

CORCOVADO NATIONAL PARK

Corcovado cheat sheet

The rules, the sectors and the booking steps on one page. Print it or keep it on your phone.

US\$15

per day, foreign adults
(¢1,600 nationals), plus tax

1 guide

registered local guide
is mandatory

6 months

how far ahead
reservations open

7–4

park hours,
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 2026. Sirena, Los Patos and El Tigre are closed for yearly maintenance and the heaviest rains. San Pedrillo and La Leona are open. From November, Sirena again admits up to 366 people a day. Sectors can change: **confirm with your guide before you book.**

The five sectors

SECTOR	ACCESS FROM	DAILY CAP	BEST FOR
Sirena	Boat from Drake, Sierpe or Puerto Jiménez; or on foot	366	The best wildlife; only station with lodging and meals (reserve)
San Pedrillo	Boat from Drake Bay	120	Shorter day trips; camping allowed
La Leona	Carate, by road from Puerto Jiménez	80	Beach and coastal forest; start of the walk to Sirena
Los Patos	La Palma, near Puerto Jiménez	80	Inland route to Sirena for experienced hikers
El Tigre	Dos Brazos, near Puerto Jiménez	80	Quiet trails and community tourism

Seven steps to book

1. Pick your month and a sector that is open.
2. Choose a base: Drake Bay (boat) or Puerto Jiménez / Carate (road).
3. Hire a registered guide or a tour that bundles everything.
4. Let the operator reserve your date (up to six months ahead).
5. Reserve Sirena lodging and meals separately, months ahead.
6. Pay the fees. The park fee does not cover guide, boat or meals.
7. Confirm 48 hours before: sector open, boat time and tide, meeting point.

No swimming in beaches, rivers or lagoons inside the park.



Tapirs, four monkey species and scarlet macaws live in and around the park.

Common mistakes: no reservation or guide · booking Sirena for October · assuming the park fee covers everything · picking the cheapest tour without asking what happens if the sector closes.

BEFORE YOU GO

Budget, questions and packing

What to budget (October 2026)

WHAT	PRICE
Park entrance, foreign adult	US\$15 per day + tax
Park entrance, national or resident	₡1,600 per day + tax
Day tour from Drake Bay	US\$110–165
Day tour from Puerto Jiménez	US\$160–180
Sirena overnight, from Drake	US\$350–545
Sirena overnight, from P. Jiménez	from ≈ US\$450

Day tours include boat, guide, park fee and lunch. Guide, boat, meals and lodging are not covered by the park fee. Prices change by season and operator.

Questions to ask before you pay

- ☐ Can I see the guide's registration credential?
- ☐ What exactly is included: boat, park fee, guide, lunch, lodging?
- ☐ What happens if the sector closes on my date (weather or maintenance)?
- ☐ What is the cancellation policy?
- ☐ What time is the boat, where do we meet and what should I bring?

Stay safe

- **Never cross a swollen river or stream**, by car or on foot. Rivers rise fast after heavy rain.
- **No swimming** inside Corcovado: crocodiles and bull sharks live at river mouths.
- **Boat landings are wet.** You step into knee-deep water: wear sandals and use a dry bag.
- Keep to the trails and follow your guide. Never feed wildlife.
- Take your trash out. Bring a refillable bottle.

Prices, hours and rules change. This sheet was verified in October 2026 with operators and official sources (SINAC). Park sectors can open or close with little notice: confirm with your guide before you travel.

Where to base yourself

BASE	FOR
Drake Bay	Boat to Sirena and San Pedrillo
Puerto Jiménez / Carate	La Leona, Los Patos, El Tigre by road
Sierpe	Boat to Sirena and the Drake side

Best time to go

December to April is easiest for trails. October and November bring the heaviest rain and some closures; confirm your sector before you book.

What to bring

- ☐ Waterproof hiking shoes or trail runners
- ☐ Picaridin or DEET insect repellent
- ☐ Headlamp (red light is a plus)
- ☐ Dry bag for phone, passport and camera
- ☐ Binoculars (8x42 is ideal)
- ☐ Light rain jacket or poncho
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Passport or ID
- ☐ Cash in colones and small US dollar bills

SCAN FOR THE
LIVE, UPDATED
PAGE



Step-by-step
booking



Sectors
compared



Full Corcovado
guide



Free Osa Trip
Planner