

Costa Rica Visa Guidance

The following information is applicable to volunteers with an EU or US passport. If you do not hold an EU or US passport, please ensure that you contact your nearest embassy for information about entry requirements for Costa Rica and any countries which your flights may transit through. We strongly recommend that you do this before booking any flights.

Costa Rica Tourist Visa

When you arrive in Costa Rica, you will be given a 90-day tourist visa upon entry at no additional cost. In order to be granted this tourist visa, you must:

- Have a **passport valid for at least 6 months** from the date of the arrival
- Show **proof that will leave the country within 90 days**. This can either be a flight or a bus ticket. They will not accept the ticket on your phone, so you will need to print it out.

ESTA Visa for transiting through the US

Check whether or not you are eligible to transit through the US before booking any flights.

You may be denied if:

- You are not from a country that is part of the [Visa Waiver Program](#)
- You do not have an [e-Passport / biometric passport](#) with this symbol on it 
- You have ever travelled to, or been present in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen, on or before March 2011
- You have ever been arrested or convicted for a crime that resulted in serious damage to a property, or serious harm to another person or government authority.

For further information, please check the [US Customs and Border Protection](#).

If you are transiting through the US, then you will need to **apply for an [ESTA](#) visa at least 72 hours before you travel**. This costs \$14 and is all done online and only takes a few minutes. To apply for your ESTA:

- Select this link to take you to the official website: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> . Do not use any other websites or services to obtain your ESTA.
- Select the blue 'Individual Application' button.
- Read the Security Notification and then select the blue 'Confirm & Continue' button.
- Read and select 'Yes' to the Disclaimer and the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 and select the blue 'Next' button.
- Enter your details on the applicant page, ensuring you fill all mandatory (*) fields.

More Information - Please take a look at our website pages: <https://raleighinternational.org/volunteer/>



- Answer 'Yes' to' the question 'Is your travel to the US occurring in transit to another country?'
- Leave the US Address section blank and enter your emergency contact information.
- Answer the eligibility questions. If you are unsure about how to answer questions about your criminal background, save the form and do not submit it yet, and then contact your Volunteer Coordinator.
- Tick the certification at the bottom of the page and leave the third-party section blank.
- Follow the final steps and pay for your ESTA.

ESTA applications are all electronic but you may wish to print out your confirmation just in case and bring it with you on your flight.

