



Student Housing

General Information

Academic Year 2026-2027



University for Peace





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Housing General Information

Where to Live?

Exploring Your Future Community

- **Ciudad Colón**

The University for Peace is located in the hills approximately 7 kilometers from Ciudad Colón, where students from around the world pursue graduate studies in a wide range of academic fields. Most UPEACE students choose to live in Ciudad Colón, contributing to the town's unique international atmosphere.

While Ciudad Colón is more modest in size and amenities than nearby areas such as Santa Ana and Escazú, it offers a lower cost of living while still providing access to essential services, including supermarkets, banks, pharmacies, restaurants, gyms, and both public and private healthcare facilities.

The town combines the charm of a traditional Costa Rican community with a diverse international population, largely made up of UPEACE students, faculty, and professionals. Local highlights include the Feria del Agricultor (Farmers' Market) held on Saturday mornings and the Feria Verde (Organic Market) on Tuesday afternoons.

Located at the foot of the mountain where the UPEACE campus is situated, Ciudad Colón serves as the center of student life throughout the academic year. UPEACE also provides scheduled transportation between the town and campus on weekdays.



Ciudad Colón

Costa Rica

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- **Brasil de Mora**

Brasil de Mora is located just a short distance from Forum and the Santa Ana area, only 2 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón. This neighborhood is recognized for its peaceful atmosphere, natural surroundings, and ongoing development. UPEACE offers transportation to and from the area twice a day on weekdays, before and after classes. Public transportation to Santa Ana, Escazú, and San José is also available daily. The area also offers a variety of services and amenities for residents.

- **San Bosco**

This rural area is situated about 2 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón. UPEACE provides transportation to and from the campus twice daily on weekdays, before and after classes. For transportation at other times, students can take a public bus (approximately \$1 USD) or a taxi (around \$5 USD) between Ciudad Colón and San Bosco. Public buses to Santa Ana, Escazú, and San José are also available daily.



Brasil de Mora / San Bosco

Costa Rica

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- **El Rodeo**

This rural area is located 7 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón and is home to the UPEACE campus. Known for its natural beauty and peaceful environment, it is ideal for outdoor activities such as horseback riding, mountain boarding, cycling, running, and hiking. It offers a more tranquil lifestyle compared to busier areas where most students choose to live, such as Ciudad Colón. However, due to its location, some students may find the area somewhat isolated.

Small grocery stores are available nearby, but public transportation is limited to two services per day (morning and afternoon) on weekdays. UPEACE transportation to Ciudad Colón and surrounding areas is also available on weekdays according to a set schedule. Outside these hours, students may need to use a taxi, with a ride to Ciudad Colón costing approximately \$10 USD.

- **Otras áreas**

San José, Escazú, and Santa Ana are located along the route to Ciudad Colón. These areas are more developed and popular with tourists, which contributes to a higher cost of living. UPEACE does not offer housing options in these locations; however, students who choose to rent privately are encouraged to inform the Housing Office of their accommodation details. This will help them identify the nearest UPEACE bus stops.

Escazú and Santa Ana are situated along Route 27, the main highway connecting Ciudad Colón with San José, the capital city. UPEACE does not provide shuttle service in these areas. Therefore, students living in these locations must use public transportation to reach Ciudad Colón, where they can connect to the UPEACE student shuttle service.



