



GEORGIA - COSTA RICA COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

Atlanta is home to the Consulate General of the Republic of Costa Rica which serves Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Costa Rica has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1954. Flora Leah Venegas has served as Consul General since November 2015.

Former President Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera of the Republic of Costa Rica visited Atlanta, Georgia in May 2015.

Two Georgia cities have sister-city agreements with Costa Rica: East Point – Limon and Marietta – Heredia.

Costa Rica's Foreign Trade Minister, Alexander Mora, visited Atlanta in fall 2016 to sign an MOU with Georgia Tech to continue their collaborative research partnerships.

Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 34 study abroad programs to Costa Rica in subjects such as Spanish, communications, biology, education, journalism, ESL, geology, landscape architecture and Latin American and Caribbean studies. 70 Costa Rican students enrolled in USG schools during Fall 2018.

Through a partnership between the Foreign Trade Corporation of Costa Rica, and the Chamber of Industries in Costa Rica, Georgia Institute of Technology created the Costa Rica Trade, Innovation and Productivity (TIP) Center. The center focuses on utilizing research, innovation and education to increase trade across borders and make existing trade more productive to benefit the Costa Rican economy and

scientific community. The focus is currently on digital services and food products.

Georgia College offers a program specializing in sustainability in Atenas, where students investigate issues of biodiversity conservation and hone their research skills.

Culture and Tourism

The Consulate hosts a monthly event called Consular Conversations which is a series of monthly interviews with Atlanta's diplomats held over lunch at the Miller & Martin law offices.

In September 2018, the Association of Costa Rica hosted an annual festival in Norcross, featuring Costa Rican music, art, and food.

Thrive Farmers, a coffee supplier based in Costa Rica, uses a unique revenue-sharing model that stabilizes the price paid to farmers each year – and increases the farmers' earning potential. Georgia fast-food chain Chik-fil-A partnered with Thrive Farmers in 2014 to source their coffee. Not only does this partnership support fair wages for Costa Rican farmers, but it's also the first coffee in the quick-service restaurant industry to earn the distinction of "specialty grade," a designation bestowed by the Specialty Coffee Association of America upon just 10 percent of the world's coffee based on balance, body, taste and aroma.

International Trade

Costa Rica was added to the U.S.-CAFTA-DR Free Trade Agreement in 2009 immediately making more than 80% of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial goods to Costa Rica duty-free.

EXPORTS: In 2019, Georgia exports to Costa Rica totaled **\$190.1 million**. Costa Rica is the **39th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Costa Rica include Kraft paper and paperboard, paper and paperboard, chemical woodpulp, medical instruments and insecticides and herbicides.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Costa Rica: Kraft paper and paperboard, chemical woodpulp and newsprint.

IMPORTS: In 2019, Georgia imports from Costa Rica totaled **\$129.6 million**. Costa Rica ranks **52nd** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports to Georgia from Costa Rica include mechano-therapy appliances, hosiery, cane sugar, bananas and pineapples.

Investment

There are at least **7** Georgia companies with operations in Costa Rica, including but not limited to:

- Delta Air Lines
- Equifax
- Incomm
- UPS

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers multiple daily direct flights from Atlanta to San Jose and Liberia, Costa Rica.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah offers regular shipping services from the port of Savannah to Moin Bay. The Port of Brunswick also offers monthly shipping services to Puerto Limon and Puerto Caldera

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects. For more information, visit www.georgia.org.

*Information valid as of December 2019

