



Montezuma Wild

*A spectacular guide for one of the most beautiful places
on this planet.*

Peter and Rocio Kahl

Montezuma Costa Rica

Introduction

Wild and untouched, hard and time consuming reaching this virgin area. Once there, nature lovers really are truly astonished where they went into. For the all inclusive tourist, it might be a bit too wild and rustic, but with a bit of patience one would find how worth it is to visit this magical area.

This guideline has been made for the ones who has chosen Costa Rica as a host. Adventurers people who like to throw themselves into the wild and untouched wonders of this part of Costa Rica.

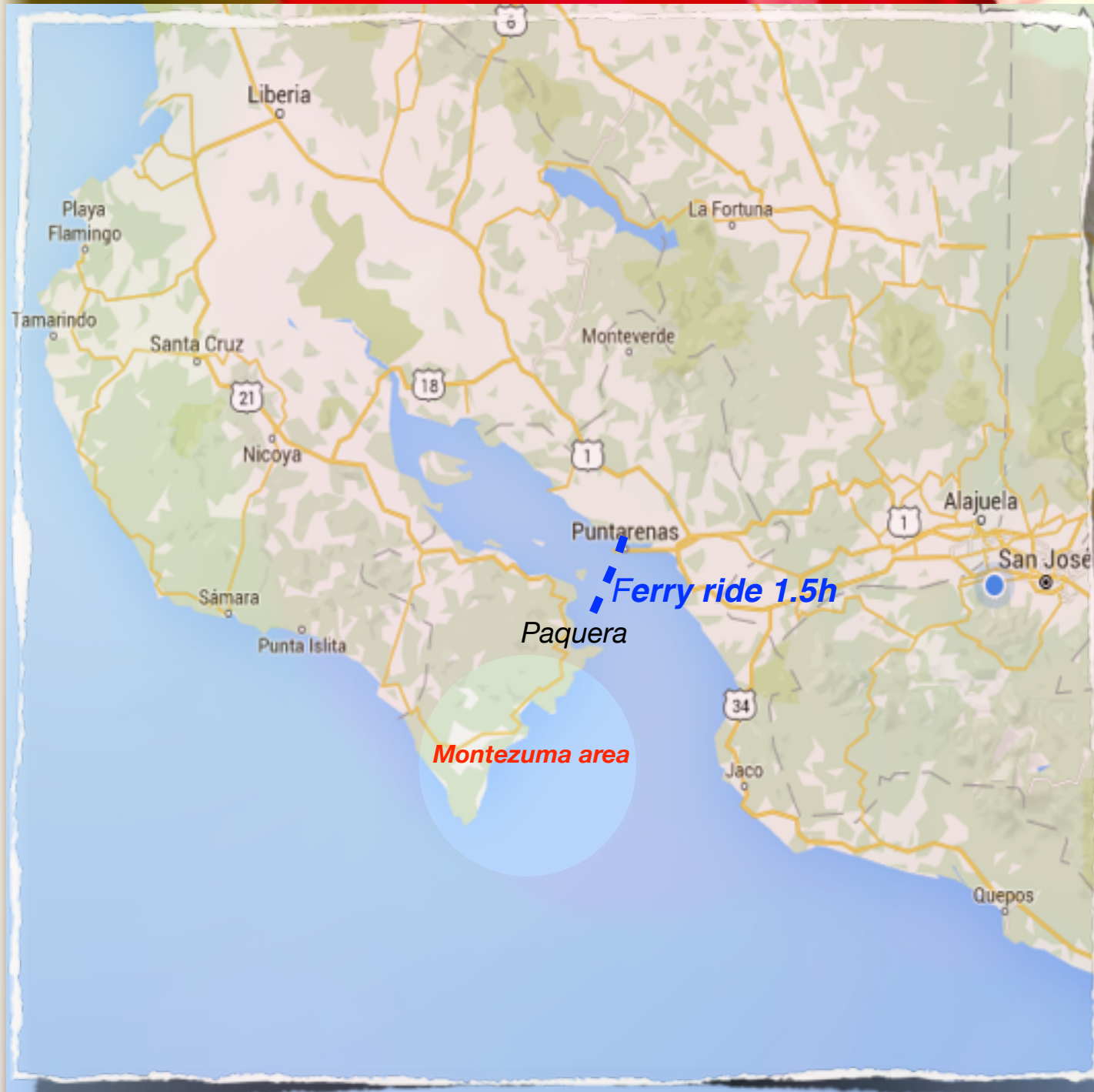
We have been in a lot of beautiful places on this Earth, but never have seen so much natural beauty zip in one spot.

