



# Southern Drake Lodge



## Guest Handbook

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# Welcome to Southern Drake Lodge

You've made it to Bahía Drake (Drake Bay) - on the north side of the Osa Peninsula on the south west coast of Costa Rica. It's believed to have been a port used by Sir Francis Drake during his raids on the Spanish Main in the 16th century. Legend has it, it's also the location of one of his hidden treasures. With only around 1,000 permanent residents in all of Drake Bay, we're a close community that regularly welcomes visitors from all over the world.

The lodge itself is located between the towns of Agujitas and Los Planes on Costa Rica's beautiful Osa Peninsula. It's purposely built to take advantage of the stunning jungle and ocean views and cool breezes. Howler monkeys are your morning alarm clock and toucans remind you when it's gin o'clock. There are daily visits from a variety of birds and animals, including macaws, monkeys (spider, howler, capuchin and on occasion squirrel) coatis, tayras, stunning butterflies and sometimes we even get a visit from a jaguarundi and a tapir.

Southern Drake Lodge is owned and managed by Joe and Sue Southern who live at the lodge with their rescue cat and dogs Gala, Rio and Bob. Here's a little bit of background about your hosts.

Both are from the north of England in the UK. They travelled the world looking for warmer climes to settle and fell in love with Costa Rica, in particular Drake Bay. They packed their bags to build a luxury home and welcoming lodge for adventurous travellers to stay.

Joe has been a keen angler since childhood and has travelled the world in a continuous search for the next prize catch. He's always kept an eye on a potential place to settle. Having worked in construction all his life, he built the lodge himself, during the global pandemic, with travellers in mind.

Sue has a varied background in leisure, retail, project and product management. It's her job to keep things running and to make sure guests from all walks of life, with a variety of interests, are well catered for.

Gala, Rio and Bob are all rescue animals. They're the resident entertainment, often found lounging by the pool at sunset.

As seasoned travellers, both understand how precious your vacation time is and want to ensure you get the most out of your visit and of course hope to see you return to the area again and again.

Pura Vida

## Lodge Information

**WiFi** - Southerndrakelodge - Password: southern22

**Contact details** - Via WhatsApp

Joe: +506 6464 - 9515

Sue: +506 6282 - 0430

**Emergency services:** 911

**Check in:** Between 1.00pm and 6.00pm

**Checkout:** By 11.00am, please see the 'Checkout Checklist'

**Breakfast** - 6.30am - 8.30am ('To go' breakfast available earlier. Order before 2.00pm)

**Dinner** - 6.30pm

**Got something to celebrate?** - This is the perfect celebration and get together venue. If you need an event catered or just a birthday cake, as long as we get enough notice and of course, dependant on the season, we'll help you make a night to remember.

**Taxi** - With plenty of notice we can arrange this for you.

**Taxi Boat - Drake Bay & Sierpe** - The boat leaves Drake Bay at 7.15am and 2.30pm from the main beach. It leaves Sierpe at 11.30am and 4.00pm. Let us know if you want to reserve places.

**Drinking water** - Filtered water is provided for drinking. This is the water in the reservoir and container in your fridge. We will refill this daily. If you need more just ask. Water from all the other taps/ faucets is fine for brushing your teeth. Please use a reusable drinking bottle wherever possible when you're out and about. Single use plastic bottles are strictly forbidden in Corcovado National Park - the rangers at the park carry out random bag searches and you may be refused entry without a refund if found to be carrying them.

**Toilets** - We have a septic tank, so please use the bin provided.

**Air conditioning** - Installed for your comfort. Help us use less energy by ensuring the windows and all doors are closed before use and turn it off when leaving the room. For

maximum comfort we recommend setting it at 20 or above. Having it cooler can have too much of a shock to your system and we want you fighting fit for your adventures. If you forget to turn it off when leaving the room, don't worry, we'll do that for you. There's a cool breeze from the jungle during the night and the ocean during the day you might prefer as well as a ceiling fan. That way you'll also enjoy the sounds of the jungle and sometimes the ocean.

Ocean Suite - the A/C unit in the separate bedroom is only for that room so please ensure the bedroom door is closed before use.

