

## Costa Rican's Marvels

One of your first thoughts when imagining Costa Rica should be volcanoes. The country contains over 60 which are considered extinct or dormant plus six which are still active. The heat from magma that has risen close to the surface has resulted in hot springs whose mineral water is a charm for spa enthusiasts. The small changes in altitude create a hotbed of biodiversity seen nowhere else in the world. If you're planning a trip to Costa Rica and need to see a volcano, don't miss our list of the top Costa Rica volcanoes to visit for the ultimate thrill.

**Arenal Volcano:** Without a doubt, however, the most popular of Costa Rica's volcanic giants is Arenal. Located in the northern part of the country, it towers over the surrounding fertile landscape, surrounded by plantations producing the best coffee in the world. The symmetrical cone-shaped Arenal Volcano erupted in the past an average of 41 times a day. While it currently rests, Arenal and the surrounding area are a great base for adventure touring. There are many activities than can be done in the area such as exploring the volcano's National Park, walk across lava fields, and even soak in natural hot springs. You can also experience thrilling canopy tours and zip-lining adventures through the rainforest, enjoying breathtaking views while flying through the treetops.



**Poas Volcano** is one of the most popular destinations in the Central Valley. It is one of the world's largest active volcanoes, with sulfuric emissions, active fumaroles, and two crater lakes. The northern lake, called the Laguna Caliente (hot lagoon) is one of the world's most acidic lakes, in direct contrast to Lake Botos, the southern, which is cold, clear, and surrounded by the beauty of the cloud forest. Poas Volcano closed back in April 2017 as the result of volcano eruptions but has since reopened.



**Rincon de la Vieja:** Rincon de la Vieja National Park has a wealth of natural wonders including Rincon de la Vieja Volcano, boiling mud pots, hot springs, and even waterfalls. The park is home to some wildly unique creatures including 300 different species of birds, the white-nose coati, agouti, and the nine-banded armadillo. Rincon de la Vieja is a fantastic hiking destination and experiences some of the best year-round weather. If you are hoping to see waterfalls, you will have the most luck in the green season (May-December). The hot springs within Rincon de la Vieja are naturally heated by the volcano. One of the most popular is the Rio Negro Hot Springs, a series of 10 man-made volcanic heated springs accessible on either side by hanging bridges. Volcanic clay is also available for an all-natural body mask. Once your mud mask dries, rinse off in the cool river water, before relaxing back into warm hot springs.



A- Answer the following questions according to the reading:

1. What are the most important touristic attractions when visiting Costa Rica?

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2. How many “sleepy” volcanoes are in Costa Rica?

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3. How many active volcanoes can people find in the country?

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4. What is something that the spa enthusiasts look for when coming to Costa Rica?

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5. How many volcanoes are described in the reading?

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6. What’s the most popular volcano in Costa Rica?

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7. Where is Arenal volcano located?

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8. What are three activities that can be done in the surroundings of Arenal Volcano?

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9. Where’s Poas Volcano located?

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10. How many craters does Poas Volcano have?

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11. What’s the difference between “Hot lagoon” and “Lake Botos”?

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12. Why was the volcano closed a few years ago?

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13. What natural wonders can you find in Rincon de la Vieja Natural Park?

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14. What are three different animals you can find in Rincon de la Vieja National Park?

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15. Which is the most popular hot spring in Rincon de la Vieja?

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