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El Rodeo / San José

Costa Rica

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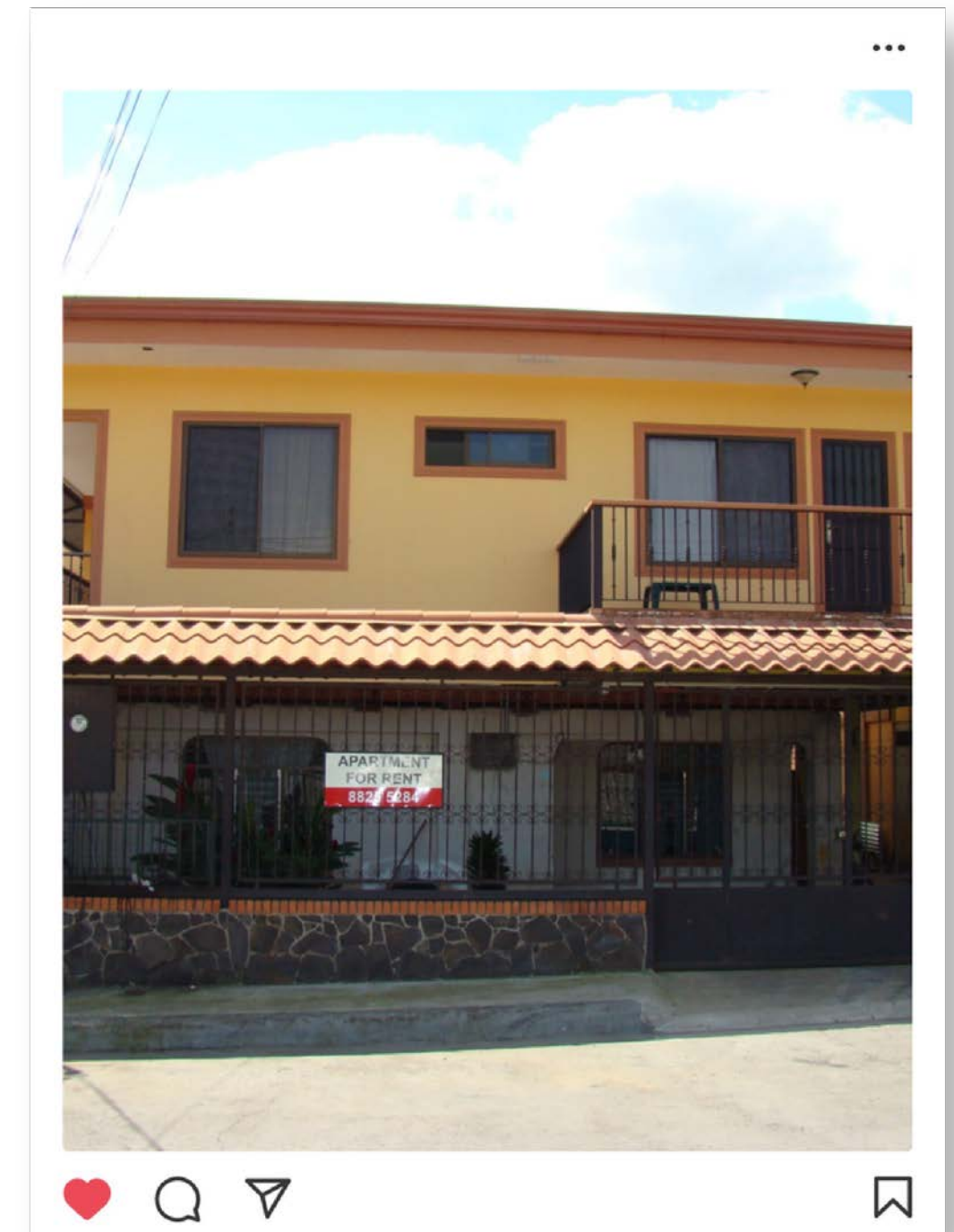
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- **UPEACE housing policies and responsibilities**

- ***Homeowner's responsibilities:***

- Abide by all public health and safety laws and regulations.
- Make all necessary repairs as soon as possible.
- Maintain the property in good condition.
- Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating, appliances, and connections.
- Keep all common use areas safe, clean, and in good repair.
- Landlords retain the privilege to conduct occasional inspections of the premises to verify the correct use of the property. This can occur once a month, with advance notice and in the presence of the student/tenant.
- Not to disturb the use and enjoyment of the leased property. Always respect the student's privacy.
- Return the security deposit according to the refund policy.
- Provide payment receipts after each rent payment made by the student.
- Provide the student with a lease contract from the second month of rent (after the trial month).

