PLANNING

Osa by month

When to go for weather, whales, trails and prices. Print it or keep it on your phone.

Dec–Apr
best weather
(Feb–Mar driest)

Aug–Oct
best for whales
also Jan–Mar

May–Jun
best value:
sunny mornings, low prices

Oct–Nov
hardest: heaviest rain
and some closures

The year in one table

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rain (mm)	165	96	114	248	562	585	653	718	619	804	771	369
Humpback whales	••	••	••	•			•	••	••	••	•	•
Sea turtle nesting							•	••	••	••	••	•
Migrant birds	••	••	••	•						•	••	••
Big surf				•	••	••	••	••	•	•		
Easy Corcovado trails	••	••	••	•	•	•	•	•				•
Crowds and prices	••	••	••	•			•	•				••

•• peak · • possible or starting. Rain: monthly averages for Golfito, the wettest part of the region; the Costa Ballena gets somewhat less. Wildlife seasons are typical patterns and vary by year.

The best time for what you want to do

IF YOU WANT…	GO IN
Corcovado and long hikes	December to April
Humpback whales	August–October · January–March
Caño Island snorkeling and diving	December to April (calmer, usually clearer)
Sea turtles	July to December
Birdwatching	December to April (with northern migrants)
Surfing Pavones	April to October (south swells)
Finca 6 sunrise alignment	Around April · late August to early September
Low prices and quiet beaches	May, June and September





MONTH BY MONTH

What each month is like

Month by month

January
Dry season in full swing, northern humpbacks arriving and the busiest weeks of the year until New Year. Book boats, Corcovado and lodges months ahead.

February
Usually the driest, sunniest month. Calm seas for Caño Island, easy Corcovado trails and northern whales off Uvita.

March
Hot and dry, with the last weeks of the northern whales. Semana Santa fills beaches with Costa Rican families (March or April).

April
Mostly sunny, prices start to drop, the first south swells reach Pavones and the Finca 6 spheres line up with the sunrise.

May
The green season begins: clear mornings, afternoon rain. The quietest month, with the best prices and bright green forest.

June
Long days, sunny mornings and afternoon showers. Good surf on the Golfo Dulce side and few visitors on the trails.

July
Southern humpbacks start arriving and turtles begin nesting. School holidays (about two weeks in early July) bring local families.

August
Peak whale season starts off Uvita, with mothers and calves close to shore. Wetter afternoons, many sunny mornings for boat tours.

September
Whales at their peak and the Whale and Dolphin Festival in Uvita (4–6 September in 2026). Some lodges and restaurants close for holidays.

October
The wettest month. In recent years SINAC has closed Sirena and other Corcovado sectors in October, and some lodges close. Lowest prices.

November
Still very rainy, but quiet and green. The last southern whales leave, northern migrant birds return and turtle releases continue at Punta Banco.

December
The rains ease and the dry season begins. The first northern whales appear; Christmas and New Year are the most expensive weeks of the year.

Tips for the green season (May–November)

- Plan boat trips and hikes for the morning; rain usually starts after lunch.
- Rivers rise fast after heavy rain. Never cross a flooded river or stream, by car or on foot.
- Pack a light rain jacket, quick-dry clothes and a dry bag. A 4x4 helps on gravel roads.
- Leave a spare day, especially if you fly or take a boat to Drake Bay.
- In September and October, confirm that your lodge and restaurants are open.

Good to know

- **Water** is warm all year: about 27–29 °C. Air on the coast: 21–28 °C, and it feels hotter with the humidity.
- **Whales:** southern humpbacks July to November (peak August to October); northern humpbacks December to April. Dolphins all year.
- **October?** Only if you are flexible: some Corcovado sectors and lodges may close and boat trips can be cancelled by weather. Check the sector status before booking.

Seasons vary from year to year. Rainfall: Golfito monthly averages (climate-data.org). Dates and conditions change, so confirm with your lodge or operator before you travel.

SCAN FOR THE LIVE, UPDATED PAGE

Full month-by-month guide

Whale season

Festivals calendar

Free Osa Trip Planner