



# Information Beach Cottage Playa Cacao, Golfito , Costa Rica





### Bathroom

The bathroom is basic. There is a sink, a hot water shower (approx. 98–100 F.) and a flush toilet (yes, you can flush down your toilet paper!). Laundry or wet clothing can be hung on the plastic lines next to the bathroom to dry in the sun, but don't forget to move it to underneath the house before you leave – it can rain any time. Spare towels are in plastic boxes in the upstairs wardrobe.



### Downstairs area

The house has an area of around 35 by 15 feet with two stories. The downstairs area contains a large table with chairs and a sofa, a kitchen, two single beds and a cabinet where kitchen appliances and food are stored. On the shelf you will find books about Costa Rican animals and plants, toilet paper, sun screen, etc. The house is fully equipped with sheets, towels, and kitchen utensils, including a gas stove with oven, a refrigerator-freezer, coffee maker and blender. We provide pots, pans, plastic containers, dishwashing soap, sponges and everything else you need in a normal kitchen. We leave things like salt, sugar, flour, rice, cooking oil, and cooking sauces in the fridge. Feel free to use them but we would be grateful if you would refill or replace them before leaving.

### Cooking

The supermarket in Golfito has everything you need except fish, which you can buy at one of the fish shops. Lemon grass, culantro, ginger, oregano etc. grow next to the house. Use the blender to make fresh tropical fruit drinks. To avoid invasions by ants, wash dishes and kitchen shelves immediately after cooking. We recommend storing as much as possible, especially fruit and vegetables, in the refrigerator. Organic waste like banana or pineapple peels can be thrown over the fence facing the ocean (don't throw fish or meat!). Paper, plastic, cans and other garbage can be put in the trash bin next to the sink. When the garbage bag is full, bring it to Victor and he will take it to Golfito.







### Animals and Insects

When fruits or blossoms are ripe, a troupe of capuchin monkeys often visits the property. A group of howler monkeys lives on the property (rarely seen but often heard). Animals seen at the house include coati-mundis, racoons, tamanduas, opossums, squirrels, scarlet macaws, parrots, toucans, hummingbirds, tanagers, great curassows, morpho butterflies, and various lizards and frogs. Pelicans and other seabirds often fly past the house at eye level, and sometimes dolphins can be seen in the ocean below. Snakes do inhabit the forest but rarely venture near the house because the grass is cut regularly. It is extremely rare to encounter a snake on the property, but don't walk around the garden barefoot. We fumigate the house once a year, but since it is an open house you might nevertheless encounter an occasional cockroach or scorpion (the sting is painful but harmless), spider (not poisonous), wasp nest or termite dust on the table. Bats use the house as their sleeping quarters during the daytime, and geckos and moths are attracted by the light in the night. Insects are present mainly at dusk, and we recommend using a repellent against the no-see-ums. Living in the jungle is an unforgettable, exciting experience but it is possible that people with strong phobias might not feel comfortable in an open house.



### Water, Electricity

We are the last house with electricity before the jungle begins (110-V.). Smartphones and internet work well with pre-paid SIM cards. Water comes from two large rainwater tanks that normally fill up after each heavy rainfall, safe drinking water from a reservoir above Playa Cacao is available from a hose at the landing beach (we carry it up in 2-gallon plastic containers). During the dry season, we recommend that you use water economically and check the water level in the tanks regularly. After heavy rain, remove leaves from the wire mesh net above the tank. If both tanks seem nearly empty, it is possible to pump water up from the beach.



The water tanks





### Transportation

Free transportation to or from Esquinas Lodge is included for guests staying minimum 2 nights at Esquinas Lodge AND staying at the Beach Cottage. For guests staying only at the Beach Cottage, free boat transportation to and from Golfito (Samoa del Sur dock) is included. You can leave your car at the parking lot of Hotel Samoa del Sur for \$15 per day. To ensure pick-up, either call Esquinas Lodge (2741 8001) and ask them to notify Victor, or call Victor (5005 8075) or Gabriela (5000 7030) directly.

### Playa Cacao and Golfito

At low tide, you can walk to Playa Cacao in 15 minutes or paddle there with our kayaks. There is a decent but overpriced restaurant „Siete Mares“, that serves Costa Rican and American food, but no stores. Golfito has an airport, a hospital, supermarkets, fish shops, restaurants, a duty free zone (Deposito Libre). and a Banco Nacional with an ATM. Ask Victor to take you to the “Muellecito”, where you will find Pearson Supermarket, the SANSA airline office, a pharmacy and other stores.







### Upstairs sleeping area and balcony

Inside and outside staircases lead up to the sleeping area that has two queen beds, both enclosed by mosquito nets and separated by a prefabricated wall. Each bed has a reading lamp. Clothing and luggage can be stored in a separate wardrobe with shelves. Two reclining deck chairs can be shoved out onto the spacious balcony for sunbathing. The view from the balcony is breathtaking.