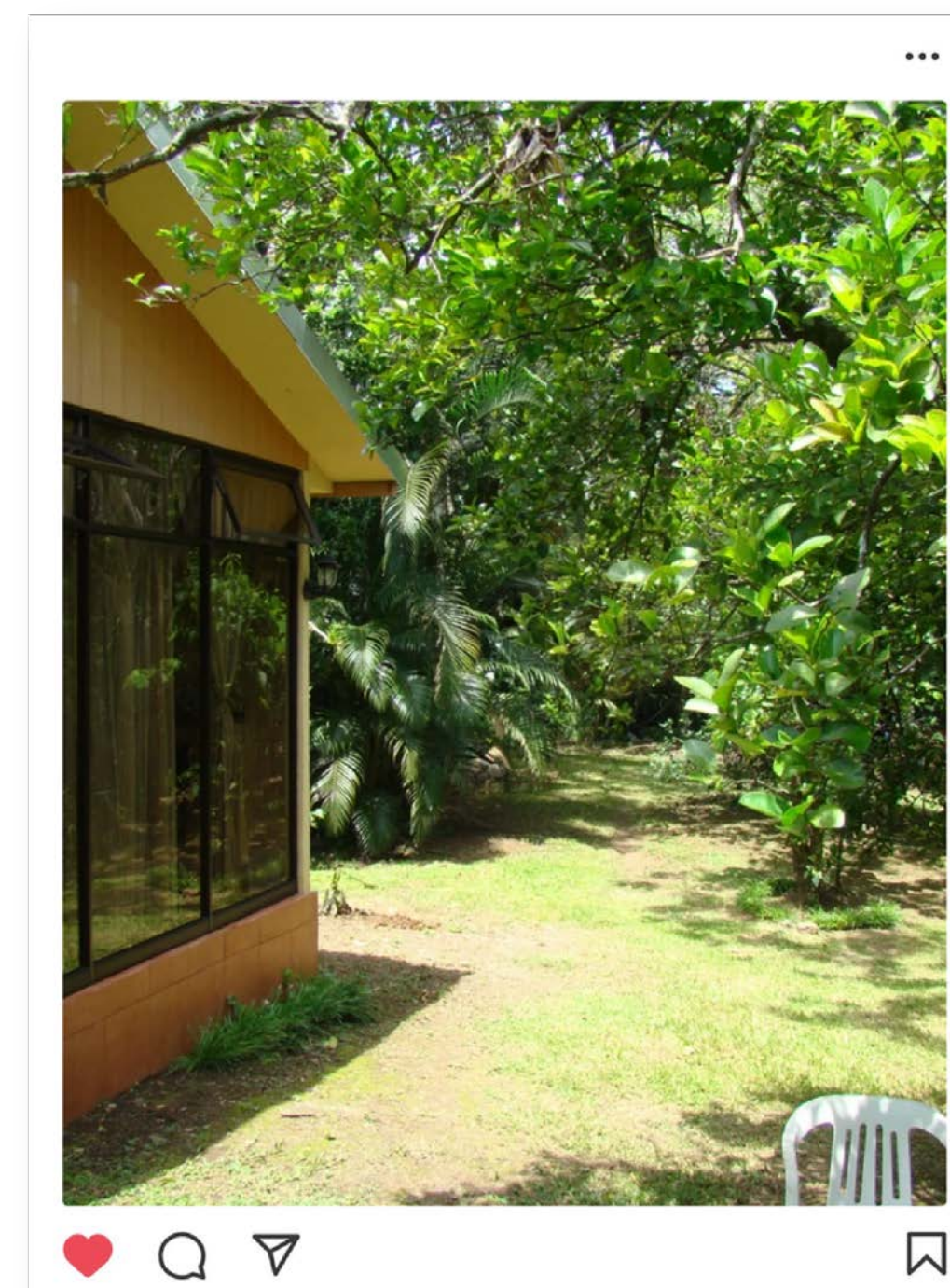




- **UPEACE housing policies and responsibilities**

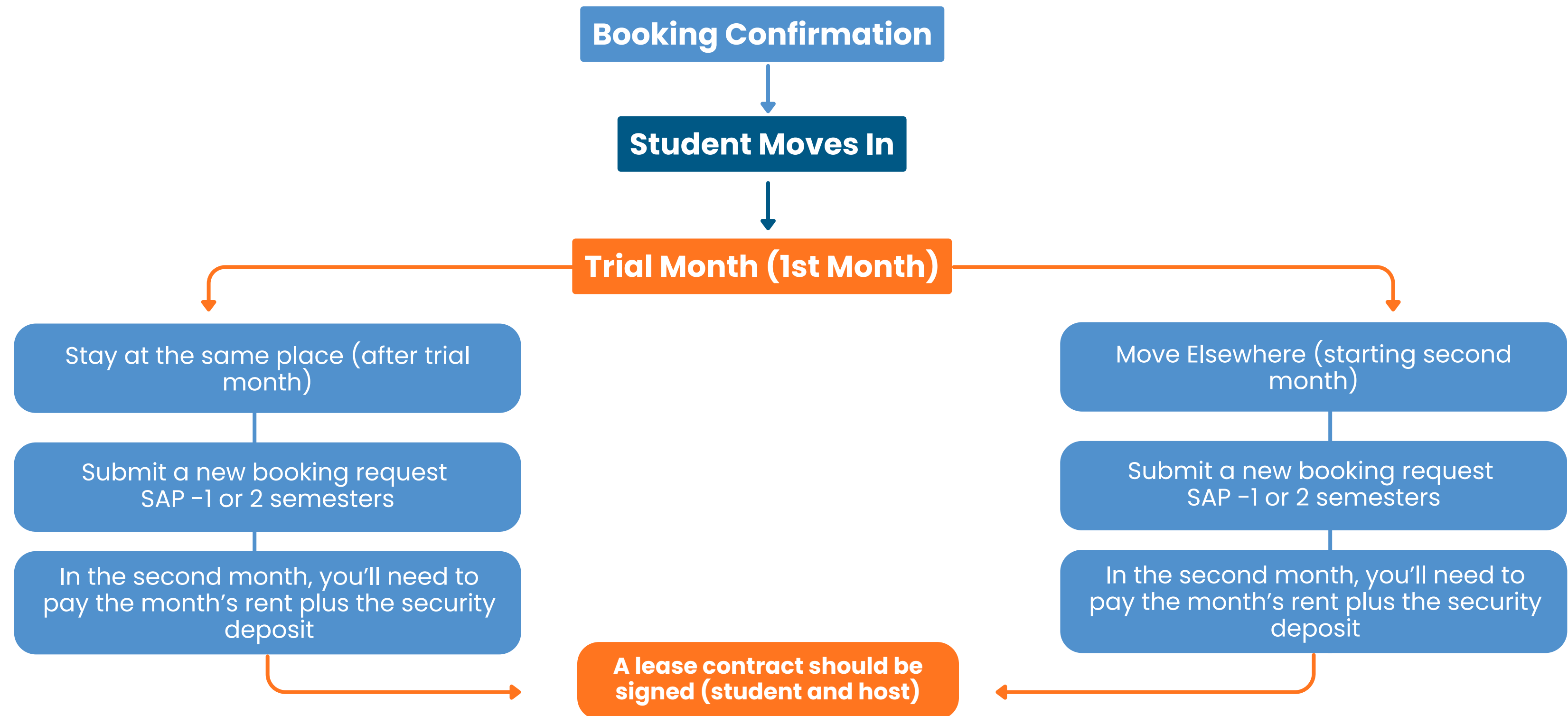
- ***Student's responsibilities:***

- Pay rent on time and in the agreed currency.
- Pay a security deposit.
- Notify the house owner of any major repairs that are needed as soon as possible.
- Take reasonable care of the property.
- Inform your landlord and ensure that any damage caused by you or your guests is properly repaired.
- Always inform your property owners in advance if you plan to relocate or when your UPEACE program ends. This notification should be provided at least one month ahead (aligned with your payment cycle) and preferably in writing.
- Do not make any alterations/changes to the property/facility.
- Use the rental property for the purposes stated in the lease.
- Ensure all bills and utilities are settled before you leave.
- Do not give your facility keys to anyone else. Doing so will be considered a violation of the rules.
- Respect the rules of your homeowners and neighborhood where you live.
- Read and sign the lease provided by your house owner and follow the guidelines described in the lease.