Enjoy and use this guide to extend your limits and imagination.

Peter and Rocio

Where are we?

*The Southern tip of the Nicoyan Peninsula gives a **kind** of island feeling, because the Nicoyan Gulf **is in** between Costarrican main land.*



Crossing the Gulf of Nicoya, is to get a touch brush of 9 little islands you would encounter on the ride. On your right side you would see: “Isla San Lucas”, “Isla Pan de Azucar” “Isla Guayabo” (nest’s birds and where they go to sleep), “Isla Gitana o muertos”, “Isla Patricia”, “Isla Pájaros” and “Isla Comercio”. On your left side just getting into Paquera port you would see “Isla Cedros” and “Isla Jesuita”. Some natives live in Jesuita and Cedros’ island, mostly fisherman families. The ride is: Paquera-Cobano-Montezuma/Delicias. Montezuma Heights awaits you on a magnificent ocean view.

About the area



With no doubt this area has a special energetic vibe, beside its nature's generosity. One could explore rivers, waterfalls, beaches, natural reserves and its virgin surroundings that makes everyone to fall in love in the minute of encountering.

The dusty rustic roads in the area and the feeling of remoteness has kept away the huge hotels and developmental gigantic projects. Sense that we hope to preserve for present and generations to come.

We should not forget that Costa Rica is still a country under development, not to fall in a romantic illusion. One's patience could be defied due to rustic roads and somehow lack of infrastructure. Certainly, Costa Rica is not competing with first world countries. Nevertheless, abolished the military system since 1948 and its budget was re-directed into Education. The Dalai Lama when visited Costa Rica, said that this country is far ahead of most developed countries due to its choices pro peace. In addition, it has a social security system better than many countries in the region. And the Costa Ricans, in general are affable people willing to help if need it and very friendly as well.

On the other hand, the South part of the Nicoyan Peninsula is marked as one of the Blue Zones on our planet. Blue Zones is a concept used to identify a demographic and geographic area of the world, where people live way longer and in good physical-integral conditions. One could extrapolate than happier as well.

Researchers have found that minerals in the water of the Blue Zone have higher qualities than in other parts of the country. And since the area was so long isolated from the rest of the country and its people had no access to processed food encouraged a healthier living.

Water

The abundance of water in this area is not only astonishing but refreshing. There are rivers, the famous Montezuma waterfalls, a tiny waterfall with wonderful boulders by the secluded neighborhood of Montezuma Heights. The magnificent ocean presence with its various moods and colors forming different beaches all the way from “Laguna Rio Bonito” until Cabuya area.

All this waters just melt in to each other.

The ocean water contains all the minerals and get absorbed by the skin while swimming. The water is beautifully warm all year round and it is always a pleasure to be in it.

As follow a description of rivers, waterfalls and beaches details.



Rivers and Creeks

The veins of the earth gives birth to fresh oxygenated water that lift our spirits under the sun rays.

Creeks and rivers coming out from the forest with fresh and clean water are Thready to cool you down. Therefore, taking a dip in the beautiful surrounding of mother nature is a rewarding experience.



Waterfalls



The amount of waterfalls one could find in this area is breathtaking. We have been hiking the area for almost 20 years and still have not seen all. Until now we have counted around fifty. The geography of the cliffs what stretches about 30miles between Cabuya and Tambor makes this possible.

Since the cliff is so close to the ocean the falls can be found upstream each river or creek in a short distance and without much effort. The hikes are short and you get rewarded greatly. Almost all rivers and creeks form pools before they enter the ocean. !Great for cooling down!



Beaches



The beaches in the area are well known nationally and internationally for their beauty. Soon as you walk a bit out of Montezuma along the coast it clears up and you almost have the best beaches for yourself, even in high season, i.e; "Playa Grande".

The sand color and texture changes from beach to beach and it is almost magical.



