



# Information Beach Cottage

Playa Cacao, Golfito , Costa Rica





### General description

The house is a simple, wooden cottage with open windows (no wire-screen!) and a palm-thatched roof. There are no doors with locks. It is accessed by 100 steps from the landing beach and has a spectacular 240-degree view of the ocean all the way from Golfito to the Osa Peninsula. It is a very basic but highly romantic jungle house and cannot be compared with holiday homes in Florida or the Caribbean. It was built in 1974 and purchased by Michael Schnitzler in 1989. There is no air conditioning and no hot water, but the house has a shower, flush toilet and a fully equipped kitchen. The cottage is the last house on the coast for almost 4 miles and is completely surrounded by 25 acres of rainforest. The lush garden is full of coconut palms, orchids, heliconias, hibiscus and much



### Swimming

Swimming is possible at all times at the boat landing, where the water is always calm. The secluded swimming beach is reached by a 5-minute trail leading down through secondary growth rainforest. The trail can be slippery but is secured by steps and ropes. Although all beaches in Costa Rica are public, virtually nobody ever visits our swimming beach. Water temperature year round is approx. 85 F., and there are few waves. The water is relatively clean but is rarely clear due to the sediment that empties into it from the surrounding jungle. There are no dangerous fish, but occasionally swimmers are stung by microscopic, harmless jellyfish. When the tides change, it is possible that debris from Golfito bay is drawn out into the Golfo Dulce and passes by.



### Caretaker

Gerardo and Cecilia are the caretaker couple who have been employed since 1992. They live in a separate house below the cottage and are being paid to clean the property and the house when it is occupied. They are absolutely reliable and understand a little English. Feel free to ask them if there are any questions or problems with the house. The rental price includes pick-up and drop-off in Golfito plus one daily trip to Golfito and back (incl. one hour stay). Please coordinate with Gerardo the day before as he also does excursions for Esquinas Lodge. You can arrange to stay longer in Golfito if you wish (\$10/hour).

### Weather and Climate

There is a permanent light breeze, temperatures range from 85 F. during the day to 70 F. in the night. Humidity is around 90%. Mornings are usually beautiful and sunny; it usually rains in the afternoon and stops in the evening. The driest months are from December to March, the rainiest months are May, June and September. July and August see lots of sun but often violent thunderstorms in the afternoon. Dawn is around 5.00 a.m., and it gets dark around 6.00 p.m. all year around.



### Downstairs area

The house has an area of around 35 by 15 feet with two stories. The downstairs area contains a large table with chairs and a sofa, a kitchen, a cot-bed and a small cabinet where kitchen appliances and food are stored. On the shelf you will find books about Costa Rican birds and plants, candles, sun screen, etc. The house is fully equipped with sheets, towels, and kitchen utensils, including an electric stove with oven, a refrigerator-freezer, coffee maker, blender and toaster. There are pots, pans, plastic containers, dishwashing cleaner, sponges and everything else you need in a normal kitchen. We leave things like salt, sugar, flour, rice, cooking oil, and cooking sauces in the fridge. Feel free to use them but we would be grateful if you would refill or replace them before leaving.



### Cooking

The supermarket in Golfito has everything you need except fish, which you can buy at one of the fish shops (ask Gerardo). Lemon grass, culantro, oregano etc. grow next to the house. Use the blender to make fresh tropical fruit drinks. To avoid invasions by ants, wash dishes and kitchen shelves immediately after cooking. We recommend storing as much as possible, especially fruit and vegetables, in the refrigerator. Organic waste like banana or pineapple peels can be thrown over the fence facing the ocean (don't throw fish or meat!). Paper, plastic, cans and other garbage can be put in plastic bags and hung next to the sink. When the garbage bag is full, bring it to Gerardo and he will take it to Golfito.

### Bathroom

The bathroom is basic. There is a sink, two cold water showers (approx. 75 F.) and a flush toilet (yes, you can flush down your toilet paper!). Laundry or wet clothing can be hung on the plastic lines next to the bathroom to dry in the sun, but don't forget to move it to underneath the house before you leave – it can rain any time. Spare towels are in plastic boxes in the upstairs wardrobe.