**Pools** - The main pool is by our bar and in front of the Gatehouse Cabin. The private infinity pool is part of the Ocean Suite. You're welcome to use the main pool at any time of day but please show consideration for other guests. Please shower before getting in and avoid using glass at all times. Please take care on the deck and surrounding steps which can be slippery when wet so avoid running. The main pool is all one depth at 1.2m with steps at one end and a ledge at the other so please refrain from diving and ensure children are accompanied at all times. The private infinity pool is high above the ground, without rails so please avoid standing on the sides. The deck becomes very slippery when wet. The depth is 1.2m with steps at the front and a ledge along the back. For safety reasons there is strictly no diving or jumping in allowed. Supervision of children is required at all times.

**Environmentally friendly** - Costa Rica is famous for its environmental policies and we know you'll want to help us support them where you can and keep the ocean and jungle as they should be. Our general rule of thumb is, whatever you bring into the jungle, take back out with you. To support this we provide toiletries (shampoo, shower gel and hand soap).

**Towels and bedding** - If you need clean towels or bedding just put the dirty ones in the laundry basket provided and we'll take care of it for you. We've provided you with bath towels and pool towels. We've also provided you with microfibre towels that we're happy for you to take to the beach, in the jungle or on a boat - they're easier to carry and dry a lot faster than normal towels. The bath and pool towels are for use in the lodge only. Help us to promote a healthy environment by airing your towels in the ocean breeze every day.

**Laundry** - There's a laundry basket in your apartment. If you need anything cleaning please put it in there and we'll take care of it. We have a twin tub manual washing machine, a dryer and environmentally friendly detergent. To protect your clothes and reduce energy the washing machine uses cold water only (very common in Costa Rica). To help reduce energy usage further we only use the dryer when it's raining. Our washing lines are positioned to capture both the ocean and jungle breezes and your laundry dries in no time. Please let us know if you have clothes that shouldn't go in the

dryer. The use of our laundry service is at your own risk we don't accept any liability for any damages.

**Iron & Ironing Board** - Please just ask and we'll bring them to you.

**Hairdryer** - Please just ask and we'll bring it to you.

**Power** - Power outages can happen. The most common reason is a tree has fallen on the power lines. Being in the jungle trees grow quickly, sometimes too fast to build the strength they need to stay upright. Most outages are only for a few minutes. Keep your devices fully charged and always carry a torch, just in case.

**Valuables** - Please ask us about our safe for your valuables.

**Security** - Drake Bay is a pretty safe area with a community that relies heavily on tourism. Please still use the same common sense you would at home during your stay. Keep an eye on your belongings at all times. If driving don't leave your belongings on show in your car.

**Smoking** - Costa Rican law requires that all rooms and common areas are non-smoking. Please ask about designated smoking areas. It's fine to smoke and vape at the fire pit but please respect the wishes of other guests. Please be aware that there's strictly no smoking or vaping allowed in Corcovado National Park.

**Pets** - Pets are not allowed at our lodge with the exception of assistance animals.

**Visitors** - For the security of all our guests, unauthorised outside visitors are not allowed.

**Driving** - The roads here are dirt roads so please drive slowly and carefully. We recommend not driving at night as the roads are poorly lit - mostly, not at all outside of the village. Where possible avoid attempting to cross rivers and streams. If there's a bridge close by use that instead. Sometimes we know it's unavoidable so, if you're worried, wait a while, a local will be by soon enough and will know the best part to cross. Drive slowly through the water at all times - don't be tempted to go faster to get it over with as this causes almost instant damage. We always recommend using a 4WD (4x4).

**Wet landings** - Another great Drake Bay experience. Tours and taxi boats involve a wet landing which means wading into the warm ocean a little when getting on or off a boat. We recommend using a dry bag and if you're not a fan of going barefoot - water shoes or sandals which are also really useful if you're exploring the local rivers.