While walking the beaches you pass the dense tropical dry forest with the monkeys spying and observing what people are up to. If they see one is coming to close, they would energetically shake the branches and make enough noise to scare everyone away. The howler monkeys are surprisingly loud for their size.

Attraction by attraction



- 1."Cocalito's" Fall
- 2."Rio Bonito/ Laguna"
- 3."Playa Grande"
- 4."Piedra Colorado"
- 5."Montezuma"
- 6.Montezuma's Falls
- 7.Delicias' Falls
- 8.Horizonte's Fall
- 9."Playa Manchas Azules"
- 10."Rio Miguelon/Cedros"
- 11."Rio Lajas"
- 12."Cabuya"
- 13."Cabo Blanco" Na-
tional Reserve.
- 14."Mal Pais Santa
Teresa" area

1. Cocalito's Fall

At the very end of the Playa Cocalito (walking from Montezuma 2.5 hour), drops a beautiful 30 feet waterfall into the ocean. There is a road bringing you close to this Fall from Cobano towards Paquera. The entrance road is at Tango Mar Resort. Nevertheless, walking or horseback riding along the beaches are a blessing itself. Due to the long distance its mostly lonesome. Once in a while you would see boats in the ocean rushing towards Tortuga Island or people on horses doing the tour to this waterfall. For the ones who love the quietness and nature it is a must to explore further this area with its lagoon and beaches. Give yourself a pleasant cool shower under this waterfall.

Rio Bonito's Lagoon

Carved out in blue of the green forrest, Rio Bonito's lagoon forms at the end a humongous pool. The peaceful and quiet spot invites for a relaxing time and provides also shade under the big almond trees. The pool is a great spot for swimming and one could swim till the end following the riverbed. After a long walk you feel like heaven going into these refreshing and smooth waters. Also do not miss to have a look into big rock formation around with tiny shells and colorful little rocks in it.

“Playa Grande”

Like a mirror the shallow flooded sand reflects the immense image from the sky up above. The universe upside down and the observer in between.



Playa Grande the nicest beach in the area is about one hour walk from Montezuma.

One could almost walk 300ft. inside the ocean till it gets deep. The waves break really nice, this is one reason why people come for surfing as well.

Only a few people know the vineyard behind the palm trees. It is as far we know the only type of vine who grows in the tropics. It was Albert Ingalls who adopted 50 years ago by breeding this vine with local and foreign grape plants over a long process to this climate. His son Toran still continues the tradition and produce around 200 Gallons of red and white wine a year with always different flavors. There are some paths through the spiny vegetation who bring you there. Between December and April one can see the grapes growing.



“Piedra Colorada”



Stretched out like a carpet small and large colored stones are an attraction to young and old. The little cold stream what comes out of the dense forest forms a small pool with big sand stone boulders. Out of these Boulders natives scratch the raw material to make a natural peeling (see recipe in the next page).. It is a caress to one skin. Beside that provides minerals to one skin. Check out the secrets of nature. It's fun as well.

A beautiful little adventure is to follow the creek upstream and find little cascades and pools in the beautiful silent, green and narrow canyon.



Face peeling recipe:

Put little water on the surface of the boulder and scratch it with a shell to get the powder that would be mix with water to finally get the magical paste to do the peeling. Let it dry and then rinse it off. It is a nice feeling afterwards, check this out!! It's free. If people go into town with the green color face, locals would accept one immediately as natives, maybe :)!





Feel free creating your own stone sculpture and leave a piece of art behind. There are already some incredible art pieces who wants to be appreciated. Hands on work!

Montezuma's Downtown

Bohemian, hippie style is often mentioned and described in the travel books. Indeed, it has this touch. However, it offers way more than this. Good national and International restaurants offer a great variety of dishes. There are a few places where live music is played at night. Sometimes, there is live fire dancing on the streets (depends on the season). Tour agencies offer a great variety of activities from boat trips to Tortuga Island, zip lining, diving, horseback riding, surfing, paddle boarding and much more. Every Saturday from 11am till 2pm runs the organic market at the park, fresh and delicious organic products await the visitors. Have a taste !!

For dance lovers, Chico's floor waits to get polished and fire up the spot with one's dance steps. The artisans on the streets presented their insightful work, have a look !!



