

Essences of Costa Rica



The Costa Rican is known for social values such as democracy, family and patriotism extends right down to creating a culture for loving culture. Whether it is music, arts or political issues, Costa Ricans take pride in excellence, and strive to be the very best around the globe.

CULTURE: Pura Vida is used by everyone on a daily basis. This expression conveys the state of happiness, greeting, appreciation, peace and the tranquility that political stability and freedom bring to Costa Rica. It means Pure Life.

MUSIC The national trio, **Editus**, pursues a musical concept where music knows no frontiers, yet it maintains the spice of Latin America. They won a Grammy Award for their performance with Rúben Blades on Tiempos, in 2000, and recently won another in 2003 for Mundo, another collaboration with Rúben Blades. **Manuel Obregón**, well known in Central America for being the leading classical and jazz pianist of the region. Performing throughout the continent and in Spain, France, Switzerland and the United States. **The National Symphonic Orchestra**, founded in 1940, offers the most classical music performance in Costa Rica and is considered one of the best in Latin America. It has played in numerous important concerts and tours around the globe, in Europe, North and South America.

ART: Sculptor Jiménez Deredia was born in 1954 in Costa Rica. He studied architecture in the University of Florence and currently resides and works in Carrara, Italy. His works of art have traveled the world through the most renowned museums and art galleries. His latest work is a statue of San Marcelino Champagnat, located in the outer facade of San Peter's Basilique in the Vatican City, designed by none other than the Renaissance genius, Miguel Ángel Buonarroti

POLITICS: Oscar Arias Sánchez, former president of the republic and Nobel Peace Prize. As president in his last election, his focus was to engage Nicaragua and the other Central American states in a peace-making process. In 1987, he succeeded submitting his own peace plan, which was approved in Guatemala on August 7. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987.

BLUE FLAG ECOLOGICAL PROGRAM: Recognizing the growing pollution problem at Costa Rica's beautiful beaches, a number of government institutions came together to do something about it. Spearheaded by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute and the National Water and Sewer Service, the Blue Flag Ecological Program addresses the issues of beach garbage, as well as minimizing negative impacts that can arise as a result of tourism

CERTIFICATION IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROGRAM: Costa Rica is a pioneer in implementing the Certification in Sustainable Tourism Program, a product of the Costa Rican Tourism Board (ICT). Its purpose is to differentiate tourism sector businesses based on the degree to which they comply with a sustainable model of natural, cultural and social resource management.