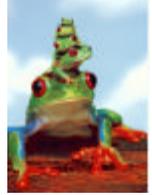


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## RENTING A VEHICLE IN COSTA RICA

In our experience it's far better to rent a car when you get to Costa Rica. It just isn't practical to rely on taxis, most of the tours available leave from a specific location (and it's up to you how you get there!), and driving is very, very easy there. The rules of the road are the same as here, and while I felt pretty clever driving in Costa Rica the first time I rented, it really is no big deal.

All of the major car rental agencies are represented at both international airports, San Jose ("Juan Santamaria") and Liberia ("Daniel Obrudor") airports. I usually reserve my vehicle in advance, [www.carrentals.com](http://www.carrentals.com) is one of many sites which allow you to do that.

I usually rent from Thrifty as they have a "zero deductible" insurance option which makes for worry-free driving. Alamo is also a good bet - I've rented from them several times as well.

I usually rent a Toyota RAV4. Although the entire route to Casa Gavilan is well-paved, if you plan to go off-road (the best views of the volcano are an unpaved road to the Volcano Observatory Lodge) you will appreciate the 4x4 vehicle, and we love sitting up higher as you see much more of the wildlife over the hedges that line most roads.

We can supply easy directions to Casa Gavilan from either airport; just let me know which one you fly into. We also know of good hotels in San Jose if you do fly into that airport, should you arrive too late in the evening to get to the house that day.

San Jose is about 3 1/2 hours drive to Casa Gavilan. Liberia is only 90 minutes drive and is our preferred airport for our trips there!

We are certain you'll enjoy driving in Costa Rica – renting your own vehicle makes it possible for you to literally suit yourself and enjoy the area's many attractions near Casa Gavilan!

Sincerely,

Ian and Lynn Kupkee  
Owners, Casa Gavilan de Arenal  
[www.casagavilanarenal.com](http://www.casagavilanarenal.com)  
'Your Villa in the Rainforest'