Turtle Hatchery



Just a few minutes out of Montezuma beach, the volunteers in charge of the Turtle Hatchery do their important work. They are well organized and love what they do (protecting, preserving and register every new comer). At a survival rate of 1 per 1000 the volunteer work, certainly is a valuable one.

Like boiling sand you can describe the hatching of this little Olive Ridley Turtles. In the beginning pops up one and then slowly more and more heads want to be seen. Suddenly, gets really busy and the sand moves like boiling.





Montezuma's Beach

Playa Montezuma close to town is the beach who gets visited by the most tourists first. In peak season it could be crowded and camping is common. Still, the beach is beautiful and the water with the waves is great for body surfing and boogie boarding. Dangerous rip tides are not known in this area.

Montezuma's Falls

Deep in the woods hidden from the town appears an inviting waterfall. The sound of the fallen water echoes from the sides of the walls in this canyon. The color of water changes with the season. In high season could get fairly crowded, since it is one of the main attractions. So, better choose the hours before 9am or after 3pm. There is a steep trail facing the fall up to the Delicias' falls. If you would like to walk save, take precautions and use the right hiking shoes. Do not climb the wall of the waterfalls to reach the upper fall.





Delicias' Falls



Montezuma river at the limits of “Delicias” and “Montezuma” sculptures two big falls and some small cascades. There is a rustic path coming up from the Montezuma Waterfall or from Sun Trails up in Delicias. The area above Montezuma is called “Las Delicias”. Delicias falls are so refreshing and for sure a life saver on the hottest days. These are some of the many tourists highlights that nature offers.

Falls and Canopy tour



The Adrenaline Jump

For the tough ones under us this gives you an extra adrenaline fill, but be sure what are you doing. If you have any doubt go some steps down and then with more confidence get higher up.



Delicias' Cliffs

Just sense the wide wide open ocean horizon.





Delicias Village

Delicias' means delicious because the breeze that refresh the village all year round. First inhabitants (Cruz, Mora, Delgado, Alvarez among others) got there about 75 years ago. Well known for its "Trapiches" (sugar cane mill). First done by the Cruz's and in our days by the Delgados' family like in the old times. People mainly live from cattle, farming and tourism. The area due to dirt roads is great for hiking, mountain biking and ATV. The zip lining is found there as well. Good restaurants has being opened. It counts with the finest ocean views in Costa Rica. Beside its several creeks and rivers which make there way down forming waterfalls and pools. The main hydrographic resources in the area comes from Delicias Village.

