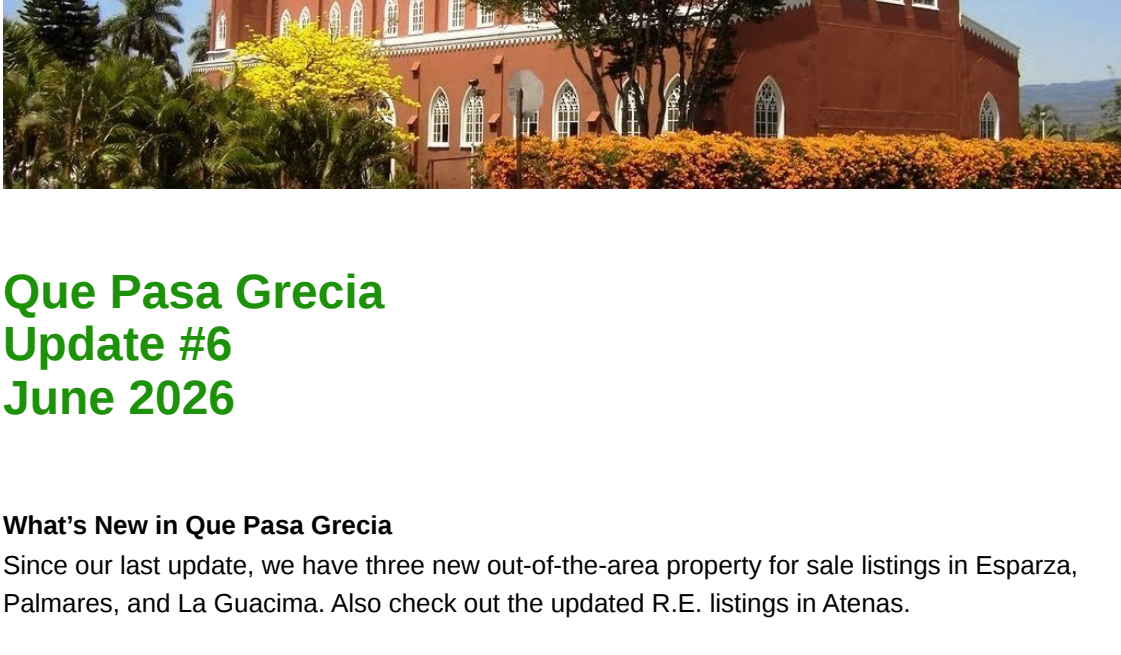


Que Pasa Grecia

Serving Grecia, Sarchi, and Naranjo since 2014

¿Qué Pasa?



Que Pasa Grecia Update #6 June 2026

What's New in Que Pasa Grecia

Since our last update, we have three new out-of-the-area property for sale listings in Esparza, Palmares, and La Guacima. Also check out the updated R.E. listings in Atenas.

There are many recommendations from subscribers for restaurants, businesses, and services on the website. Take advantage of the experience of someone who has already been there and done that. When you need vendor, service or a place to eat, check out their recommendations.

Miscellaneous News

C.R. Gas Is Now \$5.41 per Gallon – And, still expected to rise during, and even after, the uncertainty in the Middle East is resolved. (Buy premium gas now. At the moment for some odd reason, it is actually cheaper than regular.) LPG is up, also. However, you're fortunate if you have diesel, as the price for it has actually declined. Expat buying power is still under pressure, as the U.S. dollar is now experiencing its worst exchange rate against the colon ever, which greatly reduces expat buying power. Economists at the Central Bank of Costa Rica say they expect the U.S. dollar to continue to devalue against the colon. If you are like most of us, this will require extra vigilance when making expenditures. Putting off purchases that are not absolutely necessary will become the norm, and family budgets are probably not a bad idea.

Better Beware – There are a couple of current scams reported. One involves a fraudulent notice of attempted debit card purchases. The other scam concerns cellphone charges. If you are contacted by phone or WhatsApp about questionable purchases or attempted purchases, beware, it's a scam.

A note from recent personal experiences: pickpockets and petty thieves are plentiful and active in downtown San Jose, particularly around the vicinity of the Teatro Nacional. There are a number of recent incidents of jewelry and cellphones being snatched right off persons where crowds congregate. It has happened to a number of friends and to us, as well. Avoid wearing expensive-looking jewelry and watches. Keep your wallets and cellphones out of view and secure inside your purse or in a pocket or in case on your belt. It's best not to keep I.D.s and credit cards in the case with your cellphone. There are low-cost ways to track the location your phone. If it is not near where it was lost or presumed stolen, your phone doesn't have legs. It's best to presume it has been stolen and has a new "owner." If your phone has been lifted, block your cellphone and contact your provider to request a temporary cancellation of service. This can be undone when you get a new cellphone and you will get to keep your old number. Also, it's a good idea to go to your email account and change your password.

