

San José and Central Valley

by Hernán Carazo



Costa Rica's capital city, San Jose, lies at an altitude of just over 3750 feet above sea level and offers a nearly perfect climate year round. A blend of the old and the new, San Jose feels more like a town that has grown in all directions than a big metropolis. The absence of tall buildings (with a couple of exceptions) and many historical buildings such as the National Theater, the main Post Office, the Ministry of Foreign Relations "yellow house", and the many parks all over San Jose help the city to keep a charming "homey" feel that is very appealing to travelers and locals. So appealing in fact that many of the



former return to become the latter. Temperatures most of the year are in the 70-76 Fahrenheit degree range and even during the rainy season (also known as the green season) which runs from May to October, one finds sunny mornings with rain showers early in the afternoon which quickly pass leaving a fresh and revitalized environment and cool nites.

San Jose offers many accommodations in all price ranges and plenty of restaurants and entertainment options including theater, movies, casinos, discos, bars, nightclubs, museums, shops and even

Continued on page 28

a zoo. The best part of all this is that downtown San Jose is relatively small and you can walk to all these places if you are so inclined or if you are just in the mood to relax, pull up a chair at one of the sidewalk cafes such as the one located at the Costa Rica Hotel just across from the National Theater which is a favorite people watching spot for both visitors and residents alike. Come discover all that Costa Rica has to offer on your next vacation, you won't be disappointed and you just might become one of our newest residents.

WELCOME and ENJOY!!!