Horizontes' Fall

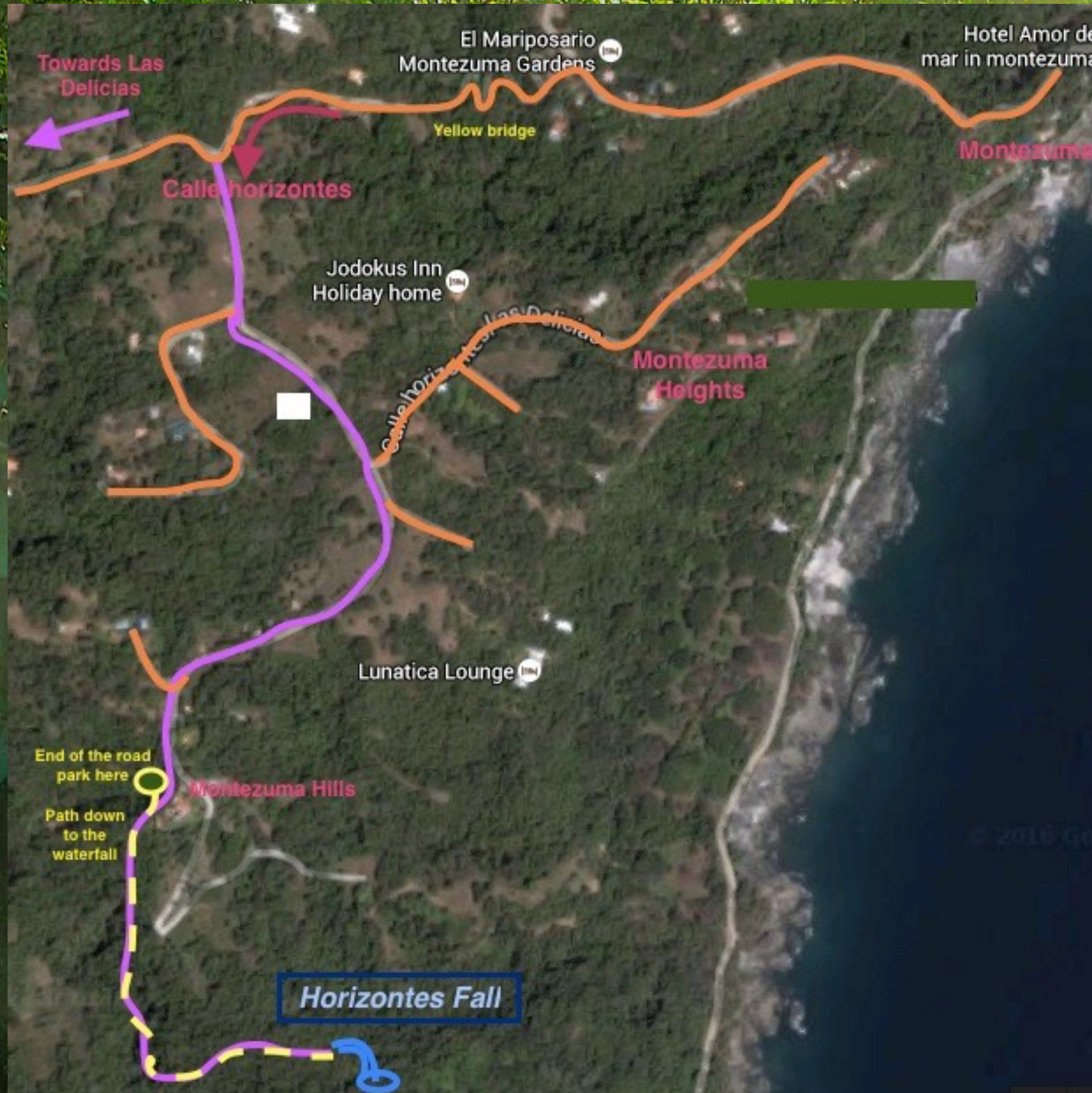
Secretly camouflaged deep in a small canyon one could encounter a tiny magnificent waterfall. At the end of "Calle Horizontes" ("Delicias"). Just, at Montezuma Heights' neighborhood.

Fresh cool water fills the pool of this waterfall. It is a beautiful and embracing spot that tranquil the soul and calm the busy minds.

The pool is forged into the solid rock keeping the water even on the hottest days fresh.

The boulders in the canyon and the small pools downstream create a beautiful scenery.

Map to Horizontes' Fall



“Playa Manchas Azules”

Like with a paint brush colored around the rocks with different greens and blue's this beach invites for a wonderful experience. This beach is just half a mile out of Montezuma towards Cabuya. The sand is made of granulate shells and has a wonderful texture. Snorkeling around the rocks is astonishing and one can see pretty fishes. It is also the beach where the locals go.

Good swimmers would find this beach as the calmest water around Montezuma.



Certainly, “Playa Manchas Azules” is one of the best natural swimming pools in the area. There are some tight pools close as well. The water is extremely refreshing and it is a pleasure swimming in it. There is a small rip tide when the waves get stronger, but if you keep calm and swim parallel to shore one is out really fast. So don’t panic!! Nevertheless, under this wave conditions better to stay always on the left side of the first beach spot.



“Rio Miguelon/Cedros”



The river fresh and clear finds its way out of the deep green Jungle. It is about 3 miles from Montezuma towards Cabuya where the small concrete bridge is crossing it.

Following the river upstream one would find little pools, waterfalls and probably monkeys in the tree canopies.

At its end flowing softly into the ocean forms a big and silent pool. It is a local reunion spot on the weekends, where families make their picnics or celebrate birthdays.

The beach over there is also well known for it's quality of bay fishing. It is almost guaranteed to catch something when one see the locals fishing.

Therefore, once a year it is held a fisherman tournament organized by the locals.

A plus is to take a sweet water dip, after a salty water one.