## What to take on hikes or tours

- Reusable water bottle (single use plastic bottles are strictly prohibited in Corcovado) hydrating is extremely important in the jungle humidity and on the ocean.
- Portable torch (e.g., headtorch) if due back late or exploring in the dark
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Swimsuits
- Snorkelling - wear long sleeve swimshirts and shorts as opposed to bikini bottoms
- Walking/hiking boots or shoes - closed toes
- Phone/device chargers and a spare portable battery if you have one
- Dry bag
- Snacks (although not in Corcovado - no food allowed)
- Water shoes or sandals for wet landings and river exploring

**Bugs** - Yup, we're in the jungle so there's gonna be bugs. Most are friendly and fantastic to look at so keep your camera handy. Some you might not get on with so well. All are equally important and a vital contribution to this beautiful environment. If you'd rather not share your holiday with them here's some information and a few tips.

They're mostly active at dawn and dusk, at, or close to a full moon.

They love lightbulbs and the light from your devices. They don't like smoke so feel free to sit around the fire pit with a romantic fire and take in the stars.

Keep screen windows and doors closed to prevent them getting into bedrooms.

Keep everywhere clean and don't leave dirty glasses, cups or dishes out for too long, rinse out food, snack and drink containers as soon as you can. Keep food out of the bedrooms.

Use the sprays provided if needed and we have citronella burners and candles if you need them.

If you're particularly susceptible make sure you spray yourself with appropriate repellents and shower before going to bed.

**Safety** - Always remember you're in the jungle, it's beautiful because it's unspoiled and, it's wild. Nature is wonderful and amazing and we're lucky to have her all around us but we have to respect her. Be extra cautious when you're out and about. We want you to have an amazing time and being vigilante will help that happen.

We're in one of the world's most beautiful rainforests which sometimes brings with it extreme rainfall. The rivers can swell quickly and cause very strong and

rapid currents. If there's been a lot of rain please ask for advice before taking any hikes that may require crossing a river.

Always investigate your surroundings. Check where coconuts may fall before settling under a tree and keep an eye on the incoming tide.

The sun sets close to 6.00pm all year round and whilst in the village there's a few street lights, it gets very dark at night, so always carry a torch.

Take care where you're walking and where you put your hands.

When on tours either in the jungle or on the ocean, listen carefully to the guides and follow their instructions. Your safety is their number one priority.

Always check your shoes or boots before putting them on, some creatures find them a great place to hide. Always keep your bags and luggage zipped up, even when empty so you don't take home any stowaways.

Protect yourself from the sun, even if it looks cloudy and especially on the ocean. Remember the 5 S's of sun safety:

1. SLIP on a shirt.
2. SLOP on sunscreen (SPF 30+)
3. SLAP on a broad brimmed hat
4. SLIDE on sunglasses
5. SHADE from the sun when possible

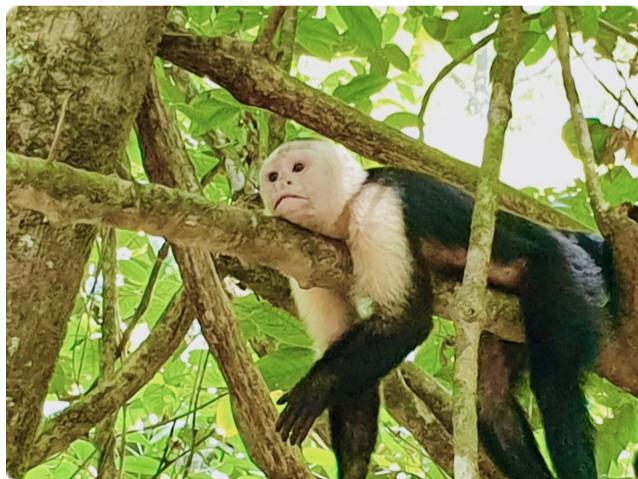


## Everyone loves monkeys and here's 10 reasons NOT to feed them

You might find feeding the monkeys (and other wild animals) to be a thrilling experience, but you're not doing them any favours. In fact, you're actually harming them and it's simply not worth the photo opportunity. Here's why....

