

Que Pasa Grecia

Serving the Expat Community since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



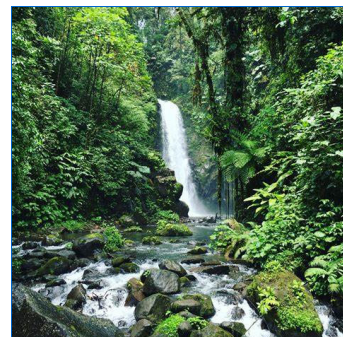
QuePasa Grecia Update #12 December 2024

What's New in QuePasaGrecia

Since our last Update, we have a listing for a single bed frame and mattress. There's a furnished three-bedroom house with secure entry and great views in Sarchi (get a jump on this great rental: the listing will be ready in January. Contact Brooke Bishop for more info); and an updated listing for a Grecia rental with an option to buy. Don't forget to check out the latest real estate postings in Atenas or go to the website of one the realtors listed on [QuePasaGrecia](#).

OK, You're Gone. Now, What?

Well, it happened again two weeks ago. One of our friends left



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!

this earth sooner than they expected without having made any of the necessary arrangements for their beneficiaries. I know they had very good intentions, but never quite got around to it.

Even if your assets in Costa Rica are few, please, make a binder with “after-I’m-gone” information, contacts and instructions (including passwords and utility and bank account numbers) for your beneficiaries/heirs, find a lawyer you can trust and have them help you make a Costa Rica will (a North American will or trust is not honored in Costa Rica), pre-plan for what happens to your physical remains, and take care of any other arrangements necessary. Probate will occur, but at least with a will you get to decide how your assets will be divided, and you can greatly simplify and shorten a probate process. That will certainly ease the stress on grieving heirs. Whether they’re near or far, if you love them, make it easier on your heirs while they are dealing with their grief for you.

Social Security Going Online?

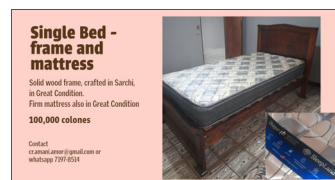
Your editor has received notification from the Social Security Administration of further account automation, and all services, and communications going online. However, try as I might, I was unable to complete activating SSA’s “My Account” online, as I did not have an acceptable required U.S. residence address. So, I cannot tell you whether non-resident U.S. citizens have been exempted or just forgotten. If anyone has successfully addressed the account set up and communication, please let your editor know.

Other Possible Changes for U.S. Expats after 20 January

Your editor cannot give you any advance info on what to anticipate and plan for changes that may impact us all in Costa Rica and we will have very little control to alter their impact on us, but significant changes reflecting the “America First” direction of the new administration have been advocated. They include budget cost-cutting; foreign policy changes; immigration bans and mass deportations; tariffs on all goods coming into the U.S.; and de-emphasizing the threat of climate change. These seem to be at the forefront of things that potentially could have the most impact on expats living in Costa Rica.

The incoming administration says cutting the federal budget is going to be a priority and we may see some cuts including at the U.S. Embassy and for foreign aid support to Costa Rica. How it affects us will be determined when we are able to see just how much change is enacted. Will more or less support for fighting drugs and our recent increase in violent crime be headed to Costa Rica? Relations with tiny Costa Rica may not be a priority, but the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica most certainly will change in due course to reflect the incoming administration’s new direction and political perspective.

There has been a great deal said about cutting costs, and social programs are the easiest to cut or eliminate. U.S. expats should be watching to see if Social Security, Medicare or veterans’ benefits will be left alone. U.S. business seems pleased with the



Single bed with Sarchi crafted wood frame



You can send donated items or cash to Assn. Obras del Espiritu Santo of Costa Rica, [contact info on FaceBook.](#)



This sweet boy is looking for his forever home! [Whatsapp 6439-0201](#)



[Blooms invites you to get social!](#) Monthly meetings in the Western Central valley.

pending change of administrations, and if the U.S. economy gets even stronger and/or inflation continues to fall, the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar to the colon may improve—benefiting U.S. expats residing in Costa Rica. If wide-scale tariffs are implemented, we may see the cost of U.S.-made items, U.S. goods containing foreign parts, or items imported to the U.S. and redistributed to us here in Costa Rica increase, while items directly imported to us from China and other nations may decrease in cost, or, at least, not increase. If exports from Costa Rica to the U.S. are tariffed, it could slow exports sold to the U.S. and have a negative impact on Costa Rica's economy. Depending on how broadly the U.S. implements tariffs, there may also be increased inflation in the U.S., which would be likely to transfer to us in Costa Rica in the form of increased cost of goods and services and de-valued dollars. Retaliatory tariffs by impacted nations may not have any impact on us, unless these more expensive goods are redistributed to Costa Rica from the U.S.