Cool, fresh and blue sky

“Rio Lajas”

Rio Lajas close to Cabuya is the river with the biggest pools in the area. This river is about 4.5 miles from Montezuma crossing a bigger steel bridge. Its size and the big trees surrounding it are the hosts of a quite variety of birds, who come to nest and sleep there. In the morning between 6 and 8am and in evening around 5 and 6pm a lot of birds could be seen.



“Rio Lajas” is a great spot for spending the day in the pools and ocean. At night making a bonfire is great, there is so much drift wood on the beach, just put a pile together and bring your loved ones. What could be more authentic like this. Please do not forget to turn off the fire.



“Cabuya”

At the very end of Nicoyan Peninsula and maybe in the world lies peacefully the small fishing village of Cabuya. For the most of the travelers it is only the gateway to the Cabo Blanco Natural Reserve. Looking around the village, pure nature strikes you everywhere. One great spot is Cabaya Island. We call it the Moses Island since one could walk to the Island at low tide. When high tides is moving in it is better to get back or one might face the same luck like the Egyptians at the time of Moses when the ocean closed over them.

The Island itself is a cemetery and some foreigners rest in peace there as well. The Island is also a great place for snorkeling, paddle boarding and kayaking. If one is lucky enough could see Turtles, Dolphins and even Whales.

The fisherman have their hut on the beach and if they are coming in from their trips one could buy the freshest fish ever. If you don't see them, no worries their houses are nearby with their freezers waiting for you buying the best fish on this planet. Ask where they sell fish or look for the signs, everybody knows and is happy helping you to find them.



"The Higuerón"

The Higuerón: Half a mile before Cabuya on the right side of the road, appears the biggest Higuerón tree in the country. The Higuerón is a parasite and grows around his host, sooner or later the host dies because of missing light and strangling. It drops his roots from up to the bottom and grows then its trunks. This tree is really worth seeing it, the size is amazing. There are bats sleeping on the inside, you can see them walking around the tree and looking for a big hole.