1. Monkeys are highly susceptible to diseases from human hands. They can die from bacteria transferred from your hands.
2. Migration to human-populated areas to be fed increases the risk of dog attacks and road accidents.
3. Irregular feeding leads to aggressive behaviour towards humans and other species.
4. Contrary to popular belief, bananas aren't the preferred food of monkeys in the wild. Bananas, especially those containing pesticides, can be upsetting to the monkeys' delicate digestive system and cause serious dental problems that can lead to eventual death.
5. Feeding creates a dangerous dependency on humans that diminishes the monkeys' survival abilities.
6. Feeding interferes with the monkeys' natural habits and upsets the balance of their lifestyle centred on eating wild fruits, seeds, small animals, and insects.
7. Contact with humans facilitates poaching and the trade in illegal wildlife.
8. Pregnant females who are fed nothing but bananas during their pregnancy will not give birth to healthy infants. The babies will be malnourished, or never develop to term, and die before birth.
9. Monkeys need to travel an average of 17 kilometres each day to be in good physical condition. If they know that food is available in a particular location, they will not leave the area.
10. Not only do we pass on diseases to animals when we feed them by hand, but they can pass diseases to us as well.

The monkeys, of course, don't realise any of this. Now YOU do. Please help us spread the word. If you see someone feeding wild animals or birds, don't be afraid to pass this message on. Most people have simply never been informed of the risks.



## Local Amenities & Information

The village of Agujitas in Drake Bay is a 15 minute walk away (1.5km). Locals are warm and friendly and it's a very close and supportive community. Everyone knows each other and are always happy to help visitors. There you'll find a couple of small grocery stores, a bakery, a few fruit and vegetable stores, a number of bars and restaurants, a gift shop and of course the beach. Choice in the stores can be limited, simply because of the journey for food and goods to get here.

There's a small private medical centre in the village however, there's currently no pharmacy.

The nearest banks, ATMs and pharmacies are in Puerto Jiménez (approx 2hr drive) or Palmar Norte (a 1hr boat ride to Sierpe and 20 min drive or 2hr 30min drive). If you need medication we can arrange to contact the pharmacy in Palmar Norte and ask for it to be delivered by taxi and boat from Sierpe for a fee.

The nearest gas/fuel stations are in Puerto Jiménez or Chacarita (both approx 2hr drive).

**Currency** - The local currency is Costa Rican Colones (CRC). US Dollars (USD) are also widely accepted although expect to pay a little more in some places when using them. There's no banks or ATMs in Drake Bay and although most places take the major credit, debit cards, Apple and Google pay, you may be subject to additional charges from those that do.

**Language** - The local language is of course Spanish and you'll find a lot of the locals, particularly those in the tourist industry, are very fluent in English. You'll find a very warm reception from everyone if you speak Spanish or, if you attempt a few phrases and of course 'Pura Vida' is used to say hello, goodbye, thank you and for numerous other responses.

**WhatsApp** - Is how the vast majority of people and businesses communicate with each other either by text or by voice notes as opposed to live calling.

**Food** - Local dishes and drinks you should try

Ceviche - Fresh raw fish cured in citrus juices

Gallo pinto - Rice and beans

Patacones - Twice fried plantain slices

Cacique (guaro) - Sugar cane based liquor served in a shot glass (very strong)

Michelada - The local version is a refreshing cold beer over fresh lemon and ice

Chiliguaro - Guaro with tomato juice and chillies similar to a Bloody Mary but served as a shot

# Hiking

Drake Bay is a wonderful area to explore. Most of the area is privately owned so stick to the paths, roads and beaches unless you're on a guided tour. Below are a few suggestions for local hikes along the Drake Bay Hiking Trail.

## Drake Bay Loop



**Drake Bay loop** (Easy)- A circular (well actually more a square) route that goes right pass the lodge. Takes about 1hr, passing through town and main beach.

## Cocolito Beach

**Cocolito beach (Easy to moderate)** - A firm favourite with locals and visitors alike for a day at the beach. From the main beach head to Aguila de Osa hotel, (where you'll see the signposts on a tree). Follow the trail over a rope bridge across the Agujitas river, up steep jungle steps past La Paloma Lodge down a lot steps and eventually out onto a beautiful beach. Make sure you don't just stop at the first bit of beach you see and take time to explore the area.



