

# Help us make history...

## Cocos Island National Park

One of the new natural seven wonders of the world

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### An Oasis of biodiversity in the Oriental Pacific

Cocos Island is one of the places with the greatest biodiversity in the planet, and it also habitat to the biggest amount of endemic species. The famous oceanographer Jacques Cousteau called it "the most beautiful island in the world." Because it represents a Natural Heritage Site, it was declared a World Heritage by UNESCO in 1997, and a Wetland of International Importance in 2002.

In the past, it was a refuge for pirates, whalers, and colonizers. Today, it is a National Park that is part of the Cocos Island Marine Conservation Area (ACMIC), which is monitored by the Ministry of the Environment (MINAE).

The Hammer Shark is in the list of the endangered species that inhabit the park. Other species that are in danger are the Hunchback Whale and the Bottlenose Dolphin. Besides this, a myriad of coral species and the tortuga carey form part of its immense marine diversity. In all of the Tropical Oriental Pacific, Cocos Island has one of the largest coral populations (approximately 32 species.) The island is covered by an eternally green and rainy forest that is unique in all of the Islands of the American Pacific. Of its 263 flora species, 37 are endemic to the island. (Such is the case of el palo de hierro.)

The Island is also an oasis for 109 species of birds, of which 13 are originally from the island and only reproduce there, such as the Cocos Island Finch. It is also estimated that there exist 800 species of invertebrates (e.g. insects) of which only half have been identified.



## International Marine Corridor

Cocos Island is part of the Tropical Este Pacific Marine Conservation Corridor, and this is part of an initiative of the governments of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia and Panama. This Initiative looks to promote the sustainable use and proper management of the marine resources of the economic zones of the latter countries. Within this marine corridor are the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, Cocos Island in Costa Rica, Coiba Island in Panama, and Malpelo Island in Colombia. All of these four places are World Heritage Sites.

This corridor is a site for the migration of a multitude of species such as sharks, whales, and marine turtles. It is formed by submarine mountains with altitudes as high as 200 to 700 meters, which make possible the existence of varied and unique species.



## Location of the most Beautiful Island in the World

Cocos Island is located 532 km to the South Este of the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, in front of the Gulf of Panama, and it is the only submarine volcano that has emerged from the Cordillera Cocos. It has a terrestrial area of 23.85 square km and 1,997 square km of protected marine ecosystems.



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# Why Cocos Island is an Exceptional and Unique Place?

- It is one of the most famous places for aquatic tourism in the world.
- High diversity in submarine habitat
- High biodiversity
- Reproduction Site for Catácecos in the Western Hemisphere
- Site of greatest shark recuperation in the world.
- Cleaning station for sharks and other species.
- Placa de Cocos one of the biggest deposits of hidrato de metano.
- Declared by UNESCO Natural World Heritage site in 1997
- Declared a Costa Rican National Park in 1978



## "The Treasure is not a Myth"

Jacques Cousteau, Oceanographer

In a world where natural resources are disappearing rapidly, the forests are losing their magic, ecosystems are altered, and millions of species go extinct every single day, there are few places that remain intact. One of these places is Cocos Island... a real Paradise in the Middle of the Ocean. We invite you to vote for this natural wonder.



### Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica)

Nominee as one of the Natural Wonders of the World

Vote at: [www.n7w.com](http://www.n7w.com)

*"The most Beautiful Island of the World"*  
Jacques Cousteau

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