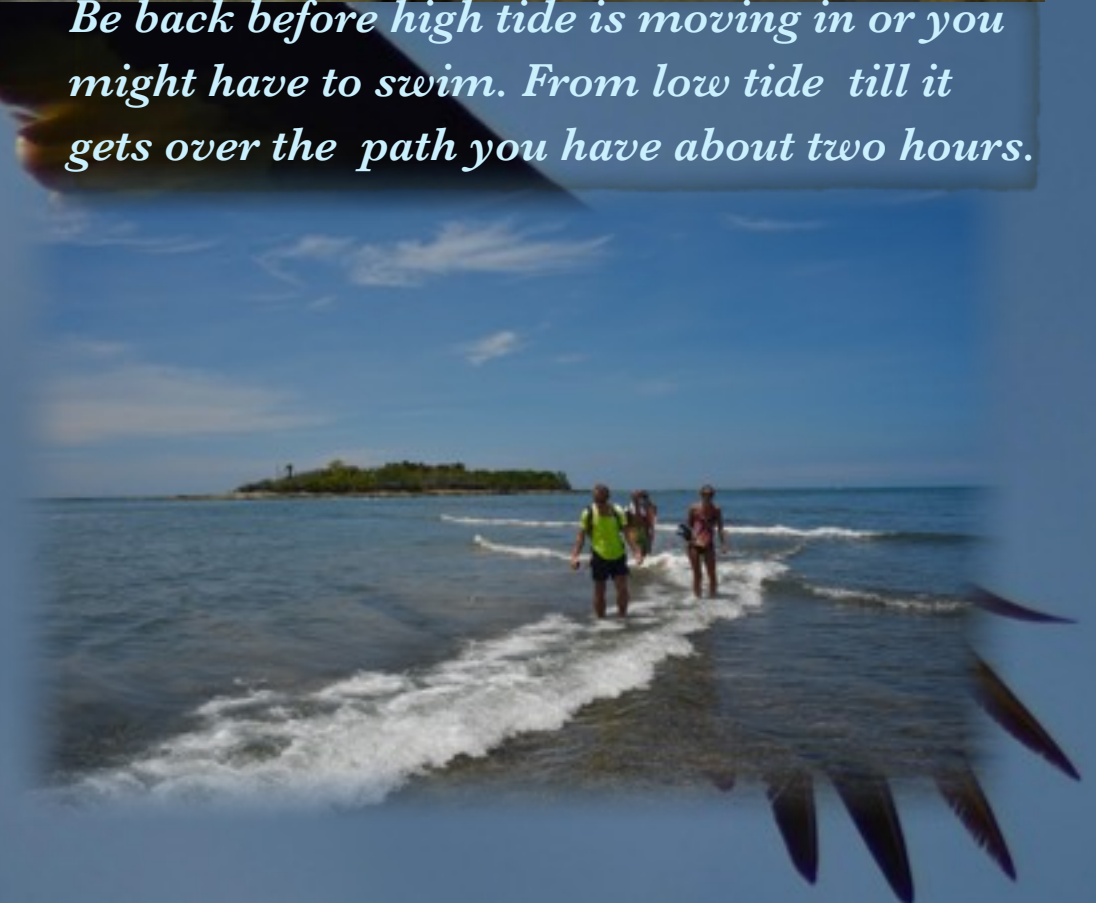


Cabuya's Island

On Cabuya Island facing the main land



Be back before high tide is moving in or you might have to swim. From low tide till it gets over the path you have about two hours.



Cabo Blanco's Absolute Natural Reserve''

The dense green, the sounds of nature, the breathing of mother earth. This tropical dry forest is home of a countless amount of plants and animals. They want to be discovered. Walking quietly, if possible, gives a much better chance to seeing some wildlife. Nevertheless, people should be patience. The ones who rush through the park would only see the sweat pearls running from their faces.

Stop once in a while on the 2.5 hour walk to the park beach and appreciate the natural scenery.

There are two trails in the park. One is a round trip of one hour with signs who explain the non biologist the eco system.

The second one is about 2.5h and brings you to this beautiful beach. If you decide to do this walk better start as early as the park opens. Tuesday-Sunday from 8am-4pm. Low season Wednesday-Sunday (better checking the schedule ahead)

After the long walk is such an opening and nice feeling seeing the ocean welcoming visitors. Enjoy the swim !!



“Mal Pais-Santa Teresa Area”

Just 45 minutes from Montezuma appears one of the nicest sunsets of the Peninsular. Mal Pais and Santa Teresa are much more touristic and much more populated. Mal Pais is known for its beautiful tight pools and scenery. And Santa Teresa is known for one of the best surfing beaches in the country and its long white sandy beaches.



Mal Pais' tight Pools: 1.

Definitely, another spots one should not miss. Look for the sign on the side of the road or ask for "Mar Azul". The bizarre rock formations and beautiful pools make this a great location to visit. Please, check out the tides before, on low tight it is best.



2.



*This place just look like in a movie
from another planet. Wind and sea
formed it out of this volcanic stone.*

*Be careful walking barefoot, the rocks are
sharp and pointy!*

Road map: There are different roads from Montezuma and Delicias to the other side (Santa Teresa-Mal Pais).

Our favorites roads are through Cabuya and Delicias. In Cabuya, look for the sign Mal Pais on the first crossroad. There are great views towards the beaches and inside the Cabo Blanco Natural absolute Reserve. In Delicias, go trough the center, pass the football field and continue straight forward. It is the shortest way. In rainy season not always is accessible.

The longest ride is through Cobano. In Cobano are two gas stations and on the way from Cobano to Mal Pais.



Energy



In the green season between May and November a natural show arises from up above. For some it is frightening or scary and for others is an spectacular show. it is nature's wildest expression of power and energy.

Having the experience of sensing the thunders and lightning's coming from the sea closer and closer, minute by minute and hearing the trembling sound of glass and windows when is over one's head is how strong nature could talk to humans. Absolutely, one of the most charging expressions.



Pour your energy here as well

We hope this guideline would wake your interest to adventure and enjoy this amazing area. It is a gift to travel and it is an even greater one to be aware of all the small miracles of nature surroundings. Open your spirit and mind to really get touched by what is offered. It is easy to fall in love with this part of this beautiful country.

This guidelines would be always a work in progress and would be updated in the new versions.

*This is a courtesy of **Montezuma Heights**: “The Art House, Colibri, Mariposa, Geco and Buho cabins”, overlooking “Playa Manchas Azules”.*

Sunrise greetings Peter and Rocio

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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