## San Josecito Beach



**San Josecito Beach** (Challenging) - Following the same trail, just taking it a lot further along the coast. This is a beautiful sandy beach perfect for swimming and snorkelling. You'll pass many quiet, if not deserted, stunningly beautiful beaches. You will definitely need your phone fully charged to capture the amazing views. You'll need to cross Rio Claro which is a paddle or a wade at low tide. At high tide, either swim across (really refreshing after your hike) or take a small diversion into the jungle along the river bank and look out for a bell to ring to get someones attention and just ask them if they can take you across for a fee. Whilst there, why not pay a quick visit to the turtle sanctuary and make a donation - it's right there by the river on the beach. This is a long hike and you'll be exposed to the sun in parts and jungle humidity, hence 'challenging'. It will take you most of the day, there and back and you'll need plenty of water and snacks for your journey. If you don't fancy walking there and back, especially if you're carrying snorkelling equipment, you could prearrange for a boat to pick you up at San Josecito beach and bring you back to town. You can also just reach Rio Claro and spend a couple of hours there, swimming in this beautiful river and then walk back instead of pushing on to San Josecito. There are many variations of this trip, including arranging a boat to take you there too - so no hiking and if timed right you'll catch a beautiful sunset on your way home.

## Tours

Below are the most common tours in the area. The most popular are Corcovado National Park and Caño Island and it's currently recommended to book these at least a month in advance. There are lots of other tours and a lot can be tailored to suit your requirements, such as hiring a private guide or, having a boat to yourself for a sunset cruise. Most come with food provided and are early starts (from around 5.45am) to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and calmer ocean. For the latest information and to discuss any potential bespoke requests, or recommended itineraries just ask.

### Corcovado National Park

Corcovado National Park offers both day and overnight tours. All include boat transportation, park entrance fee, a bilingual ICT certified guide with telescope and food.

Tours all start around 5.45 - 6.00am on the main beach. The below are typical but timings and activities may differ.

**Sirena Ranger Station** - the gentlest of the hikes and suitable for all ages. From the beach it's around 75mins by boat then a 4hr walk. You usually see the most wildlife on this tour including monkeys, birds, peccaries, coatis, sloths and tapirs. You'll have lunch at the ranger station then it's back to the village main beach around 2.00pm.

**San Pedrillo Ranger Station** - a reasonable level of fitness and a love of hiking is required. A 30 minute boat trip. 2 walks in total. A 3-4 hr walk in breathtaking primary jungle, return to the station for lunch, then a 30 minute hike to a waterfall and a refreshing swim. Obviously, you're still in the jungle so you will probably still see a lot of wildlife and on some rarer occasions there's more in San Pedrillo than Sirena - Mother Nature doesn't follow our rules.

**Sirena & San Pedrillo combo** - this is amazing and highly recommended but challenging, you need to be fit for this one as there's around 15km of hiking in jungle humidity. However, if you're up for it, it's extremely rewarding and the stuff forever memories are made of. There's a minimum of 4 for this but if you're interested we will put feelers out for others in the area to make up the numbers. The day starts with the above Sirena tour, you'll then take a 45 minute boat ride to the San Pedrillo ranger station around 12:30pm. There you'll have a 30-minute break for lunch and begin the hike to the waterfall (hopefully squeezing in a swim). You'll then hike through Corcovado's most pristine primary rainforest, over 2,000 years old, exiting the park boundary and be picked up from a nearby beach. Back to the village main beach around 3:30-4:00 p.m.

**Overnight at Sirena ranger station** includes the boat transportation, certified guide with telescope, entrance fees, lodging fees (bunk bed and shared bathroom), 3 meals



(lunch, dinner and breakfast). Summary itinerary is - Day 1 on the beach for 6.00am, hour and half boat ride to Corcovado. 3-4 hour hike in the morning, afternoon, 2 hour 30min hike to the Claro river for swimming then hike back to ranger station. Day 2 is an earlier start to hiking until breakfast then out into the forest again, heading back to Drake at 12.30pm to arrive around 2.00pm. This is quite an amazing and unforgettable experience where you'll get to see much more wildlife than on day tours. A Sirena/San Pedrillo overnight combination tour is also available.

Legislation requires all visitors to Corcovado to register their passport number and name with the tour company at the time of booking. No smoking, vaping, food or single use plastic is allowed in the park (so please use reusable water bottles) and you may be subject to bag checks. Carrying these items can lead to refused entry with no refund and a long wait for the boat back.