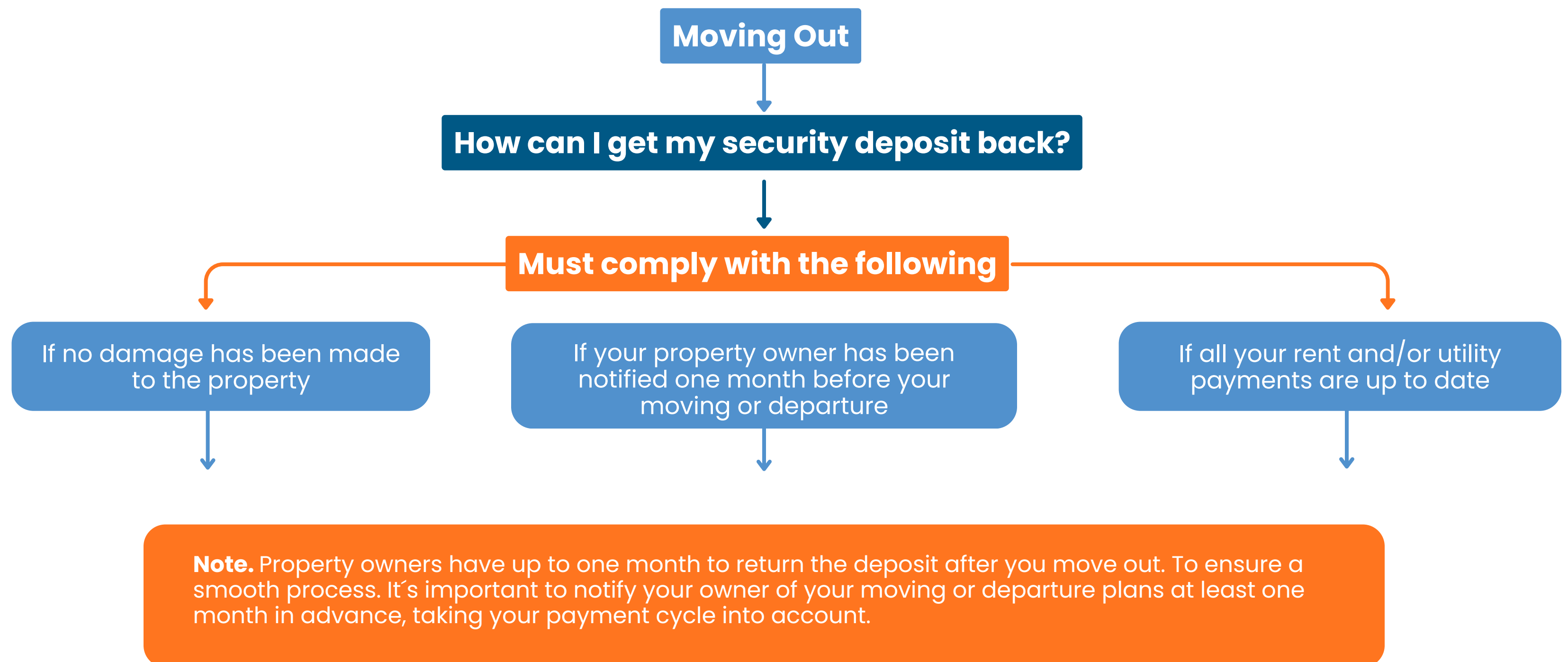
UPEACE Housing Flowchart



UPEACE Housing Flowchart



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Ciudad Colón – UPEACE Shuttle Service Schedule



There are two shuttle routes available for transportation to and from UPEACE. These services operate Monday through Friday.

- If you are staying in Ciudad Colón, you may use the Brasil de Mora Route.
- If you are staying in San Bosco, you may use the San Bosco Route.

These shuttle services are provided to facilitate transportation between the surrounding communities and the UPEACE campus.

Time	Brasil de Mora – UPEACE
7:55 A.M.	Hogar diurno San Vicente de Paul, Brasil de Mora
7:58 A.M.	Sabor a Pueblo Restaurant, Ciudad Colón
8:00 A.M.	Ciudad Colón’s Clinic
8:03 A.M.	Hacienda Colón (main entrance / Viriteca)
8:07 A.M.	End of pavement
8:10 A.M.	Main entrance of the cemetery (Street 14)
8:15 A.M.	Ciudad Colón Park (sand field)
8:18 A.M.	Pulpería Chepe Monge, El Rodeo
8:25 A.M.	Residencial La Mimosa – El Rodeo
8:35 A.M.	UPEACE, Campus Rodrigo Carazo

Time	San Bosco – UPEACE
8:05 A.M.	Main entrance to town
8:07 A.M.	Municipal Pool
8:13 A.M.	Los Ángeles Gas Station, Ciudad Colón
8:15 A.M.	Ciudad Colón Park (sand field)
8:18 A.M.	Pulpería Chepe Monge, El Rodeo
8:25 A.M.	Residencial La Mimosa – El Rodeo
8:35 A.M.	UPEACE, Campus Rodrigo Carazo

What are the estimated Living Expenses in Costa Rica?

Estimated Living Expenses in Costa Rica (per Student)

Description	Monthly Cost (in \$USD)
Accommodation	
• Rent	\$350-\$900
• Utilities, when not included in the monthly rent price (water, electricity and fast Wi-Fi)	\$60-\$140
Transportation options	
• Shuttle to/from UPEACE (weekdays)	Gratis
• Rideshare Services UBER/DiDi (weekend trips)	\$30-\$120
• Public transportation/bus	\$20-\$60
Food options	
• Daily lunch + beverage + snack (UPEACE cafeteria)	\$200-\$300
• Grocery shopping (for a person who prefers to cook at home)	\$200-\$350
• Healthcare (local hospitals)	\$20-\$80
• Extras (coffees, going out, daily small expenses)	\$100-\$400
• Mobile phone	\$10-\$25
Total estimated expenses for an individual person	\$1,000-\$1,800



How do smartphone services work in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica's main service providers include "Kolbi," operated by the national telecommunications company ICE, as well as "Claro" and "Liberty," which are well-established and recognized across North, Central, and South America, the Caribbean, and some European countries.

