

Our Family Newsletter



Our Costa Rica Christmas Tree.

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

Well, it's the end of December and we thought we'd try the New Year off right by keeping in touch each month. During our two week break from home schooling, our car broke down, we had a great Christmas, a nice New Year, we took a drive to Tarcoles Bridge, enjoyed a drink at Villa Caleta's, and much time spent together.

We thought it would be nice if all of us

shared our experiences with each of you. Each of us has taken a moment to write about one experience we had during our break.

Enjoy!



Our car: by Jessica

It was a normal Friday when I decided to head into Jaco with my mom to finish off our Christmas errands. I had gotten ahead in home schooling and thought it would be great to get out. As we were traveling down the road, I was happily reading a book. My mom, on the other hand, turned to me and asked if I had heard the funny noise the car was making. I didn't think much of it because our car makes lots of noise anyways. As my mom shifted down, the car shut off. We tried to start it but nothing happened. We parked the car on the side of the road. I turned to my mom and asked what we were going to do next. She simply just said we were going to walk. Walk!

So we started walking, but not towards home. The road was a two-way, country road with no phones for miles. We walked up to a restaurant and asked to use their phone. They had no phone! They said that the nearest phone was 200 km. We had no idea how far that was so we just kept walking. Luckily, our neighbor from town saw us as she was driving back home. As she drove us home, we passed our car and stopped to find a puddle of oil under our car.

Later that day, Kurt towed our car with his car to a mechanic in Jaco. Although this is illegal, there are no tow trucks in Costa Rica. Currently, our car is in the shop, receiving a new engine. We will be without a car for about 3 weeks. What Luck!!

Special events in our family's life

- Christmas in Costa Rica
- A drive to Tarcoles Bridge
- A family drink at Villa Caleta's

"I was scared Santa wouldn't gonna come to Costa Rica." By Hannah



A warm Christmas Day



Making tortillas

Christmas Eve: by Hannah

When I woke up I realized it was Christmas Eve! I was so excited because tomorrow would be Christmas and Santa would be coming tonight. During the day we put Christmas music on and dad said it was time to make tortillas. I said "Yeah". While daddy was making the dough, I really wanted to touch it and pat it and roll it. Then I got to! We had to roll them very thin and put them on a tortilla warmer to cook. We were trying to make them as thin and round as grandmas. We cheated a little by putting a bowl down to make them perfectly round. Daddy was talking the whole time about grandma's

tortilla making. He said that she was the best tortilla maker ever! And we tried to make them different shapes like hearts and Christmas trees. Mommy was making the chicken and mole for our dinner. And we had corn with it. All of us worked on a puzzle all day long. After dinner we all got dressed up to have a drink at Shirley's. Shirley is a neighbor who just built a house in our village. After we went to Shirley's we went to church. When we came home we wrote a note to Santa and left him cookies and milk. Then we went all to sleep. I was so excited. I was scared Santa wouldn't gonna come to Costa Rica. Thank you for reading.

Christmas Day: by Maya

Our friends were gone and we were watching their animals and home. So we had Christmas there and we slept there. Hannah woke up at 4 in the morning! And then straight away Hannah woke me up. She said Santa came and I ran out and Santa did come! Me and Hannah was shaking, holding, and feeling all the presents. We were cheating. So practically me and Hannah knew all the presents but we didn't feel or shake ours. We woke Nicole and Jessica up. I told Jessica we were going to wake mom and dad up but Jessica said no, wait until 6. So me and Hannah accidentally fell asleep on the couch. So when everyone was awake we did presents first and I got a jewelry box from Santa and a purse from Oma, some pick up sticks and metal jacks. We all cleaned up, got dressed, played games, eat breakfast and then after that we watched this movie called It's A Wonderful Life. I never heard of it. I went swimming with my family in the pool. After, I played Surf Monopoly with Jessica and Hannah. For dinner we had steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, and corn. After dinner we called my Oma and Grandma to say Merry Christmas. I also got to call my best friend Jocelyn. I couldn't talk long, my calling card was running out. Thanks for listening! Ciao!



Great treats



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Only in Costa Rica...

Tarcoles Bridge: by Monique

One day we all decided to take a drive to Tarcoles Bridge. As you are driving on the main road, many people get out and walk onto the bridge to look over and see all the crocodiles. Boy, were there a LOT! On one side of the bridge alone we saw over 10 crocodiles moving along in the water. It may seem boring to you that people look over a bridge and watch these things, but we were truly fascinated! After, we had lunch near by. walked through the souvenir

**Our kids' favorite
Christmas joke:**

**What do you call a person who is
afraid of Santa Claus?**

Claustrophobic!

Villa Caleta's: by Nicole

It was a very boring day so we decided to get out and go see the sun set at Villa Caleta's. Villa Caleta's is a very nice resort about 45 minutes away. Dad was kind of rushing by driving fast because we were about to miss the sunset. I wasn't feeling very well and my dad's driving on the curving road didn't help. When we got there we had to walk up a big hill. We had a hard time finding the amphitheater where you can watch the sun set. By the time we found it, it was dark. We missed it! We didn't want to

drive all the way back to our village so we decided to stay for a drink. Me and my sisters had a "kid" daiquiri. It was good. Even though we missed the sunset, it was very fun. We hope to try again but not miss it next time.



New Year's Eve: by Raphael

Our New Year's Eve was not a typical big family style event. We celebrated with our friends, the Raihns, and another family that lives here, Mihal, Andres and their son Iry. We had a nice BBQ salmon dinner and wine. The adults sat in the Rancho enjoying the quiet Costa Rica evening while the kids entertained themselves. Around 9pm the village came alive with unbelievable fire works. The kind that you see during our 4th of July, but these are being shot up by the local villagers. Here in Costa Rica there are no laws of how big or small or where you can set off fireworks. We sat up until midnight chatting, bringing in the New Year with our traditional banging of the pots and pans. Throughout the night, the fireworks, with very loud booms, were being set off until the next morning. We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful New Years. Make sure you keep those resolutions! P.S. My resolution is to smoke more cigars. Ha Ha!

