

**Que Pasa Grecia**  
Serving the Expat Community since 2014

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# ¿Qué Pasa?



## Que Pasa Grecia Update #12 December 2025

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### **What's New in Que Pasa Grecia**

Since our last update, we've listed new [items for sale](#): a 2014 Jeep, a Christmas tree with lights and stand, an exercise bike, and updated real estate listings from Atenas. Through 8 December, there's a Christmas fiesta and fair in the park next to the church in Sarchi. We have performances upcoming on

13 December by "Birdy and the Blues Cruisers" (admission fee), and on 20 December a benefit by "The Poison Dart Frogs" (suggested donation)—check out the details in [Upcoming Events](#). Make a planning note: the 2026 Costa Rica Blues Festival will be held in late February next year in Grecia. Details will follow.

### **Keep *QuePasaGrecia* on Track Through 2026**

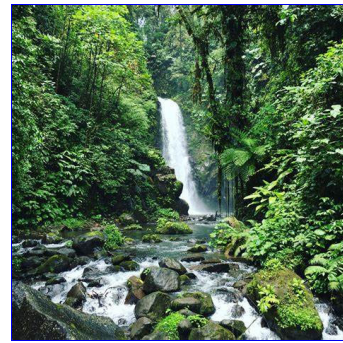
It's that time of the year again. We're a 100% volunteer operation. We're happy to provide the service without charge throughout the year, but QPG relies on your support to pay for our web address, server, and supplemental software. You can still contact Don, Diane or Karen to make your donation in person. However, if you are inclined to pay online, we've added a PayPal address to accept your donations. (Go to [Upcoming Events](#) for our PayPal info.)

### **Miscellaneous News**

**Costa Rica's President** – Rodrigo Chavez is still under fire in the courts over his keeping his immunity from prosecution while still in office. Seven former Costa Rica presidents from multiple parties jointly issued a letter supporting the high court's constitutional legitimacy in making a determination after a U.S. Congressman questioned whether this issue was purely political. The Costa Rica high court will continue to deliberate even though new elections will be held in February.

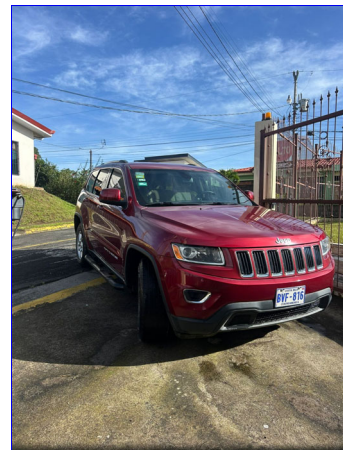
**Roads Update** – The Ruta 1 reopening west of San Ramon is imminent after the landslide closed a section of the highway. Approximately 190 feet of Bailey bridge has been built, and this single-lane roadway will be regulated by traffic lights. Ruta 32 has just opened again after a number of recent closures due to landslides and debris in the roadway. Ruta 34 at the Crocodile Bridge north of Herradura has reopened to one-way traffic, regulated by traffic lights while bridge repairs are ongoing. Construction of the new autopista intersection addition at Ruta 1 and Ruta 154 south of Grecia does not yet appear to have commenced.

**". . .Bridges Falling Down. . ."** – Not to alarm you or try to ruin your day, but a new report labels the condition of 70% of all of Costa Rica's bridges on major transit routes as "deficient," "alarming," or risk "imminent failure." The issue in this country is there are few alternate routes if bridges are completely shut down for repairs. In addition to the significant cost of repair, the economic cost is significant if one bridge lane is closed and up to 15x more economic cost if the bridge is shut down entirely.



Que Pasa offers articles on local places to go, helpful how-to's, and general observations of life in the Grecia/Sarchi area.

**Click on the photo to visit our site!**



Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo for sale! Great ride!



Great Music - December 13!

