

# The New York Times



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## 52 Places to Go in 2024

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John Burchard for The New York Times

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### 46 El Camino de Costa Rica 🌿

A coast-to-coast trek with cloud forests, local chocolate and more

Toh Gouttenoire for The New York Times

Full List

EL CAMINO DE COSTA RICA



Adventure, Nature

With new signage, the **Camino de Costa Rica**, a 174-mile cross-country hiking trail that connects the Caribbean and Pacific coasts, became easier to navigate last year. Organized into 16 sections, the trail knits together 25 rural communities and terrain that ranges from beaches to cloud forests. The full hike can take from 11 to 16 days, and along the way, travelers passing through Indigenous areas can hire members of the **Cabécar community** as guides. The trail also traverses national parks and sanctuaries that host dazzling birds like the **resplendent quetzal**.

Trekkers can camp, book hotels or stay overnight with families, sampling homegrown coffee and chocolate as well as dishes like a variety of gallo pinto made with beans, rice and coconut milk that's often enjoyed on the Caribbean side of the trail. Local outfitters offer custom itineraries, including accommodations and luggage transfers, and activities like rafting, horseback riding and canoeing — all ways to help support areas off the tourist track.

— Nora Walsh