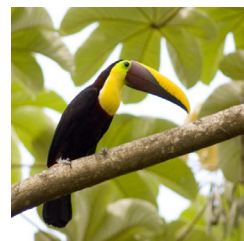
La Gamba
Osa
Dominical area
Carara National Park- not as good for the south endemics as the other areas mentioned but an overall excellent mix of birds.

Dry forest

Santa Rosa National Park
Palo Verde National Park

Wetlands

Palo Verde National Park
Cano Negro area



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Wayne and Dianne Simpson

Dianne and I were both Air Force “brats”. Both of our fathers’ last duty station was Eglin AFB in Northwest Florida. We met at Okaloosa-Walton Junior College (now Northwest Florida State Collage) in 1965. We were married in 1968 while I was serving in the US Navy. We have both retired from our traditional careers and are now traveling the globe as photographers and photojournalists. Our primary home is in less than a mile from where we first met. Our plans for Costa Rica are still developing.



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Envision Fest Dates 2020
February 20 - 24

Brought to life in 2011, Envision is a transformative festival dedicated to awakening human potential and positive energy. Located in Uvita, Costa Rica where lush, mountainous rainforests meet the sparkling, sandy beaches of the Pacific, Envision has blossomed from a backyard event into an internationally acclaimed community gathering. Thousands of festivalgoers experience days bursting with art, spirituality, yoga, education, and sustainability and nights committed to celebrating humanity through music, dance and performance. The inspiration for Envision revolves around being radically self-reliant and living sustainable lives; collaborative projects and musical performances happen daily, along with sunset celebrations at the close of each day.

2019 Ten Day Country and Property Tours

Our **NEW** COSTA RICA & PANAMA TOUR

We are running a new 10 day tour this year, a Costa Rica and Panama tourism and property tour. We are offering this higher end tourism tour July 5 - 14 that will start in San Jose, Costa Rica and end in Panama City, Panama. The tour is mostly about tourist locations and attractions have a few property tours involved in both Costa Rica and Panama. We’ve had prior tour clients ask us to offer a tour like this and have now put one together. We work hard on planning these tours to find great attractions and activities, great lodging choices, great restaurants and try to keep you amazed and entertained but not crazy busy. We now include all park entrance fees, activity fees and all meals except a few dinners in all tours. We visit national parks, beaches, take boat rides, see animals, see waterfalls, visit quaint towns, tour landmarks and points of interest including city tours. We travel in great vehicles and on the Costa Rica/Panama tour we’ll be visiting the Panama Canal as well as many other locations. The cost is \$1800 per single or \$3,000 per couple.

Go to <https://www.pacificlots.com/costa-rica-panama-tour> for More INFO on the tour.



www.PacificLots.com

Costa Rica is Noted for Amazing Biodiversity

Costa Rica is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world — you can find nearly 5 percent of all known plants and animal species in its national parks and wildlife refuges. ... Some of Costa Rica's national parks have bird species that you can see very few places in the world. In fact Costa Rica has more species of birds than the US and Canada combined. This is because it is a migratory destination for both North American and South America.

Costa Rica's biodiversity is attributed to the dramatic shifts in terrain — this tiny country has wetlands, mountains, rivers, and arid plains. You can find many different types of forests here, including tropical dry forests, rainforests, and cloud forests. There are mountain ranges, some of which are studded with volcanoes.

While you're here you'll see evidence of Costa Rica's commitment to protecting its wildlife. Deforestation was a major

problem in the 20th century, but organizations in Costa Rica are committed to planting trees and a host of other efforts to offset carbon footprints. Well maintained parks and knowledgeable guides make it easy to appreciate Costa Rica's wildlife.

Costa Rica channels funds from a fuel tax, car stamp duty and energy fees to pay for nature reserve management and environmental services like clean air, fresh water and biodiversity protection.

Landowners are paid to preserve old-growth forests and to plant new trees. As a result, forest cover has risen from 24% in 1985 to close to 46% today. It has also established a national commission on biodiversity, comprising scientists, civil servants and indigenous representatives, which proposes policies to the government and promotes green education among the public.

The Certificate for Sustainable Tourism (CST) is another step in the right direction. CST is a certification program that evaluates businesses for sustainable practices. The CST rates companies from 0 to 5 based upon their degree of environmental, social and economic involvement. Higher ratings are given to businesses that successfully balance the impact of their activities. The program is voluntary but rigorous. Evidence is presented on over 100 practices — involving community, the environment, and labor — before a business is given a CST rating. These ratings help visitors to Costa Rica make educated purchasing decisions.



Ocean Front Lot available in Puerto San Juanillo

This .32 Acre Ocean Front lot is titled in the maritime zone and located north of Samara and just two minutes drive from the town of Puerto San Juanillo. The lot is located in a private gated community with underground utilities in place and paved roads. The development was built about ten years ago and recently purchased by a large developer/builder who is now ready to build out the phase. The lot features a wonderful unobstructed ocean view and is just a few steps from the beach. Located just a minute's walk from the beach, this lot is a rare find in Costa Rica. The lot offers enormous sunset views and the rare chance to own ocean front in Costa Rica. The motivated seller is asking \$249,000 but is open to offers. Interested? Call Steve at 305-295-0137 or email steve@pacificlots.com and we can arrange a showing to cater to your schedule. This one will go FAST...



You asked for it and here it is! We've built a **brand new** 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with in ground pool, landscape and even furnished (all but the appliances), This new home sits on lot 11-26 in Phase 11 and is almost ready to just move in. The home sits on a great mountain view 1.39 acre lot, providing ample outdoor living space and waiting for your finishing touches. The entire package is priced at \$299,000 and available immediately. For those of you who don't want to wait for a custom home to be built, here's a great home ready for you to move right in or put in our rental pool to generate income until you are ready to move in or occupy seasonal. This won't last long so if you want it, let me know at Steve@pacificlots.com

MOVE-IN READY HOUSE

PHASE #11 - LOT #26



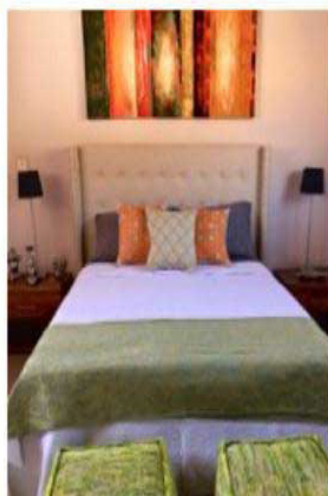
FEATURES

This brand new three-bedroom & fully furnished and decorated house is located on a beautiful mountain view property. Enjoy a cocktail in the backyard pool while looking at the beautiful Ojochal mountains. The large property is bordered in the back by the jungle and is ideally located in Phase 11. Great potential for vacation rentals.

 OJOCHAL, COSTA RICA

 5,636 M2 / 1,39 ACRES

 GREAT MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$299,000

Ready for you to add appliances and move in

More Photos of the Move In Ready Home!

