



WHAT YOU CAN SEE SNORKELING IN

# CAHUITA NATIONAL PARK

WITH RICO TICO TOURS

## ELKHORN CORAL

These massive corals grow incredibly fast compared to other species and once formed dense thickets that protected the entire coastline from waves. They are the most important building blocks of the reef and provide critical shelter for thousands of fish.



## BRAIN CORAL

These corals act as the reef's history books and can live for several hundred years while growing only a few millimeters annually. They are named for their grooved surface which resembles the folds of a human brain.

## LETTUCE CORAL

These corals grow in thin, wavy plates that look like ruffled vegetable leaves to capture as much sunlight as possible. This flat shape acts like a highly efficient solar panel and lets them live in deep water where other corals cannot survive.



## VENUS SEA FAN

These soft corals orient themselves perfectly perpendicular to the current and use their mesh-like bodies to filter tiny plankton from the passing water. They are flexible and sway with the ocean movement to avoid breaking during storms.

## FIRE CORAL

This organism is not actually a true coral but is related to jellyfish and delivers a painful sting to anyone who brushes against it. It grows rapidly over damaged parts of the reef and acts as a pioneer species for recovery.



[YOU MAY ALSO LIKE OUR KAYAKING TOUR](#)

[IN PUNTA UVA](#)





# COME SEE US WHILE SNORKELING IN CAHUITA NATIONAL PARK

## LONG-SPINED SEA URCHIN

These creatures are extremely sensitive to light and will instinctively point their sharp, venomous spines toward any shadow that passes over them. They play a vital role by eating algae that would otherwise smother and kill the coral.



## CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER

These crustaceans migrate across the ocean floor in single-file lines and use magnetic fields to navigate in total darkness. They lack the large crushing claws of Maine lobsters and rely on their spiny antennae for defense.

## COMMON OCTOPUS

These intelligent invertebrates can taste the water with their skin and often change their skin texture to mimic rocks or coral instantly. They have three hearts and blue blood that is copper-based rather than iron-based.



## HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE

These turtles feed almost exclusively on toxic sea sponges and eat glass-like silica shards that would be fatal to most other animals. Their beautiful shells were once hunted for jewelry, but they are now strictly protected within the park.

## GREEN SEA TURTLE

These turtles act as the lawnmowers of the ocean and graze on seagrass beds to keep the ecosystem healthy and productive. They are the only sea turtle species that becomes strictly herbivorous as an adult.



[YOU MAY ALSO LIKE OUR REPTILE  
NIGHT TOUR IN CAHUITA](#)





2 TOURS PER DAY: 8:30AM & 11:30AM

# CAHUITA NATIONAL PARK

## BLUE PARROTFISH

These fish sleep in a protective mucus cocoon at night and produce much of the Caribbean's white sand by pooping out crushed coral. They have teeth fused into a beak that is strong enough to bite through solid rock.



## FRENCH ANGELFISH

These fish form strong monogamous pairs and often aggressively defend their territory from intruders by charging at them together. They are highly intelligent and will often approach snorkelers to investigate them closely.



## QUEEN ANGELFISH

These fish have a distinct "crown" spot on their forehead and feed primarily on sponges that taste terrible to other reef dwellers. The young fish act as cleaners and pick parasites off larger fish to earn a safe meal.



## BLUE TANG

These fish possess a sharp spine near their tail and can erect it like a switchblade to slash predators during a fight. They play a crucial role in keeping the reef clean by constantly grazing on algae.

## SERGEANT MAJOR

These aggressive little fish are named for their military stripes and will fearlessly nip at anything that gets too close to their purple eggs. The males turn a dark blue color when they are guarding a nest to warn others away.



**YOU MAY ALSO LIKE OUR  
BIRD WATCHING TOUR**



MESSAGE FOR RETURN VISITOR DISCOUNTS

**123 FISH SPECIES \* 35 CORAL SPECIES**  
**44 CRUSTACEAN SPECIES \* 128 ALGAE SPECIES**  
**140 MOLLUSC SPECIES**

# **CAHUITA NATIONAL PARK**

## **GREEN MORAY EEL**

These eels are not actually green and only appear that way because their yellow protective slime covers their naturally blue skin. They constantly open and close their mouths not to threaten you, but simply to breathe.



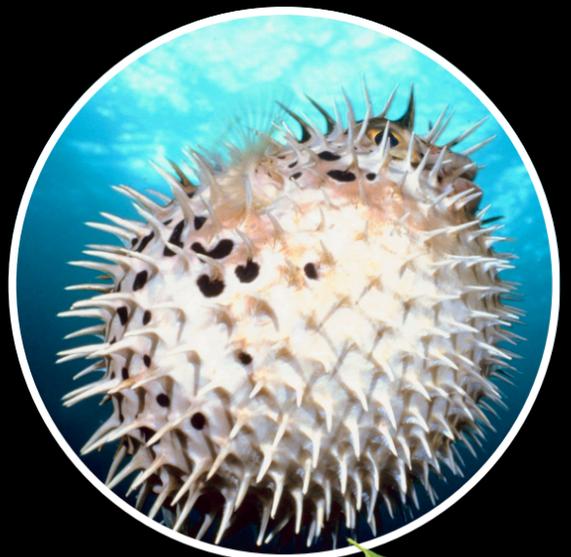
## **GREAT BARRACUDA**

They are naturally curious about shiny objects and often follow snorkelers just to investigate jewelry or reflections on a mask. They are incredibly fast sprinters and can accelerate from 0 to 27 mph in moments.



## **PORCUPINEFISH**

These slow swimmers swallow huge amounts of water to inflate their bodies and turn themselves into an inedible, spiky balloon when threatened. Their spines are actually modified scales that lay flat against their body until they puff up.



## **NURSE SHARK**

These sharks are suction feeders and use their powerful throat muscles to slurp sleeping fish out of crevices like a vacuum. They are generally harmless to humans and spend their days resting in piles under coral ledges.



## **SOUTHERN STINGRAY**

These rays hunt by sensing electrical signals from prey and blow jets of water into the sand to uncover hiding crabs. They often bury themselves completely in the sand during the day with only their eyes visible.



**THANKS FOR JOINING US!**  
**RICOTICOTOURS.COM**