C.R. Road Bad News – A sink hole, which was still growing had completely closed Ruta 27 at kilometer #56 east of Orotina is now open with a detour to non-truck traffic, with some limitations. A permanent repair to replace an existing culvert (which collapsed and created the sinkhole) is in the works. The date for completion of a permanent repair has not been announced.

While the toll booths are not planned until later, toll stations are planned for the new Grecia interchange (somewhere at, near, or on the Ruta 1/Ruta 154 overpass transition). The toll booths are part of the broader San José–San Ramón Ruta 1 highway expansion project. The expansion project includes the addition of new electronic toll stations along the 56-kilometer corridor to help finance the modernization, with toll stations rumored to address both through traffic and traffic exiting to Grecia from both directions.

If You Don't Agree, You're a Leftist and Communist – President Fernandez's proposal to open Costa Rica's electric grid to competition and intra-Central American power purchases and sales received heavy opposition from leaders of the country's two major opposition parties. I can't say I disagree with the president's logic, as added competition would likely reduce electric costs to Costa Rica's consumers, electric power generation shortages could be covered by purchasing available power from our neighbors, and any excess power generated could create additional revenue if sold to neighboring nations.

However, when faced with heavy pushback from the opposition, she called legislative deputies "vagrants," and anyone who didn't agree with her "leftists" and "communists." Your editor is fairly familiar with public relations and it doesn't seem like insults and name calling is the most-productive approach to try to gain the support of those whose vote you need to implement your programs, or to win over those influencers who may disagree. I hope confrontation does not become the modus operandi of this new administration, or it will be a very long four years.

Fernandez is off to a somewhat rocky start of her term. Let's keep a close eye on what is advocated and actually implemented, and how it may impact foreign residents.

Rainfall

El Cajon de Grecia (Irina)
May: 17.0 cms; 6.70 ins.
YTD: 25.6 cms; 10.09 ins.

San Juan de Sarchi (Tom)
May: 19.3 cms; 7.61 ins.
YTD: 25.4 cms; 10.00 ins.

The Green Season for the Central Valley has begun with a whimper compared to the same time in 2024 and '25. This May's rainfall in Sarchi is only 1/3 of the May 2025 total. I have spoken to Sarchi's water distribution director and he worries that if things don't change, there may be water rationing in some areas of Sarchi later this year.

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.

U.S. Government Changes Impacting Expats

Foreign Entanglements – The conflict in Iran and Lebanon remains unresolved, the U.S. and Iran are shooting at each other and the Strait of Hormuz remains mostly closed. However, in a similar move as occurred in Venezuela, the U.S. president has moved against Cuba—cutting off their oil supply and indicting 94 year-old Raul Castro for downing a U.S. private aircraft with fatalities 30 years ago. The new Costa Rica administration has just cut diplomatic relations with Cuba. How a move against Cuba may impact Costa Rica's involvement is not known.

Immigration – The U.S. is one of the hosts of the World Cup Tournament that begins this month. Travelers from all over the world, including Costa Rica, will be headed to a number of venues in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. It remains unclear how much involvement and supervision HSA and ICE will employ toward foreign travelers and legal residents when entering the country, flying between venues, and traveling as tourists while they are in the U.S. Whether there will be airport chaos and, if there is, will travel to and from Latin America and to Latin Americans and expat travelers be impacted. Time will tell.

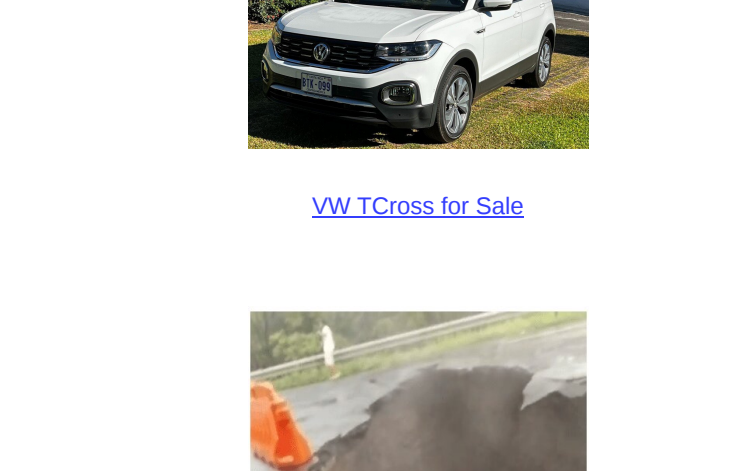
Travel – The cost of jet fuel is way up and still rising adding to the cost of air tickets. In addition, there has been the usual announcement of flight routes and flight frequency by international carriers. If anything, it may become easier (but not cheaper) to make foreign connections in and out of Costa Rica.