### **Caño Island**

**Snorkelling** - The best place to snorkel in mainland Costa Rica. A tour includes entrance to the reserve, snorkelling gear, boat, captain, ICT certified guide, lunch and soft drinks. The following is typical but subject to change. The day starts at the beach around 7.30am and back for 1.30-2.30pm. It includes a 1 hour boat ride to the island. 2 immersions (snorkelling) about 30-45 minutes. 20 minute break at the ranger station on Caño Island and sometimes if conditions/time allow a break on San Josecito beach. Sea life can include sea turtles, stingrays, manta rays, moray eels, barracudas, tuna, snapper, parrot fish, puffers, and more.

Private snorkel tours are also available which give you more dedicated time with your guide and of course allows you to set the pace so you can linger longer if you spot something interesting. Highly recommended during whale season.

**Scuba** - Caño Island is thought to be one of the world's best dive destinations, there are numerous dive sites with lots of variety. Coral reefs, reef sharks, rays, schooling fish, channels, tunnels, holes, caves and caverns.

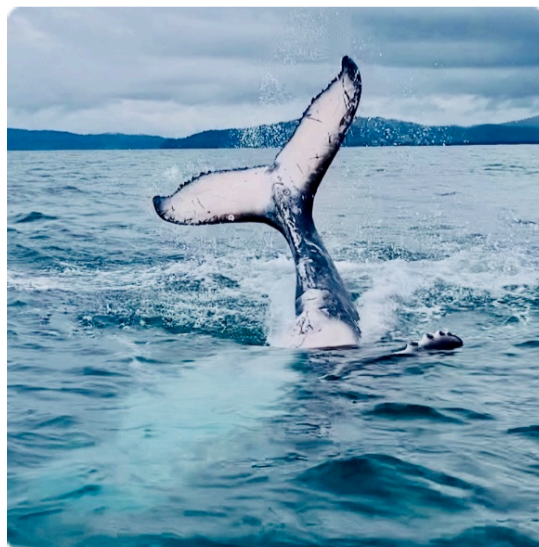
A typical day starts around 6.30am at the dive shop finishing up back at the beach around 1.00pm. It's about a 45min boat ride to Caño Island. There's 2 dives with breaks spent on the island itself. Dives include the equipment, park reserve fee, guide, boat, captain, lunch and soft drinks. Dives are also available for unlicensed divers for an extra fee and, courses are available if booked in advance.

### **Mangrove Tour**

Explore the largest protected mangrove area in Central America. The Terraba-Sierpe National Humid Forest Reserve mangrove forest and swamp covers an 85 square mile area (220s km). Not only an essential spawning grounds for commercially valuable fish and shellfish, it's also an important habitat for an amazing array of wildlife. The river boat trip adventures into countless channels crisscrossing this vitally important ecosystem. Expect to see raccoons, caimans, crocodiles, monkeys, river turtles, sloths and coatis. This trip is a birders delight with the yellow mangrove warbler, the common potoo, and the frigate bird to name a few.

### **Dolphin/Whale Watching Tour**

Costa Rica's Pacific coast is positioned in one of the most biologically diverse ocean ecosystems. This area is known as the Costa Rican Thermal Convection Dome. The ocean water has a warm top layer with a cold low-oxygen layer below. This combination creates a healthy marine habitat for a variety of creatures. Whales, dolphins, tuna, marlin, manta rays, sea turtles and more live in these waters and benefit from this year round thermal dome. We're fortunate to host two migrations of humpback whales and see large pods of bottlenose, rough tooth, and spotted dolphins all year round.



## Night tours

Local guides have fascinating facts about frogs, toads, snakes and nocturnal mammals. You will be amazed by the natural history of these creatures and learn about the human nature of why we fear these harmless bugs. If the conditions are right, another favourite is seeing the bioluminescence on the ocean. If you're lucky a truly unforgettable sight.

## Horseback Riding

Horseback riding tours are not only for experienced riders. Anyone with an interest in exploring primary rain forest outside of Corcovado can tour the area with a local guide and his horses. This is a great way to get in touch with the true Drake Bay lifestyle. If you've ever dreamed of riding on a beach, through a river or to a waterfall - this can happen right here. Full and half-day tours are available.