It is unclear how a crackdown on immigration into the U.S. or a large-scale deportation of immigrants will impact Costa Rica or its neighbors—it may have an impact, it may not. If the U.S. changes its policy on climate change and withdraws again from the Paris Climate Accords, as promised, we may see an impact in Costa Rica.

Depending on the changes in policy and their influence on the U.S. and world economies, we may see an influx in U.S. retirees to Costa Rica, creating an increased demand for housing, which could raise property prices and rental costs.

It's a lot to think about and time will tell how it all will unfold and impact us in positive or negative ways, but it is something to keep an eye on.

DEKRA Grecia Update

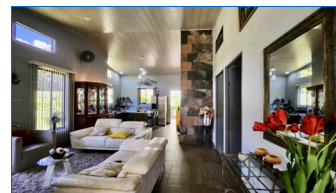
The long-promised portable DEKRA site is now open across from the CoopeVictoria gas station. There is only one inspection bay and there is a long queue for getting an appointment. The protocol is the same: get on internet to make appointment. Make your plans as long in advance as you can, or you'll be making a trip to DEKRA Alajuela.

A Very Wet 2024 Rain Gauge

In November, Irina reported 115.5 cms (45.3") of rain in El Cajon de Grecia (an all-time record for Irina) and Tom recorded 92.5 cms (36.4") in San Juan de Sarchí. This year, October's rain seemed to wait to fall until November. It WAS our wettest November in my memory. Rainfall totals 1 January through 30 November are almost off the chart. El Cajon de Grecia had 450.4 cms (177") and San Juan de Sarchi recorded 419.1 cms (165") for the first 11 months.

Miscellaneous News

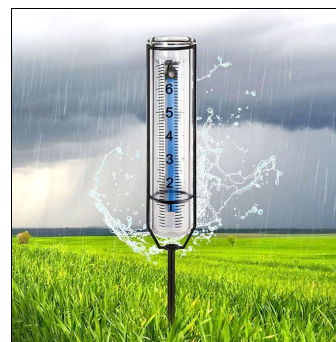
A Last Reminder about Annual Payments. *Marchamo*, the road tax-insurance for all vehicles must be paid before 31/12/2024



[New Real Estate listings in Atenas!](#)



The characteristic symptoms of **mild dengue** are sudden-onset fever, headache (typically located behind the eyes), muscle and joint pains, nausea, vomiting, swollen glands and a rash. If this progresses to severe dengue the symptoms are severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, rapid breathing, bleeding gums or nose, fatigue, restlessness, blood in vomit or stool, extreme thirst, pale and cold skin, and feelings of weakness.



November rain: 45.3" = 3.775 Feet
January thru November 2024 rain: 177"= 14.75 FEET

Wowser, that's a lotta water.

(payable at INS offices and most banks). Property taxes are due beginning 1 January through the first quarter of 2025, and can be paid along with trash collection fees (payable at city hall). Corporate taxes are due and payable without penalty by 31 January (payable at BCR branches).

Please Help Keep QPG's Doors Open

As you probably know *QuePasaGrecia* is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer operation. Our annual operational expenses come due at the same time each year. This year we need \$225 to pay for our server, domain name, and secure socket renewal. Please contact [Diane](#) or [me](#) if you can help.

Still Trying to Make a Difference

Caribe Sinfónico is still active and focused on changing lives. We have recently received commitments from a number of entities to underwrite some of the costs to develop several life-altering youth workshops. Also in 2025, *Caribe Sinfónico*, the musical history of Limon Province, will be performed for the first time. We will undoubtedly need more financial and volunteer assistance to stage these programs. Please consider volunteering some of your time or making a donation to the *Caribe Sinfónico* project. Give me a call for more info or you can also check out our webpage: <https://caribesinfonico.com> or visit my GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/32e8dcc0>.

“Estar en números rojos”

Meaning: Being in the red. Being in a bad financial condition.

Thank you Isabel Arguello for your continuing contributions.

Isabel teaches Spanish and does translations.

Find out more about Isabel on the

[QuePasaGrecia](#) website.



Heads up - Fraud is real and on the increase. This is the latest scam - finding a bogus ticket on your car. "Scan the QR code to see your fine" - Don't do it! This is NOT legit.



[Caribe Sinfónico asks for your support!](#)

Happiest of Holidays!

No matter what year-end holiday you celebrate. We hope it is joyful and that your 2025 will be happy, healthy and prosperous.

Put your umbrellas away, the dry, hot weather is here,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster