



# The Arenal area Northern Costa Rica

by *Hernán Carazo*

When we think of the northern area of the country, we have to think of exuberant vegetation and beautiful landscape with an almost dreamlike quality, filled with lush and incredibly green rolling hills along the Central Mountain Range. You can see farms with black and white cows everywhere as this is dairy country. Passing the beautiful towns of Grecia, Sarchi and Zarcero and continuing on North, you will reach the Arenal area, home of Arenal Volcano, the most active volcano on Earth! Here one can see the image of a tourist sharing his snack with a "pizote" or the nighttime splendor of an erupting volcano as well as the awesome views of Lake Arenal. To see these colorful sights for yourself, we invite you to take a trip to the area, going by the majestic volcano, the thermal waters, then Lake Arenal and continuing around it to Nuevo Arenal, a new town built when the old town of Arenal needed to be re-settled elsewhere due to the new lake created by the dam. Nuevo Arenal offers many attractions including the warmth of its people, the excellent quality of its Costa Rican food, a great variety of shops where you can find art carved in wood, international ceramics, jewelry and great hotels and restaurants. You can even find a gourmet pizzeria; not to mention the exceptional landscape, with views to the lake along its highway under a canopy of beautiful and exuberant vegetation. Lake Arenal offers challenging fresh water fishing with rainbow bass being the favorite. Aside from fishing the lake offers great boat rides, stunning scenery, birding and of course a great lake for other water activities including a World famous destination for wind surfing fans. So make sure and visit here, you may like it so much that you might decide to stay permanently.