**La Sele Out** –The men’s national soccer (futbol) team, *La Sele* (short for “the selection”), failed for the first time since your editor has resided here to qualify for the FIFA World Cup futbol championship to be held in the U.S., Canada and Mexico next summer. While they managed to score more goals than I can remember, when they needed to score just one against Honduras to tie and qualify on points, they lost 1-0. Of course, the coach subsequently got fired. All rather sad.

**Dollar Exchange** - The U.S. dollar just hit its lowest exchange rate to the C.R. colon in two decades. This continues impact the tourism industry and the cost of living for expats receiving their income in U.S. dollars. The exchange rate is now below 494 colones to the dollar. However, the C.R. Central Bank has stepped in to buy dollars to keep the rate from falling further. To end the year, the Central Bank says to expect the exchange rate to be between 500 and 510.

**Annual Employee Bonus** – A reminder for 2025, *aguinaldo*, the annual employee “Christmas” bonus equal to one-month’s wages, is due for full-time and part-time employees (including once-a-week housekeepers and landscapers). For part-time employees this Christmas bonus is prorated. It is due and payable on the first day the employee is present in December.

**Banco Nacional Internet Issues** – Note: we do not know if the problem is still ongoing, but Banco Nacional was having internet connectivity issues that impacted its ability to conduct wire transfers and check clearances. Delays were occurring with some transactions.

**ScotiaBank-Davivienda** – We reported earlier that the following was pending, ScotiaBank has received approval to take a 20% stake in Davivienda. In return, ScotiaBank in Costa Rica (and elsewhere) will be managed by Davivienda as part of the Davivienda chain.

**Scams and Violent Crime Haven’t Disappeared** – scams and violent crime are on an uptick. Be alert and aware, and please be careful.

**Los Barriles Expands to Sarchi** – Restaurante La Eva is gone. In its place, a new Los Barriles Restaurante has taken its place on the La Eva coffee processing property in Sarchi. This restaurant has a similar menu to its brothers in Grecia.

**On the Cusp of Summer** – It appears the wet weather is



ALERTS Section, link located in the main menu at the top of every page in *QuePasaGrecia*.



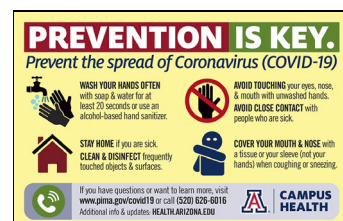
**Costa Rica Bird Watching Group wants YOU!**



Treat yourself to a spa date, you will thank yourself!

Heavenly!

**NOW AVAILABLE - Gift Certificates! What better way to treat a Friend than with a 90-minute facial!**





tapering off, and things are warming up as we head toward *el verano*. Here's the November and YTD rainfall for El Cajon de Grecia and San Juan de Sarchi. Thanks to Irina and Tom.

### **El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)**

November: 27.0 cms; 10.6 ins.

YTD: 370.3 cms; 135.2 ins.

### **San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)**

November: 17.2 cms; 6.8 ins.

YTD: 292.0 cms; 115.0 ins.

**Note to Readers:** The following section, U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats, is accurate at the time of writing, but may contain information, conclusions, and/or suggestions with which some readers may disagree, cause discomfort, or find objectionable. For those individuals, we recommend that you finish your Que Pasa Grecia update reading here and skip to the Costa Rican saying. For the rest of our readers, we hope you find value in reading the section below.

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### **U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats**

**Government Shutdown Over** – Federal courts ruled most of the firings of federal employees during the shutdown were illegal and they must be reinstated. Hopefully, this won't make our interaction with federal departments any more difficult or time consuming. DOGE, initiated at the beginning of the new regime, has officially been terminated, which means some stability of operations may return the federal government.

**Travel** – TSA agents and air-traffic controllers are being paid again and back to work. While there continue to be shortages of ATCs, the year-end holidays have begun, and so far, air travel is "normal." The TSA has announced that beginning next year, they will charge a \$45 fee to anyone who does not have a "Ready I.D" or show their passport. Remember to keep your passport with you and accessible when you are moving through airports in the U.S.

