



Piedras Blancas National Park, Costa Rica

Information Beach Cottage

Playa Cacao, Golfito , Costa Rica





Bathroom

The bathroom is basic. There is a sink, a hot water shower (approx. 98–100 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.



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, two single beds and a cabinet where kitchen appliances and food are stored. On the shelf you will find books about Costa Rican animals and plants, toilet paper, sun screen, etc. The house is fully equipped with sheets, towels, and kitchen utensils, including a gas stove with oven, a refrigerator–freezer, coffee maker and blender. We provide pots, pans, plastic containers, dishwashing soap, 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. Lemon grass, culantro, ginger, oregano etc. grow next to the house. To avoid invasions by ants, wash dishes and kitchen shelves immediately after cooking. We recommend storing all food in the refrigerator or in the cabinet next to the refrigerator. Organic waste like banana 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 the trash bin next to the sink. When the garbage bag is full, bring it to Melvin and he will take it to Golfito. **Please don't feed any animals, no matter how cute they might be!**





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). Other animals seen at the house include coatimundis, racoons, tamanduas, opossums, peccaries, squirrels, scarlet macaws, parrots, toucans, hummingbirds, tanagers, great curassows, morpho 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 rarely venture near the house because the grass is cut regularly. It is extremely rare to encounter a snake on the property, but don't walk around the garden barefoot. We fumigate the house once 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 an open house.



Water, Electricity

We are the last house with electricity before the jungle begins (110-V.). Smartphones and internet work well with pre-paid SIM cards. Water comes from a large rainwater tank that normally fills 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 2-gallon plastic containers). During the dry season, we recommend that you use water economically and check the water level in the tank regularly. After heavy rain, remove leaves from the wire mesh net above the tank. If the tank seems nearly empty, it is possible to pump water up from the beach.



The water tank





Transportation

Free transportation to or from Esquinas Lodge is included for guests staying minimum 2 nights at Esquinas Lodge AND staying at the Beach Cottage. For guests staying only at the Beach Cottage, free boat transportation (pick-up and drop-off) to and from Golfito is included. **The beach cottage is not accessible by car!** You can leave your car at the parking lot of Hotel Samoa del Sur for \$15 per day. To ensure pick-up, either call Esquinas Lodge (2741 8001) and ask them to notify Melvin or call Melvin directly (8526 5941). For extra trips to Golfito, please pay Melvin \$10 per hour.

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 but overpriced 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 Melvin to take you to the “Muellecito”, where you will find Pearson Supermarket, the SANSA airline office, a pharmacy and other stores.





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.

Rates in USD from 2016	3 nights	4 nights	5 nights	6 nights	7 nights
Two adults	350	400	500	600	700
Additional adult /from 12 years)	80	100	125	150	175
Children to 12 years	free	free	free	free	free
Kayak rental	free	free	free	free	free
Transfer from and to Golfito	free	free	free	free	free
Kayak or Dolphin tour	Rates see last page				
Shopping in Golfito one hour	10				

Reservations and Payment

Reservations can be made through Esquinas Rainforest Lodge (esquinas@racsa.co.cr). Down payment of 20% required and will be refunded up to 14 days before arrival. Final payment due 14 days before arrival. The owner of the beach cottage will send you a bill to be paid through PayPal.

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.



General description

The house is a simple, wooden cottage with open windows (no wire-screen!) and a 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 TV, but the house has a hot water 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



Caretaker

Our caretaker Melvin lives in a separate house below the cottage and is being paid to clean the property and the house when it is occupied. He is absolutely reliable and speaks some English. Feel free to ask him if there are any questions or problems with the house. The rental price includes pick-up and drop-off in Golfito. Melvin will take you shopping in Golfito if you wish (\$10/hour), but we recommend buying food before you arrive at the beach cottage.

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.



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.

Excursions

Melvin is authorized to undertake two different boat tours with our guests. Please notify him the day before if you would like to go on a boat tour. Since the boat is also used by Esquinas Lodge, it might not be available on certain days. Please pay Melvin directly in cash.

Kayak Tour



You paddle up the coast in our lightweight kayaks, with time to observe the rainforest and stop at uninhabited beaches for a swim in Golfo Dulce. The warm (85 F.) sea is very calm in the morning, giving you a good chance to see dolphins. You can leave your backpacks, cameras or water bottles in the boat, which follows at a discreet distance. Whenever you decide, the kayakers are attached to the boat for a fast ride back to Playa Cacao. Duration 2–3 hours.

Price p.p. including fuel: 2 persons \$30 ., 3 persons \$ 20 ., 4 persons \$15

Dolphin Tour in the Golfo Dulce



Enjoy a scenic trip around Golfo Dulce, a fjord which separates Piedras Blancas National Park and the Osa peninsula. There is a 90% chance of observing bottlenose dolphins playing and swimming by the boat, and during certain months humpback whales and whale sharks can be seen. The tour includes a stop in Puerto Jimenez with a short walk to a mangrove swamp to look for scarlet macaws, caimans, crocodiles and monkeys. Duration 3–4 hours.

Price p.p. including fuel: 2 persons \$45, 3 persons \$ 35, 4 persons \$ 25

Other boat tours

Can be booked through Esquinas Lodge only; reservations 2741 8001. Please pay guide in cash.

Casa Orquideas Botanical Garden (incl. pick-up and drop-off at beach cottage, picnic lunch, guide, admission) Price p.p.: 2 persons \$100 ., 3–4 persons \$ 75 ., 5–6 persons \$60, Duration 4–5 hours

Rio Coto Mangroves (incl. pick-up and drop-off at beach cottage, picnic lunch, guide)
Price p.p.: 2 persons \$100 ., 3–4 persons \$ 75 ., 5–6 persons \$60 , Duration 3 hours

Day Tour to Esquinas Rainforest Lodge



We will be happy to organize a day excursion to Esquinas Lodge, from where you can hike in the rainforest. You can either drive there with your own car, or we can arrange transfers by taxi. Please call us if you plan to visit (27141 8001); if you would like lunch or a guided hike, we must be informed at least one day in advance

Package p.p. including entrance, pool use, boots, lunch, boat and taxi transfer, guided hike:
2 persons \$ 75, 3 persons \$60 4–6 persons \$50 (pay for package at Esquinas Lodge)
Duration 6–7 hours

Boat transfer from and to Playa Cacao for guests using their own car: \$ 10 each way (pay Melvin)
Price p.p. for entrance including boots, coffee or tea, use of trails: \$ 10 (pay at Esquinas Lodge)
Lunch p.p. (by prior reservation only): \$15 (pay at Esquinas Lodge)