Tariffs, Retirement Savings, and the Cost of Living – In Costa Rica, the dollar is at its weakest exchange with the colon ever, at about 452 colones to the dollar. The majority of us are on fixed incomes and aren't holding many cards. So, maybe it's time to consider cutting back on expenditures, making a monthly budget, and carpool when possible to help stretch your available funds. And, if you are in a position to do so, another way to save money and save water to deal with the drought: shower with a friend.

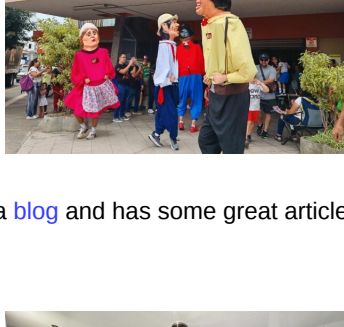
"Cada loco con su loquera."

Equivalent meaning: Different strokes for different folks.

Think about starting a budget,
D. Davis, editor
Diane Cooner, webmaster
www.quepasagrecia.com



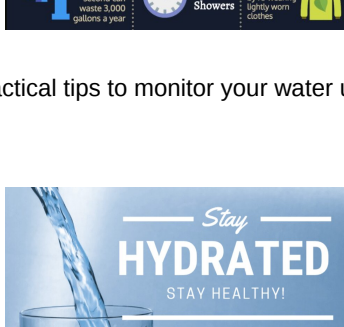
[Things to do in the West Central Valley](#)



Seniors ride for free on local buses, half price to San Jose with DIMEX.



At \$5+/gal and rising, it's a good time to get in carpool mode!



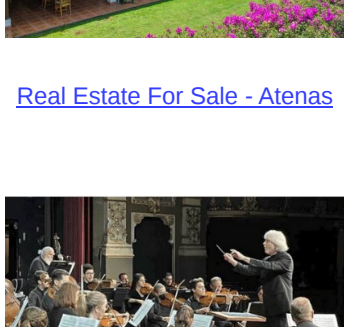
Be Aware of Scams!!
They are never ending.



[VW TCross for Sale](#)



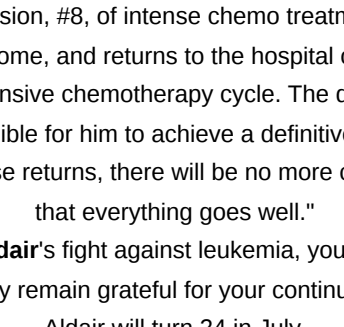
Sinkhole on Ruta 27 west of Orotina brings detours. As to repairs.... soon?



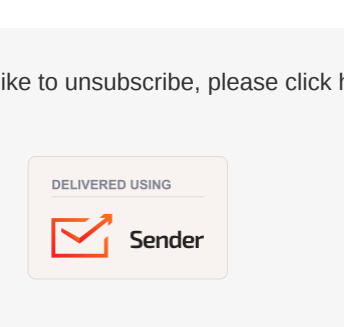
Brooke Bishop has started a [blog](#) and has some great articles about living in Costa Rica.



[Beautiful home in Palmares for sale.](#)



Practical tips to monitor your water use!



Watch your water use, but be sure you are consuming enough in your body! The heat, even if it's not sunny, leads to dehydration, which can bring on symptoms of dementia among other things.

[House for sale in La Guacima, Alajuela](#)

[If you are looking for a Really Big Project, consider this for an investment in Esparza.](#)

[Real Estate For Sale - Atenas](#)

Caribe Sinfónico would love your help! [Learn more here and to donate.](#)

Aldair will be starting the final session, #8, of intense chemo treatments for leukemia. From his father Romeo, "He is currently resting at home, and returns to the hospital on June 8. He will be hospitalized for about 10 to 12 days for this last intensive chemotherapy cycle. The doctor says we should pray, that they are doing everything humanly possible for him to achieve a definitive review. If everything goes well, he will continue with pills. If the disease returns, there will be no more chemotherapies, so we pray to God that everything goes well."

When you support **Romeo's** son **Aldair's** fight against leukemia, you support this entire family of ceramic artists. They remain grateful for your continued support!

Aldair will turn 24 in July.

NEW LINK:
Read the current update via our [GoFundMe Campaign](#).