An unlocked smartphone can be used in Costa Rica without restrictions. If needed, you may contact your internet provider in advance to enable global roaming on your plan. Alternatively, you can opt for a prepaid SIM card to use with your unlocked device during your stay.

Students find smartphone service plans particularly convenient, as they offer a range of options to suit different needs. Among the most popular plans chosen by students, two stand out as favorites.

- A **"post-paid"** service plan is available through contracts, often bundled with the purchase of a new smartphone, which may include both the device and a calling/data plan if needed. These contracts typically last for several months or years and can be customized to meet individual preferences. Alternatively, customers can subscribe to calling and internet/data plans without purchasing a smartphone.

Monthly fees are fixed based on the plan's terms and conditions. To sign up for this service, a passport is required, and it is important to fulfil the contract and conditions agreed before leaving the country if you opt for this option. These plans are available at authorized branches or retailers across the country.

- **Alternatively, a "pre-paid"** service plan is an excellent option for students, offering flexibility and ease of use. This plan requires minimal documentation, typically just a passport, and allows better control over spending. With a pre-paid plan, you can add credit to your account as needed, starting at 1,000 CRC (about 2 USD), whenever your balance is low.



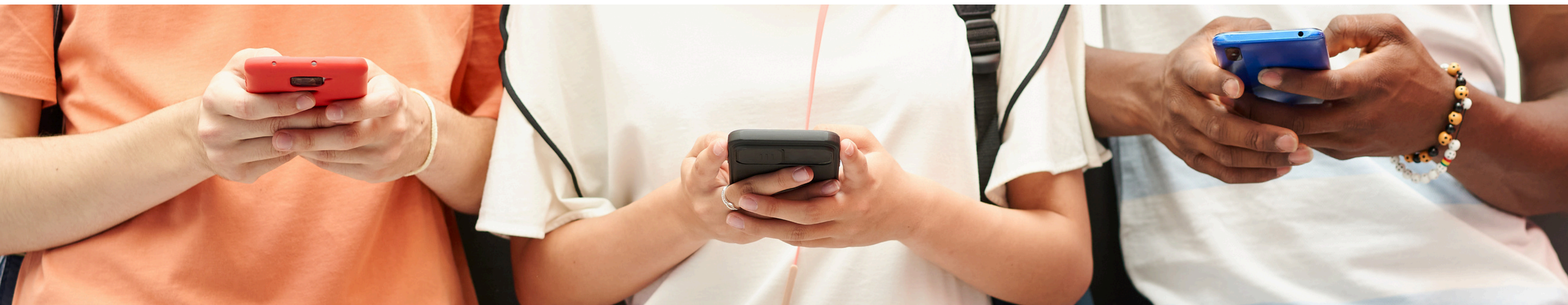
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How do smartphone services work in Costa Rica?

Balance inquiries and payments are simple and can be done through a service provider app. You can recharge your phone credit at official branches across the country using cash or online payment platforms using a credit or debit card. These services are widely available at authorized retailers and branches throughout the country.

- **KOLBI** – for further information: <https://www.kolbi.cr/>
- **CLARO** – for further information: <https://www.claro.cr/personas/>
- **LIBERTY** – for further information: <https://libertycr.com>





Getting to know the service facilities near Ciudad Colón

- *Supermarkets in Ciudad Colón*

Mas x Menos (Supermarket – Walmart Franchise)

- Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery.
- Website: <https://www.masxmenos.cr>
- Phone: +506 2249 3332 ext. 109
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Fresh Market (Supermarket)

- Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery
- Website: <https://freshmarket.co.cr>
- Phone: +506 2105 2466
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Super Mora (Local Supermarket)

- Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery.
- Website: <https://www.supermora.com>
- Phone: +506 2249 2459
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Palí (Supermarket – Walmart Franchise)

- Service options: In-store shopping.
- Website: <https://www.maxipali.co.cr>
- Phone: 800-800-0722
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Super El Dragon (Chinese Supermarket)

- Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery.
- Website: <https://bit.ly/3UhITU1>
- Phone: +506 88902355
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Walmart (Santa Ana Trade Center)

- Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery.
- Website: www.walmart.co.cr
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



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Getting to know the service facilities near Ciudad Colón

- *Green and organic markets in town*

Green Fair (Feria Verde)

- About: FERIA VERDE in spanish (GREEN FAIR) is community, a meeting point between friends, producers and consumers.
- What will you find? Organic products, healthy food, crafts, design, others
- Information:
https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g309293-d14435979-Reviews-Feria_Verde_de_Ciudad_Colon-San_Jose_San_Jose_Metro_Province_of_San_Jose.html
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Schedule: Tuesdays only from 1:00PM to 7:00PM.