### Upstairs sleeping area and balcony

Inside and outside staircases lead up to the sleeping area that has two queen beds, both enclosed by mosquito nets and separated by a prefabricated wall. Each bed has a reading lamp. Clothing and luggage can be stored in a separate wardrobe with shelves. Two reclining deck chairs can be shoved out onto the spacious balcony for sunbathing. The view from the balcony is breathtaking.



Beach Cottage Package (min. 2 persons)	4 nights	5 nights	6 nights	7 nights
2 adults	480	570	660	750
Each additional adult	160	185	210	235
Each additional child (5-12 years)	80	95	110	125
Extra (5th) cot bed	60	70	80	90
Children 0-5 free	-	-	-	-
Rates in USD valid until December 31, 2009				

### Reservations and Payment

Reservations can be made through Esquinas Rain-forest Lodge (esquinas@racsa.co.cr). You can pay directly at the lodge (cash or credit card) or make a pre-payment by bank transfer to:

**Albergue Bosque Esquinas S.A.**  
**Banco Nacional de Costa Rica**  
**ABA#019462 SWIFT: BNCRCRSJ**  
**Account #3283-2, Agencia Golfito.**



**Guests renting the Beach Cottage are doing so at their own risk. We do not assume any responsibility or liability for injuries or damages sustained in the house, on the property or in the surrounding jungle or ocean.**



### Animals and Insects

When fruits or blossoms are ripe, a troupe of capuchin monkeys often visits the property. A group of howler monkeys lives on the property (rarely seen but often heard). Regular visitors include coatimundis, racoons (to attract them, lay out a cut and peeled banana at sunset), parrots, toucans, hummingbirds, tanagers, rare birds such as crested guans and great curassows, colorful butterflies, and various lizards and frogs. Pelicans and other seabirds often fly past the house at eye level, and sometimes dolphins can be seen in the ocean below. Snakes do inhabit the forest but never venture near the house because the grass is cut regularly. It is extremely rare to encounter a snake on the property, but don't venture into thge garden barefoot. We fumigate the house twice a year, but since it is an open house you might nevertheless encounter an occasional cockroach or scorpion (the sting is painful but harmless), spider (not poisonous), wasp nest or termite dust on the table. Bats use the house as their sleeping quarters during the daytime, and geckos and moths are attracted by the light in the night. Insects are present mainly at dusk, and we recommend using a repellent against the no-see-ums. Living in the jungle is an unforgettable, exciting experience but it is possible that people with strong phobias might not feel comfortable in the open house.



### Water, Electricity

We are the last house with electricity before the jungle begins (110-V.). Tri-band cell phones work, but internet does not. Water comes from two large rainwater tanks that normally fill up after each heavy rainfall, safe drinking water from a reservoir above Playa Cacao is available from a hose at the landing beach (we carry it up in 1-gallon plastic containers). During the dry season, we recommend that you use water economically and check the water level in the tanks regularly. After heavy rain, remove leaves from the wire mesh net above the tank. If both tanks seem nearly empty, it is possible to pump water up from the beach. There is no hot water, but the water in the tank is always at a pleasant 75 F.



The water tanks





### Transportation

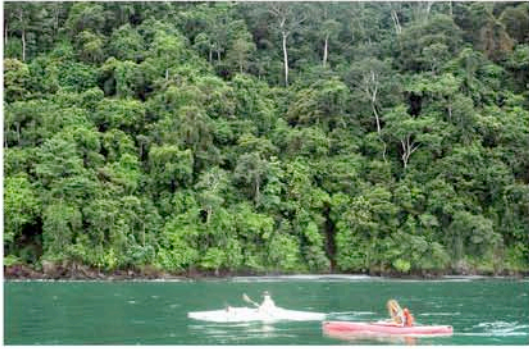
Free transportation to or from Esquinas Lodge is included for guests staying minimum 2 nights at Esquinas Lodge or 4 nights in the Jungle Villa AND staying at the Beach Cottage. For guests staying only at the Beach Cottage, free boat transportation to and from Golfito (Samoa del Sur dock) is included. You can leave your car at the parking lot of Hotel Samoa del Sur for \$10 per day. To ensure pick-up, either call Esquinas Lodge (27418001) and ask them to notify Gerardo, or call Gerardo (88798184) or Cecilia (88291154) directly.

