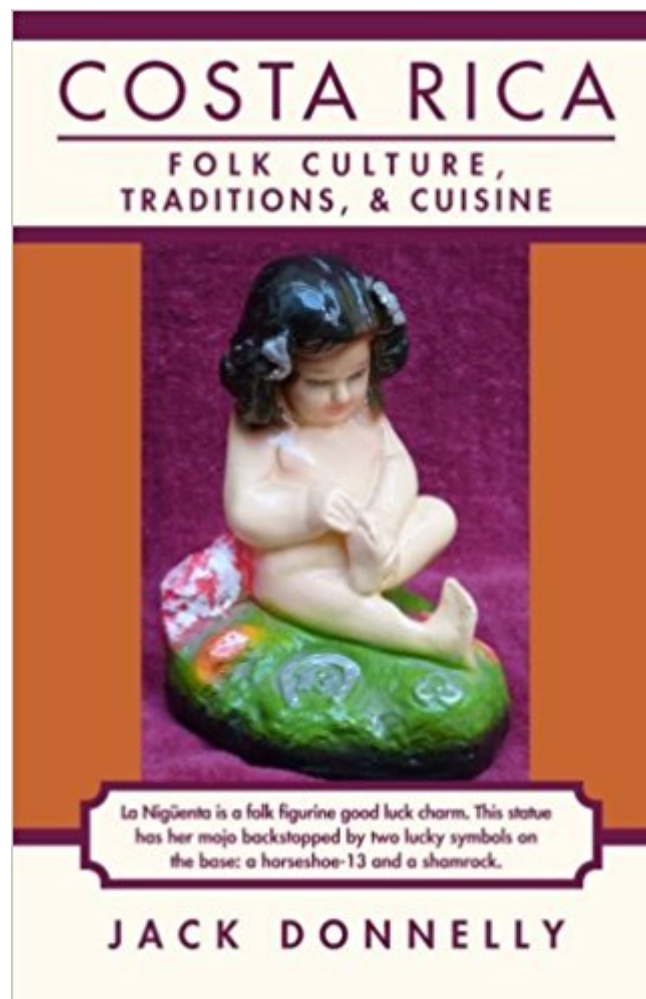




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Costa Rica: Folk Culture, Traditions, And Cuisine



Synopsis

Traveling and living abroad can be an enriching experience—opening your eyes to different cultures and worldviews. But it can be difficult to access the local culture of a foreign country, especially if you aren't fluent in its language. Jack Donnelly's unique guide introduces English-speaking travelers and expats to Costa Rica's rich folk culture, traditions, and cuisine, which are often missed by nonlocals. Written as a series of articles so you can selectively read what most interests you, Costa Rica covers local legends, folk beliefs, and traditional festivals, wrapping up with a food reference and glossary. Anyone can take a surfing vacation to Costa Rica; but with the cultural insight of Jack Donnelly, you can go on a true Costa Rican adventure. Discover a local festival happening during your trip, and read up on its history so you can join in. Learn Costa Rican Spanish vocabulary and surprise the locals with your understanding. Test your sour tolerance with a cas drink. "Come back to life" with the seafood cocktail vuelve a la vida, reputed to cure hangovers and illness. Offering an inside view from an outsider's perspective, Jack Donnelly's guide gives you the key to enter the full "Tico" experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack Donnelly has been a life-long enthusiast of Latin American folk culture. As a young man, during the 1960s, he studied cultural anthropology at the Universidad de las Américas in Mexico City. He went on to volunteer with the Peace Corps in Guatemala, working with Mayan cooperatives in the Western Highlands and adding to his knowledge and appreciation of Central America's rich cultural heritage. Spending much of his adult life in New Hampshire,

Donnelly had to work hard to maintain his Spanish and fuel his interest in Spanish-speaking culture. Over the years, he has published multiple articles and photographs on Costa Rica. Now, Donnelly lives in Heredia, Costa Rica. He travels around the country investigating and documenting folkloric events. His book Costa Rica gathers his findings into a culture-rich guide that offers unique insight into the traditions of the country.

The book is written from a real insider's view - not just someone who researches from online and print sources. This author has tasted the local dishes he describes and witnessed or participated in the local traditions he chronicles. The writing flows and is often entertaining with a touch of dry wit that sets the book apart from the typical and often dull travel book.

I found this book interesting and well written. I think both tourists and expats will enjoy this book and discover much about Costa Rica that is not discussed in other travel books. I enjoyed the author's anecdotes and personal experiences which he included.

As a resident of Costa Rica, I found this book very interesting, with information I had not found elsewhere. All Expats will find great anecdotes, stories and details to enrich our understanding of this lovely culture and people.

Interesting to read...not much of that info is written in other sources.

Donnelly comes to this project armed with years of careful research, intense personal interest, and the required sense of adventure. My short fifteen year exposure to the Latin American cultures verifies some of what Donnelly reports. His in depth discussion adds a new level of understanding, as well as some before unaccounted folklore and cultural experiences. This read provides a deep level of understanding of the routine and ritual lifestyle here in Costa Rica.

This book fills a gap in the English-language literature on Costa Rica. It opens up and explains aspects of the traditional culture, beliefs, and practices not generally seen by foreigners. It is a must-read for anybody wishing to understand the cultural roots of the country.

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