Feria del Agricultor (Farmer's Fair/Market)

- About: Similar to Green Fair/Market and held in the same location. Feria del Agricultor in Spanish (Farmer's Fair/Market) is community, a meeting point between friends, producers, and consumers.
- What will you find? Green, fresh products, healthy food, crafts, design, more
- Information:
<https://deferia.cr/ferias/ciudadcolon/>
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Schedule: Saturday only from 5:00AM to 12:00 noon.



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Restaurants, cafes, pubs, and more in Ciudad Colón

This is a list of restaurants, cafes, pubs, located in Ciudad Colon that students tend to visit the most each year based on their preferences. This information is merely informative, please for further questions contact the restaurants directly through their websites or social networks. This list is not limited; there are also other restaurants and food courts in the neighborhood that you may also visit.

Conservatorium (Restaurant and Coffee)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery
- Website: <https://conservatoriumcr.com/en/>
- Phone: +506 40812451
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Restaurant Casa76 (Pizza and Pasta)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Casa76-Pizza-y-Pasta-Ciudad-Colon/100048018080299/>
- Phone: +506 22496676
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Caribbean Jam (Sports & Restaurant)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Caribbean-Jam/100063557082104/>
- Phone: +506 40342004
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



Che Pizza (Restaurant and Pizza)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/chepizzacr/>
- Phone: +506 22490909
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

22 Bistro (Restaurant and coffee)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/22Bistrocheftini/>
- Phone: +506 8319 3498
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Chirote (Restaurant and bar)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/ChiroteBoqueriaBirrera/>
- Phone: +506 22490468
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Restaurante El Bendecido (Chinese Food Restaurant)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.
- Website: https://www.facebook.com/p/Restaurante-El-Bendecido-100063548084444/?locale=ca_ES
- Phone: +506 22493456
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Restaurante Abanico de Sabores (Bar & Grill)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/restabanicodesabores/>
- Phone: +506 2249 5805
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Vino Mundo (Restaurant, wine experts)

- Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No Delivery
- Website: <https://vinomundocr.com>
- Phone: +506 70532780
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



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Restaurants, cafes, pubs, and more in Ciudad Colón

Amphitheater Villa (Anfiteatro de Villa)

- Service options: Old pit transformed into a tourist attraction on the banks of the Virilla River Canyon. It consists of a network of underground caverns for tours and events, two outdoor restaurants with beautiful landscapes and sunsets.
- Website: <https://www.anfiteatrodevilla.com>
- YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2grS5Swbzc>
- Phone: +506 84034545
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Café Colón

- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/CafeColonMora/>
- Phone: +506 8587 7930
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



Banks and ATMs in Ciudad Colón



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Banco Nacional de Costa Rica (Local Bank)

- Note: This bank has a corporate agreement with UPEACE.
- About: Banco Nacional de Costa Rica or BNCR is the largest local bank in Costa Rica and the second largest in Central America by assets.
- Website: <https://www.bncr.fi.cr>
- Phone: +506 22494586
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Banco de Costa Rica Ciudad Colón (Local Bank)

- About: Banco de Costa Rica is a state-owned commercial bank that operates in Costa Rica.
- Website: <https://www.bancobcr.com/wps/portal/bcr>
- Phone: +506 22490095
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Banco Popular (Local Bank)

- About: Banco de Popular is a state-owned commercial bank that operates in Costa Rica.
- Website: <https://www.bancopopular.fi.cr/banco-popular>
- Phone: +506 21046801
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Coopealianza (Financial store for savings and credits)

- About: Local Savings and Credit Cooperative – Western Union retail store
- Website: <https://coopealianza.fi.cr>
- Phone: +506 27853000
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



Gyms and Sport Centers in Ciudad Colón



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Gimnasio Ciudad Colón (Ciudad Colón's Gym)

- Service options: Gym/Physical Fitness Center (Community center)
- Website: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=469694543534270&_rdr
- Phone: +506 22491393
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Fénix Gym

- Service options: Private Gym (Instructors in place)
- Website: <https://www.fenixgymcr.com>
- Phone: +506 47020582
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Erick Amador Wellness & Fitness

- Service options: Wellness & Fitness (Personal Trainer in place)
- Website: <https://gimnasioscr.com/erick-amador-wellness-fitness-entrenamiento-personalizado-ciudad-colon/>
- Phone: +506 40312413
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Spinning Center