### Playa Cacao and Golfito

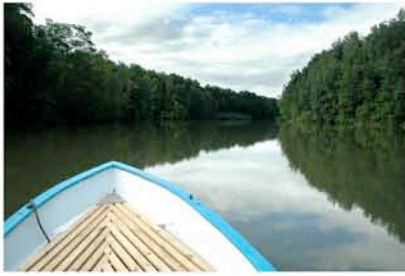
At low tide, you can walk to Playa Cacao in 15 minutes or paddle there with our kayaks. There is a decent restaurant „Siete Mares“, that serves Costa Rican and American food, but no stores. Golfito has an airport, a hospital, supermarkets, fish shops, restaurants, a duty free zone (Deposito Libre). and a Banco Nacional with an ATM. Ask Gerardo to take you to the “Bomba” (gas station), where you will find Pearson Supermarket, an Internet Café and the SANSA airline office.



## Boat Excursions in the Golfo Dulce with Gerardo



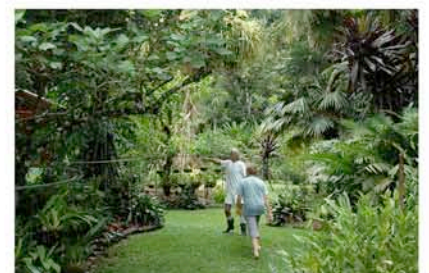
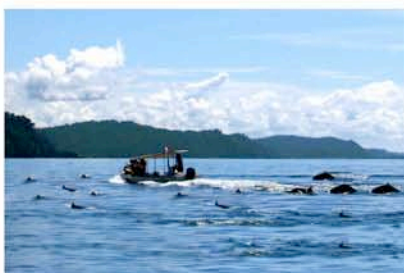
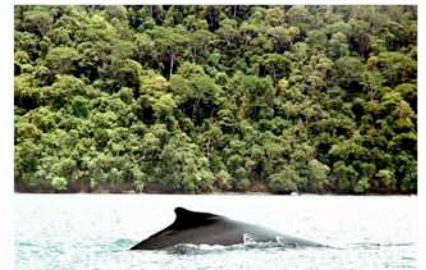
Please notify Gerardo at least one day in advance if you would like to do a boat excursion. Since he is also employed by Esquinas Lodge, he might not be available every day. Please pay him directly in cash (USD or Colones). Since we don't have to transport guests back and forth from the lodge, we can offer these tours for a much lower price. Example: the Rio Coto tour for 4 people when booked at the lodge costs USD 220 as compared to USD 80 when arranged directly with Gerardo. Use of kayaks is free, but if you would like Gerardo to accompany you in his motor boat and give you a ride back to the cottage, please pay him USD 15.00 per hour.



### Rio Coto Mangroves

The mangroves of the Rio Coto estuary contain an incredible array of wildlife: numerous species of waterbirds, howler, white-faced and squirrel monkeys, caimans and crocodiles. Our boat tour through the meandering mangrove swamp, where it is unlikely to encounter any other tourists, takes 2-3 hours. It is possible to stop at Zancudo Beach for a swim. Hiking gear is not needed.

**Price for up to 5 persons: USD 80.00, please pay Gerardo in cash.**



### Golfo Dulce and Casa Orquideas

The motorboat ride up the beautiful coast of Golfo Dulce is an unforgettable experience, passing by uninhabited beaches surrounded by pristine rainforest. Dolphins are often seen, and some lucky guests have seen humpback whales and whale sharks. After an hour, you will reach isolated Casa Orquideas. Ron and Trudy Macallister have lived here since the 1970's and created a botanical garden full of colourful tropical trees and exotic plants including many species of orchids. Take a self-guiding tour and a swim in the ocean before heading back. Total time 3-4 hours.

**Price for up to 5 persons: USD 80.00, please pay Gerardo in cash.  
Admission Casa Orquideas USD 8.00 per person (closed Fridays)**