

Quepos, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica Fundiving Manuel Antonio

The diving

On land, Manuel Antonio is the second most visited national park in Costa Rica, the diversity of animals and vegetation in this volcanic jungle park is famous worldwide. Imagine how the lava was flowing thousands of years ago, from land and into the ocean, creating reefs and hideouts for all the marine life. Below the surface, the marine park continues its beauty!

The beauty of the reef here is not the corals growing in it, but the topography of the old lava flows. Big boulders, underwater mazes and dramatic walls are what you will be surrounded by. Take these incredible formations and add a healthy marine life to it such as most common reef fish, some funky octopus and a good variety of eels and crustaceans.

For the larger pelagics, you might get lucky with anything like reef sharks, rays, sea turtles, dolphins and in season the majestic humpback whales and manta rays (Dec - April).



Area name / Island name

Quepos, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica

Nearest airport

San Jose, Costa Rica

Season

Closed September to start November
Best season is Dec to April

Center type

PADI 5* IDC Center
ECO operators
Project AWARE Environmental Achievement
Awards for the last 4 years for environmental
work in Costa Rica

Experience level

PADI Open Water diver or equivalent
Each dive site will be chosen according to
experience level and weather conditions

Minimum age for participation

12 years

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Location

Surrounded by rainforest filled with monkeys and exotic birds, Puerto Quepos drapes itself across a tropical inlet surrounded by rainforest. The village center is a colorful six-block square of restaurants, bars, hotels, bakeries, and art galleries all fronted by the main beach and harbour.

The high season runs through the drier months of December to April and explodes during Semana Santa or Easter. Quepos fills to the brim with families, surfers, backpackers, ecotourists and gay jet-setters, all as colorful and intriguing as the flora and fauna surrounding the village. All year round, world travelers are discovering the area.

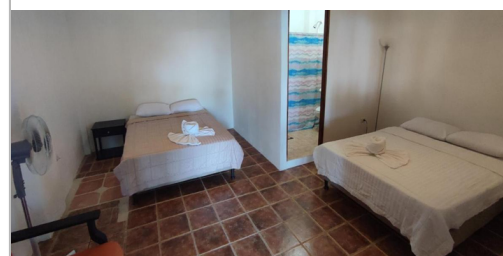
Your resort

Hostel Plinio is a authentic place for travelers located a short 10 minute walk up the hill from Quepos town. It is the perfect place for like minded travelers to meet and exchange stories in the hammocks, sunbathe by the pool or relax in one of the many communal areas. With a communal kitchen, dining room and TV room it is a quiet piece of tropical paradise with a stunning view. You'll find Wifi, boardgames, a bar, a small restaurant, luggage storage and guarded overnight parking and great porches with... we said it already... great views!

Your room

Private room with fan (no A/C) and shared bathroom.

You can upgrade to a private room with A/C and private bathroom in the booking process.



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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

Punta Quepos

Punta Quepos is one of the headlands on the Manuel Antonio coast, the set of rocks 200m from the end of the land is the start of the dive site, and only 10 minutes from port. Diving Punta Quepos is always a thrill, descending down the line brings you to large rocky formations and schools of damsel fish welcoming you. This dive site can be dived shallow or deep, staying shallow you can explore some great canyons where the white tips reef sharks can be spotted resting or hunting. In the deeper water there are giant volcanic boulders at either depth this is a site that promises some big fish particularly jacks. The rocky bottom drops off from 10m rapidly reaching recreational limits. For this reason this site can be fantastic for both beginners and experienced divers.

Geos' Ridge

Geos' Ridge is a set of underwater ridge lines that run from one of the islands off of Manuel Antonio coast. Varying in depth from 5m down to 35m at its furthest tip the ridges boast a wealth of marine life. In between the ridge lines you can find many schools of fish, including snappers, grunts and porkfish hiding out, as well as an abundance of soft corals and sponge life adorning the rocky reef. White tip reef sharks can be spotted occasionally circling between the crevices as well as rays cruising past. There are always plenty of moray eels ranging in size from the small intricate jeweled moray up to the larger green moray. Trevally jacks can be seen swimming over the ridge lines on many occasions as well as large snappers and visiting green turtles. With its varying depths, this site is great for both novice and experienced divers and always offers up something special to see.

The Devil's Pinnacle

On a good day, this site is by far the best site in the area and one of the best in the entire country. It is a huge area with many sub sites. Towering rock pinnacles rise from a depth of over 50m to around 6m. It's an incredible maze of peaks and valleys with the best visibility, overall fish life and possibly the best place to encounter giant mantas. Snappers and amberjack reaching great sizes swim side by side with great schools of barracuda, jacks, reef sharks and a large number of tropical fishes.