- Service options: Spinning Center (Certified Trainer)
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/spinningcentermora/>
- Phone: +506 86533030
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Box 309 sin límites

- Service options: Gym/Physical Fitness Center
- Website: <https://www.facebook.com/box309sinlimites/>
- Phone: +506 47010684
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Enjoy Studio

- Service Options: Barre, Mat Pilates, Yoga, others.
- Website: <https://www.instagram.com/enjoystudiocr?igsh=OTF2Z3hzaHY4NnJv>
- Teléfono: +50671380518
- Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)



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Kindergartens and preschools in Ciudad Colón

CEMI (Centro Educativo Mundo de Ilusiones)

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/mundoilusiones/?locale=es_LA

New Horizon

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/SistemaEducativoAngulo/?locale=es_LA

Kreative Montessori

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/@KreativeSchoolCR/?locale=es_LA

Waldorf Elementary School

- Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/escuelawaldorfcostarica/>

Pequeñas Sonrisas Kindergarten

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/jardindeninospequenassonrisas/?locale=es_LA

Kibu Centro Educativo Pre-School

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/kibucentroeduc?locale=es_LA

Mamá Margarita Pre-School and Kinder Garden

- Website:
https://www.facebook.com/DesarrolloEducativoMamaMargarita/?locale=es_LA

Rogelio Fernández Güell Elementary School

- Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Esc-Rogelio-Fernández-Güell/100063501463739/>



Holidays in Costa Rica

The following are the main public holidays observed in Costa Rica. Please note that government offices, banks, schools, and some businesses may be closed or operate with reduced hours on these dates.

01 January <i>New Year</i>	21 to 28 March <i>Holy or Easter Week</i>	11 April <i>National Hero's Day</i>
01 May <i>Labour Day</i>	25 July <i>Annexation of the province of Guanacaste to Costa Rica</i>	02 August <i>Costa Rican's Patron Saint</i>
15 August <i>Mother's Day</i>	31 August <i>Day of the Black Person and Afro-Costa Rican Culture</i>	15 September <i>Independence Day</i>
01 December <i>Abolition of the Costa Rican Army</i>	25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	

*Costa Rican Holidays
(UPEACE Campus Closed)*



Local information websites (this compilation is freely accessible)

- Costa Rica: Time Zone – <https://www.timeanddate.com/time/zone/costa-rica/san-jose>
- Costa Rica: Weather - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/climate>
- Costa Rica: Currency - <https://costarica.org/facts/currency/>
- Costa Rica: Language - <https://costarica.org/people/language/>
- Costa Rica: Food - <https://costarica.org/food/>
- Costa Rica: Religion - <https://www.costarica.com/culture/religion-in-costa-rica>
- Costa Rica: Public Transportation - <https://www.vacationscostarica.com/travel/public-transportation/>
- Costa Rica: Health Care - <https://www.internations.org/costa-rica-expats/guide/healthcare>
- Costa Rica: Restaurants - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/restaurants/all?page=1>
- Costa Rica: Tips for Travelers – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/tips>
- Costa Rica: Hotels for Travelers - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/accommodations/hotels?page=1>
- Costa Rica: National Park Service - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/ecoturism/national-parks>
- Costa Rica: Shipping Service - <https://correos.go.cr>
- Costa Rica: English News – <https://ticotimes.net>
- Costa Rica: Rural Tourism – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/rural-tourism?page=1>
- Costa Rica: Wildlife – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/greatest-wildlife-spectacles>
- Costa Rica: Culture – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/culture>
- Costa Rica: ATM and Money – <https://costarica.org/facts/currency/>
- Costa Rica: Pharmacies – <https://costaricabestride.com/how-are-pharmacies-in-costa-rica/>



Local information websites (this compilation is freely accessible)

- Costa Rica: Bus Itinerary – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/bus-itinerary>
- Costa Rica: Entry Requirements for Tourists - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/entry-requirements>
- Costa Rica: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - <https://www.rree.go.cr>
- Costa Rica: Suggested Itineraries – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/itineraries>
- Costa Rica: Airlines Flying to Costa Rica - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/airlines?page=1>
- Costa Rica: Driver's Licenses in Costa Rica – <https://crie.cr/drivers-license-in-costa-rica/>
- Costa Rica: Useful Phone Apps – <https://costa-rica-guide.com/practical/phones/useful-phone-apps-for-travel-in-costa-rica/>
- Costa Rica: The Essential Items to Bring – <https://mytanfeet.com/about-cr/packing-for-costa-rica-what-to-bring/>
- Costa Rica: FAQ´s – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/faqs>

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