**Immigration** – ICE claimed that Costa Rica had turned down a U.S. request to take the Maryland resident immigrant, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, (mistakenly sent to the CEOT prison in San Salvador and later returned to the U.S.) if the U.S. were legally able to deport him. "So, we are forced to send him to the only country that will take him, Liberia," U.S. officials said. "Not so. We weren't asked to take him, but we gladly will

There is also a big uptick in upper respiratory infections. Check your local *farmacia* for flu and pneumonia shots.



Caribe Sinfónico asks for your support!



So much has changed in a month! After suffering a recurrence of the leukemia, Romeo's son Aldair elected to try Option #2 of chemo, which is an intense 5 days of chemo with one week off before the next treatment. His platelet count and hemoglobin are both up, his mood is up, the doctors are encouraged. We continue to send good energy and prayers to him and his family that this more aggressive treatment sends the leukemia packing for good. You can help him and his family deal with this by donating to our GoFundMe fundraiser, [just click here](#) or on the photo above.

Thank you again to everyone that has helped up get this far!

accept him," Costa Rica officials said. If he is sent here, your editor believes that there will be no shortage of ex-pats more than happy to buy Kilmar a cup of Costa Rican coffee.

### **Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living –**

The U.S. has eliminated the tariffs on bananas, coffee and chocolate. This should benefit income and profits for Costa Rica. SCOTUS not yet ruled on an appeals court ruling that many of the U.S. president's tariffs are illegal. However, many costs for everyday items in the U.S. are already headed up. There are indications that this has slowed the economy, which in turn has caused Amazon, Walmart and a number of others to lay off workers in fairly large numbers. If all of these negatives cause a recession in the U.S., world's largest economy, it will have a domino effect on the global economy, including Costa Rica.

**Drug Interdiction or an Armed Conflict Nearby? – U.S.** warships, now including the world's largest aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Gerald Ford, continue patrolling and bombing suspected drug cartel boats off of the Venezuelan coast without provocation or any legal cause. Rumors of a Venezuelan regime change run rampant as a raised U.S. presence in the region, including General Dan Caine, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, headed for a visit to the Caribbean, and Maduro putting his military and nation on full alert. To date, seven international airlines have cancelled their service to Venezuela. Let's continue to watch this situation and be alert to any escalation, which may impact Costa Rica, because of Latin America's proximity to Venezuela. (I am sure there will be more to report on this topic in next-month's update.)

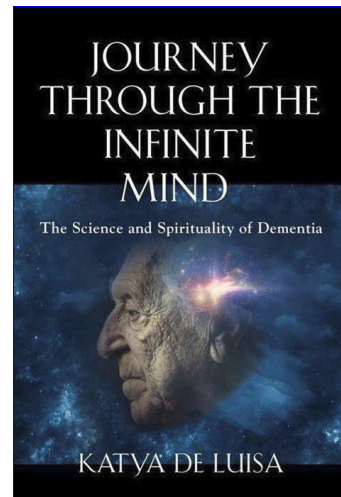
***"Un clavo saca otro clavo."***

**Literal translation: *One nail takes out another.***

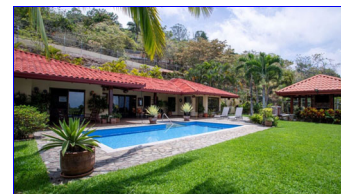
**English equivalent: *When one relationship ends, sometimes another relationship will help us out of our hole.***

***Thank you Isabel Arguello for your continuing contributions.***

Happy Holidays to all of our Que Pasa subscribers, their friends and families,



Excellent study on the topic of dementia. Katya will be speaking on this soon at New Friends lunch in Grecia. Click on image to see her listing and info on QPG.



Great houses in Atenas at every price point!



### **ONGOING PROBLEM**

Your bank will NEVER call asking for your private information. Neither will Social Security or the IRS. **Don't get duped!** Better to hang up and call your bank than to get your accounts cleaned out.



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*Pura Vida!*



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