## Fishing

We've saved the best 'til last and the main reason why we moved out here. After travelling all over the world fishing we decided that it just doesn't get any better. Drake Bay is one of the most productive and under fished areas in Costa Rica. Both bluewater and inshore can be arranged on a centre console boat. With offshore fishing for sailfish, tuna and marlin and inshore fishing for Cubera, Roosterfish and Snook to name but a few, you'll have an amazing and unique experience. We recommend booking as early as possible to get a place. Most trips do tend to be booked about a year in advance as we only work with the best captains. Let us know if you're interested and we'll do our best to get you sorted.





# Self Catering

**Cooking** - The hob is gas and has a simple electric ignition button. During any power cuts you may need to use a lighter (just ask). You're also welcome to cook on our outdoor BBQ, just let us know so we can set it up for you.

**Washing the dishes** - Please remove all food and grease from plates and pans with paper towels before putting in the sink to wash. This helps prevent the dreaded 'fatberg' forming in our pipes. Wash your dishes, saucepans, etc., as soon as you can or, you might find you attract more creatures from the jungle than you would like.

**Food & organic waste** - Please use the compost bin provided. When needed, just put it at the bottom of the steps and we'll take care of it.

**Recycling & refuse** - Please separate your refuse/trash from bottles, cans and plastic containers. Give containers a quick rinse to keep the bugs away. Just tie up any bags and put everything at the bottom of the steps and we'll take care of it. The refuse is collected early every Wednesday morning.

**Restaurants** - If you want to eat out, there's a great choice of bars and restaurants in town that embrace the relaxed Drake Bay experience. These are our favourites.

**Kalaluna Bistro** - The perfect spot, good ocean views, right by the main beach. Just behind the children's play park. A husband and wife team run this place offering, amongst the usual local delicacies, some gorgeous pasta dishes.

**Casa El Tortugo Drakes Kitchen** - Next to a lagoon sits this cozy, family run restaurant. We usually go there in the evening but it's practically on the beach so it's another good lunch spot. All the food is great here and they do a lovely piña colada.

**Claudio's Grill** - At Jinetes Hotel, this bistro has amazing views and you can feel the salt on your face from the ocean. Perfect place to stop after a trek on the hiking trail or, just to sit, take in the view and watch hikers go by whilst you sip a passion fruit margarita. Great for both lunch and dinner - if you're going for dinner, take a flashlight.

**Nature Cafe** - We love this small cozy restaurant that serves amazing bread and a small but perfectly formed menu. This is right in the centre of town opposite the ice cream parlour. Space is at a premium so book ahead.

**Marea Alta** - On the main road through town you'll see Marea Alta ran by one of our favourite Drake Bay residents - Chino. He combines a good ambience, people, cocktails and simple food. It's also a great place to watch live entertainment and international sports on TV especially football (we're English so that's soccer) which everyone here loves.

**Coco Cafe** - A relatively new addition to the town but already lots of great feedback about the coffee, cocktails, smoothies and pizzas. Right in the centre of the village where the road forks, opposite La Choza.

## Checkout checklist

We're sorry it's time for you to leave paradise, we hope you'll be back soon. We hope you've enjoyed your jungle vacation and made some lifelong memories. Let us know if there's anything you think would've made your stay more enjoyable.

Don't forget to tag us in to your posts and keep following us for jungle life updates.

[https://www.instagram.com/southern\\_drake\\_lodge/](https://www.instagram.com/southern_drake_lodge/)

<https://www.facebook.com/southerndrakelodgedrakebay>

### Before you go

- Retrieve any valuables from the safe.
- Check you have all your belongings - anything under the bed? Have you left any clothes out drying or device chargers in the outlets? Any medication in the fridge?
- Driving? Check you have enough fuel/gas to reach the next service station. Check your tyres, oil, water, etc. Have you got enough drinking water and snacks?
- Hand the keys and gate key fob if you have it, back to Joe, Sue or their representative.

### If you're leaving Costa Rica

- Complete any mandatory applications, online or otherwise.
- Double check the latest entry requirements for your next destination country. Just in case there have been any changes.
- Check in with your airline and confirm if there are any delays.
- Check your passports and visas are in date.
- Buy your souvenirs - much cheaper than the airport.

We wish you a safe, comfortable and enjoyable onward journey. We've loved having you here and hope to see you return.

Pura Vida