

## **A few driving tips to keep in mind:**

- We suggest renting a GPS with your rental car. Although the Ticos are very friendly and more than willing to help you with directions, nobody really likes to stop and ask for them anyways.
- If you're looking for an easier way to navigate Costa Rica, we suggest downloading the the app Waze to your smartphone. With an international data plan, it'll give you directions and help you navigate around traffic.
- Due to various road conditions it might take a bit longer to drive some places. Plan accordingly.
- In case of an emergency, call the National Insurance Institute (INS) at 800/800-8000 or the Transit Police at 2222-9330 or 2222-9245. You can also call 911 to be redirected to any agency you need.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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Please review the following summary of Costa Rica's traffic laws:

Obey there regulations at all times.

Avoid accidents by driving carefully and defensively, that is, expecting the unexpected

Unless otherwise indicated, minimum speed on highways is 40 kms per hour ( k.p.h. ). The speed limit varies and is posted by the road.

On highways and secondary roads the speed limit is 60 k.p.h., unless otherwise indicated.

In urban areas, the speed limit is 40 k.p.h., unless otherwise indicated.

Driving on beaches is strictly prohibited everywhere, except when there is no other path connecting two towns.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs is strictly prohibited.

The law enables police officers to perform alcohol test on drivers.  
The law requires all car passengers to wear a seat belt.

Pull over if a police officer signals you to do so. Police officers may ask you to stop if there is an accident ahead, a checkpoint or if you are violating the law by not carrying a license plate or exceeding the speed limit, for example.

Your personal documents and the vehicle's registration papers are private property and may not be retained by police officers for any reason.

If you are involved in an accident, always wait until a police officer arrives. Do not move your vehicle. The officer will prepare a report. You may also report the accident by calling 911.

Under no circumstances give money to traffic police or other police officers.

If a police officer insists on stopping you or retaining your documents for no apparent reason, ask him to escort you to the nearest police station to clear the problem.

If you believe a traffic police officer or any other police officer acted inappropriately or you have questions regarding their behavior, ask to be referred to the nearest police station.

Drive confidently and stay alert. Do not stop for people making signals and never stop for hitchhikers.

Do not drive through or park your car in poorly lit areas. Never leave your car on the street; always park it in a safe parking lot. Do not leave any belongings in the car where they might be spotted by passersby.

Keep your car doors locked at all times. If you are driving in downtown San Jose, keep the windows shut.

Check your car and make sure you are carrying the proper documents before you begin to drive. If you are given a ticket, please pay it at the nearest state owned bank and present a copy of the receipt to the car rental agency when you return the car. Never pay your tickets with the police officer. They are not allowed to accept money.