**Spotlight on Puntarenas**

**History**
Costa Rica was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1502, when he landed near Puerto Limon. Believing he had discovered a land of vast wealth, he named it “Costa Rica,” which means “Rich Coast.” Local inhabitants were mainly farmers whose numbers were depleted when introduced to European diseases. The Independence from Spain was declared in 1821, beginning a period of civil war. After independence, the government ambitiously sought goods that could be exported and taxed. Coffee had been introduced from Cuba. It is tradition that coffee has brought prosperity to Costa Rica, and it remains today a model of democracy and political stability. Today, coffee, the “golden bean,” plays an important role in the country’s economy. The port of Puntarenas once served as the main port for coffee export to Costa Rica’s democracy. In 1983, the country made an official proclamation of neutrality. Costa Rica is now a model of democracy and political stability. Today, coffee, the “golden bean,” plays an important role in the country’s economy.

**Guarantee**
The program ensures that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer’s negligence, buyer’s carelessness, or the result of natural disasters. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer’s negligence, buyer’s carelessness, or the result of natural disasters. This guarantee ensures buyers that all recommended merchants will repair or replace any unsatisfactory item, excluding buyer’s negligence, buyer’s carelessness, or the result of natural disasters.

**How to Get to Town**
The city of San José is located 70 miles from Puntarenas. It is recommended to take one of the ship’s excursions to San José. Complimentary shuttles will transport you to the end of the pier.

**Shopping**
A few craftstands are located ashore near the pier.

**Post Office Hours**
The post office is open from 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

**Phone Locations**
At the end of the pier, you may purchase phone cards to make long distance calls.

**Emergency**
In case of an emergency, dial 060.

**PLACES TO SEE**
- The National Theatre: Built in the 1890’s, located in San José the National Monument has a Renaissance-style exterior representing music, dance and fame. This creates the perfect environment to view a theatrical or musical performance.
- The National Museum: The National Museum located in San José was founded in 1887 to study, preserve and exhibit Costa Rica’s historical past. The museum displays Pre-Columbian art including pottery, stone and gold. Objects and photographs document the nation’s political and economic history. Colonial religious paintings and sculptures can also be seen at this museum.
- Shopping at Sarchí: About one hour this side of San José, you’ll find Sarchí, home of many Costa Rican native products. It’s here that you’ll find many arts and crafts, including wood figures, carved walking canes, toys, leather goods, wall hangings, coffee and more. The villagers are famous for their hardwood oxcarts decorated with traditional geometric designs and used since the beginning of the century. In Sarchí, you can purchase miniature replicas and the colorful cartwheels of these wooden carts.

**PUNTARENAS CITY:**
Puntarenas is the largest city in the Central Pacific region. Located on a narrow peninsula in the Gulf of Nicoya, it is Costa Rica’s main port. Puntarenas bustles on the weekend. “Puntarenas” means “sandy point.” It is a traditional fishing village developing for the future. The new pier opened in 1998. Complimentary shuttle vans will transport you to the end of the pier.

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**PUNTARENAS PORT & SHOPPING MAP**

**Postcard of the Day:**
La Casona: La Casona is now being rebuilt. Costa Rican troops won a battle over the “filibusters” in 1856 in this spot, now maintained as a park.

**San José:**
Located about 70 miles inland from Puntarenas, San José became the capital of Costa Rica in 1821. Surrounded by mountains, it sits at a 3,700 foot elevation. The province of San José will most likely be the focal point of your visit to Costa Rica. It is a modern city with a variety of architectural styles – from new, high-rise structures in the downtown business district, to Spanish colonial buildings in many of the older central residential districts. Sights worth investigating:

**Tune in to Shopping Channel 22**

Due to the nature of the changes at the ports of call, all information is subject to change.

09/14/07
Don’t wait until the ship comes in… JUST SEND IT!

Enjoy Costa Rica’s finest gourmet coffees, freshly roasted, waiting at your doorstep!

We’ll rush our fine coffees and chocolates to your doorstep.

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