Conditions:

Visibility

There is a high nutrient content in the water bringing in an unbelievable amount of marine life. This makes the visibility vary in the region of 10 – 20m in the dry season (Dec - May). During the rainy season (June - November) it can drop to below 10m

Temperature

29 down to 22C

Current

Currents and surge can be present. Dive sites are selected daily for the best conditions possible

Surface

21-33C year round

Special marine life

Sharks, rays, octopus sea turtles, dolphins (humpback whales and manta rays in season from Dec – April)

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Itinerary

On the day of arrival you will be greeted in the dynamic dive shop by friendly staff, fill in the paperwork and have a chance to say hello. The next morning the crew will pack your equipment so for now you can check in at your hotel and relax. The following days will consist of 2 dives a day with snacks and drinks served during the surface interval. There will be no refund on dives not used. Check out on the last day at lunch.

DIVE PACKAGE 1: Fundiving Manuel Antonio

The short option with 4 dives spread out on 2 days of diving with one day of rest to settle in and get your bearings. 2 nights of accommodation included. The dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level.

DIVE PACKAGE 2: Fundiving Manuel Antonio Extended

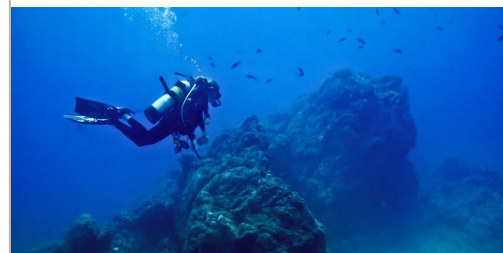
The longer option with 8 dives spread out on 4 days of diving and 1 day of rest to settle in and get your bearings. 4 nights of accommodation included. The dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level.

PLEASE NOTE: You need to allow 18 hours after your last dive before flying or before travelling to an altitude above 300 meters. San Jose is at a higher altitude and you therefore need minimum 18 hrs before traveling to San Jose airport.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.



Activity starts

Daily at 8am at the Dive Center

Activity starts from

The dive center

Group Size

1 Divemaster per 4 divers

Language

English or Spanish

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Transfer Information

There are several options to get from San Jose to Quepos.

By Car: The journey takes about 2 ½ hours, depending on the traffic. Take the new road from San Jose (Ezcazu) toward Caldera, turn off towards Jaco and on to Quepos. It is not necessary to rent a 4X4 to visit Quepos / Manuel Antonio, though in other areas of the country it is recommended.

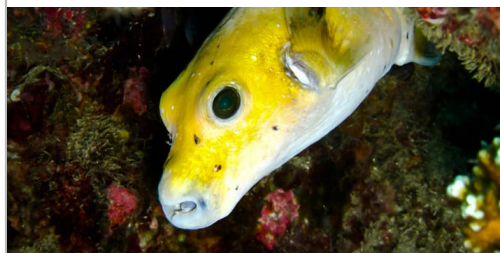
Public Bus: 5 direct buses daily from San Jose to Quepos, leaving from the Coca Cola bus station in downtown San Jose. You can buy your ticket at the bus station from the Transportes Morales Counter, \$8, the trip takes about 4 hours.

Direct Bus Times: 4am, 6am, 9:30am, 12pm and 4pm.

Grayline: Has daily shuttles from the most popular tourist destinations in Costa Rica to Quepos, pick-up and drop off at hotels, cost is approximately \$25. Grayline is more comfortable and faster than the public bus service.

By Plane: a quick and easy way to get to Quepos in 20 minutes. There are two airlines, Nature Air and Sansa that fly between San Jose and Quepos. They have several flights daily to Quepos and the cost is approximately \$70. If you are bringing dive gear be careful the allowance is only 27lbs

Let the dive center know your arrival at least one week in advance. You will find the details for the dive center on your voucher.



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

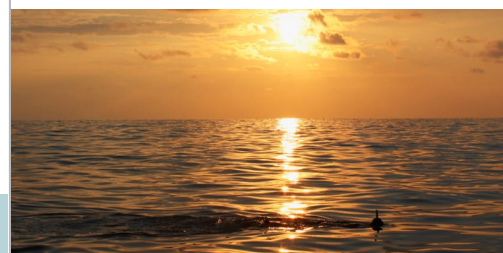
FUNDIVING EXTENDED	
Days / Nights	5/4
Amount of dives	8
Price (incl. accommodation)	662 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day of diving (2 dives)	126 EUR
Extra night of accom. (after)	42 EUR
Extra night of accom. (before)	42 EUR
Refresher dive (added to 1st dive)	66 EUR
Upgrade to A/C & private bathroom (define nights)	25 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying



Included

Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment
guide or instructor
Boat, soft drinks and snacks on boat
accommodation in private room
Towels
Bed linen, Wireless internet

Not included

All meals
Soft and alcoholic drinks
Transfer to and from Quepos

Also available on site

Extra accommodation if available*
Extra days of diving if available*
Upgrading of room if available*

*availability depending on season, it is a busy little place!

Continuing education

All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

As in terms and conditions

Dive insurance

Basic dive travel insurance required

General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.