

Tips From a AAA Travel Advisor: Autumn Long

Costa Rica stands out among destinations
Resorts, beaches, sights make Caribbean location a winner

After working for US Airways, TSA and Southwest, I was looking for a career change after the pandemic. Travel is my passion, so I accepted a position as a AAA Travel Advisor. What is my favorite destination? The three I's: Ireland, Ireland, Ireland.



AAA Travel Advisor:
Autumn Long

But the most popular vacations I book daily are trips to warm destinations like Mexico, the Caribbean and Costa Rica! This September, I was happy to return to Costa Rica with a coach full of travel professionals to do hotel site inspections. Seeing so many properties first-hand provided invaluable insights when recommending properties to our members.

We flew into Liberia airport and stayed at the Secrets Papagayo Resort – a stunning all-inclusive property with lush gardens on the gulf. The resort is large and hilly with a black-sand beach. It's a great getaway for clients who want an adults-only resort. It's a large spread-out property, not suitable if you have mobility issues. We also toured the nearby



BEACH BUM – Palm trees, nicely manicured landscaping and a pristine beach hug the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea in Costa Rica. Image: Autumn Long. AAA

Planet Hollywood, which is an all-ages getaway with a party atmosphere. Farther north, we toured Dreams Las Mareas in popular Guanacaste near the tropical rainforest. Dreams caters to couples and families. Rooms are decorated with natural-wood tones to complement the natural landscape. It was easy to get around and the property had a white-sand beach. My favorite resort experience was watching the loveable monkeys swinging high in the Guanacaste trees. Nearby

activities included whitewater rafting and hiking in the rainforest. Also in Guanacaste is the Westin Reserve Conchal, a golf and tennis resort with a lagoon-style pool. It's a quieter resort and it provides golf carts. The only downside to me was the vendors on the beach, but the shoppers liked it! Next door is the upscale W Hotel Reserva Conchal, with its unique rooms, including the stunning Sunset Treehouse Room, with views of the mangrove forest

from your private balcony! What was my favorite and most unexpected experience? Tamarindo. We toured the Tamarindo Diria – one of the most iconic beach resorts. This charming resort is on Costa Rica's most famous beach, so you can enjoy 1.8 miles of white sand just a few steps from your room. My choice for romance, celebrations and honeymoons is the Casa Chameleon at Las Catalinas. The rooms are spacious with plunge pools and the food is out of this world. They also have a wine cellar. We toured the Mistico Hanging Bridges and did a Jungle cruise, but my sightseeing highlight was seeing Arenal Volcano and the Hot Springs. Arenal Springs Resort and Spa is an active resort with an animal sanctuary, rock-climbing wall, and river for rafting and tubing, along with the hot springs. My overall favorite hot-spring experience was at the Tabacon Thermal Resort and Spa. The hotel was separate from the spring down the road. The property was huge with dozens of pools. My tips for your trip are to bring B.D.P – Bug Spray, Dramamine and Patience. The road infrastructure is winding and some are gravel and rough. It takes longer than expected to get where you are going. And do a guided tour, so your guide can navigate the roads and point out the animals along the way!



Hertz + AAA: Memorable Let's Go moments ahead.

AAA members: Make every journey special and enjoy everyday savings up to 20% off base rates with exclusive benefits. Plus, save \$5 per day up to \$25 off the base rate of daily, weekend and weekly rentals.* Let's Go!

Include your AAA Discount Code (CDP# 215) and PC 211142 in your reservation.

Click: AAA.com/hertz | Call: 1-800-654-3080
Visit: Your local AAA branch



Book Today

*Save \$5 per day off the base rate on daily rentals, \$15 off the base rate on weekend rentals and up to \$25 off the base rate on weekly rentals. Applies to pay later base rate only. Taxes, fees and options excluded. Discount will vary depending on location, date, length of rental, car class and other factors. Promotion Code 211142 and AAA CDP# 215 must be provided at time of reservation for full offer discounts. This offer is available at participating Hertz locations in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. Age, driver, credit and qualifying rate restrictions for the renting location apply. Advance reservation required. Offer not valid and rate change or additional fees may apply in the event of reservation modification, early/late vehicle return or if not returning vehicle to renting location. Valid on all car classes except minivans, large SUVs and Dream cars. Offer has no cash value, and may not be used with other discounts, promotions or special rates. Offer valid for bookings and pickups through 12/31/2023. Subject to availability, blackout periods and additional restrictions. At the time of rental, present your AAA membership card for identification. © 2023 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 823029

Holiday Office closings:

Thanksgiving Holiday
CLOSED
Thursday, November 23 and
Friday, November 24
(all offices will resume
normal operating hours
Saturday, November 25)

Christmas Holiday
CLOSED
Monday, December 25
(all Branch offices will reopen
Tuesday, December 26)

New Year's Holiday
CLOSED
Monday, January 1
(all Branch offices will reopen
Tuesday, January 2)