Rates in USD from January 1, 2016					
	3 nights	4 nights	5 nights	6 nights	7 nights
Two adults	350	400	500	600	700
Each additional adult (from 12 years)	80	100	125	150	175
Children (to 12 years)	free	free	free	free	free
Kayaking	free	free	free	free	free
Pick-up and drop-off in Golfito	free	free	free	free	free

### Reservations and Payment

Reservations can be made through Esquinas Rainforest Lodge (esquinas@racsa.co.cr). Down payment of 20% required and will be refunded up to 14 days before arrival. Final payment due 14 days before arrival. The owner of the beach cottage will send you a bill to be paid through PayPal.

**Guests renting the Beach Cottage are doing so at their own risk. We do not assume any responsibility or liability for injuries or damages sustained in the house, on the property or in the surrounding jungle or ocean.**



### General description

The house is a simple, wooden cottage with open windows (no wire-screen!) and a thatched roof. There are no doors with locks. It is accessed by 100 steps from the landing beach and has a spectacular 240-degree view of the ocean all the way from Golfito to the Osa Peninsula. It is a very basic but highly romantic jungle house and cannot be compared with holiday homes in Florida or the Caribbean. It was built in 1974 and purchased by Michael Schnitzler in 1989. There is no air conditioning and no TV, but the house has a hot water shower, flush toilet and a fully equipped kitchen. The cottage is the last house on the coast for almost 4 miles and is completely surrounded by 25 acres of rainforest. The lush garden is full of coconut palms, orchids, heliconias, hibiscus



### Caretaker

The caretaker couple Victor and Gabriela Cruz live in a separate house below the cottage and are being paid to clean the property and the house when it is occupied. They are absolutely reliable. Victor is Costa Rican and Gabriela is an Austrian biologist who speaks English, German and Spanish. Feel free to ask them if there are any questions or problems with the house. The rental price includes pick-up and drop-off in Golfito. Victor will take you to shopping in Golfito if you wish (\$10/hour).

### Swimming

Swimming is possible at all times at the boat landing, where the water is always calm. The secluded swimming beach is reached by a 5-minute trail leading down through secondary growth rainforest. The trail can be slippery but is secured by steps and ropes. Although all beaches in Costa Rica are public, virtually nobody ever visits our swimming beach. Water temperature year round is approx. 85 F., and there are few waves. The water is relatively clean but is rarely clear due to the sediment that empties into it from the surrounding jungle. There are no dangerous fish, but occasionally swimmers are stung by microscopic, harmless jellyfish. When the tides change, it is possible that debris from Golfito bay is drawn out into the Golfo Dulce and passes by.



### Weather and Climate

There is a permanent light breeze, temperatures range from 85 F. during the day to 70 F. in the night. Humidity is around 90%. Mornings are usually beautiful and sunny; it usually rains in the afternoon and stops in the evening. The driest months are from December to March, the rainiest months are May, June and September. July and August see lots of sun but often violent thunderstorms in the afternoon. Dawn is around 5.00 a.m., and it gets dark around 6.00 p.m. all year around.



## Boat Excursions in the Golfo Dulce



Please notify Victor at least one day in advance if you would like to do a boat excursion. Since he is also employed by Esquinas Lodge, he might not be available every day and might have to find another boatman. Please pay the boatman directly in cash (USD or Colones). Since we don't have to transport guests back and forth, boat tours are cheaper than when booked at Esquinas Ldge. Use of kayaks is free, but if you would like Victor to accompany you in his motor boat and give you a ride back to the cottage, please pay him USD 10.00 per hour



### Rio Coto Mangroves

The mangroves of the Rio Coto estuary contain an incredible array of wildlife: numerous species of waterbirds, howler, white-faced and squirrel monkeys, caimans and crocodiles. Our boat tour through the meandering mangrove swamp, where it is unlikely to encounter any other tourists, takes 2-3 hours. Hiking gear is not needed.

**Price must be negotiated with Victor and depends on the amount of passengers. The non-binding rate is approx. \$ 100 for 4 persons.**



### Golfo Dulce Dolphin Tour

The motorboat ride up the beautiful coast and across Golfo Dulce is an unforgettable experience, passing by uninhabited beaches surrounded by pristine rainforest. The chance to see dolphins is around 90%, and some lucky guests have seen humpback whales and whale sharks. The tour includes a stop in the town of Puerto Jimenez to see the resident scarlet macaws and look for caimans and crocodiles in the mangrove estuary.

**Price must be negotiated with Victor and depends on the amount of passengers. The non-binding rate is approx. \$ 100 for 4 persons.**