



Ed & Rob's 2017 Adventure in Costa Rica

June 3-6



AA Record Locator: QHZKNL

Status: Ticket Pending - Apr 08, 2017

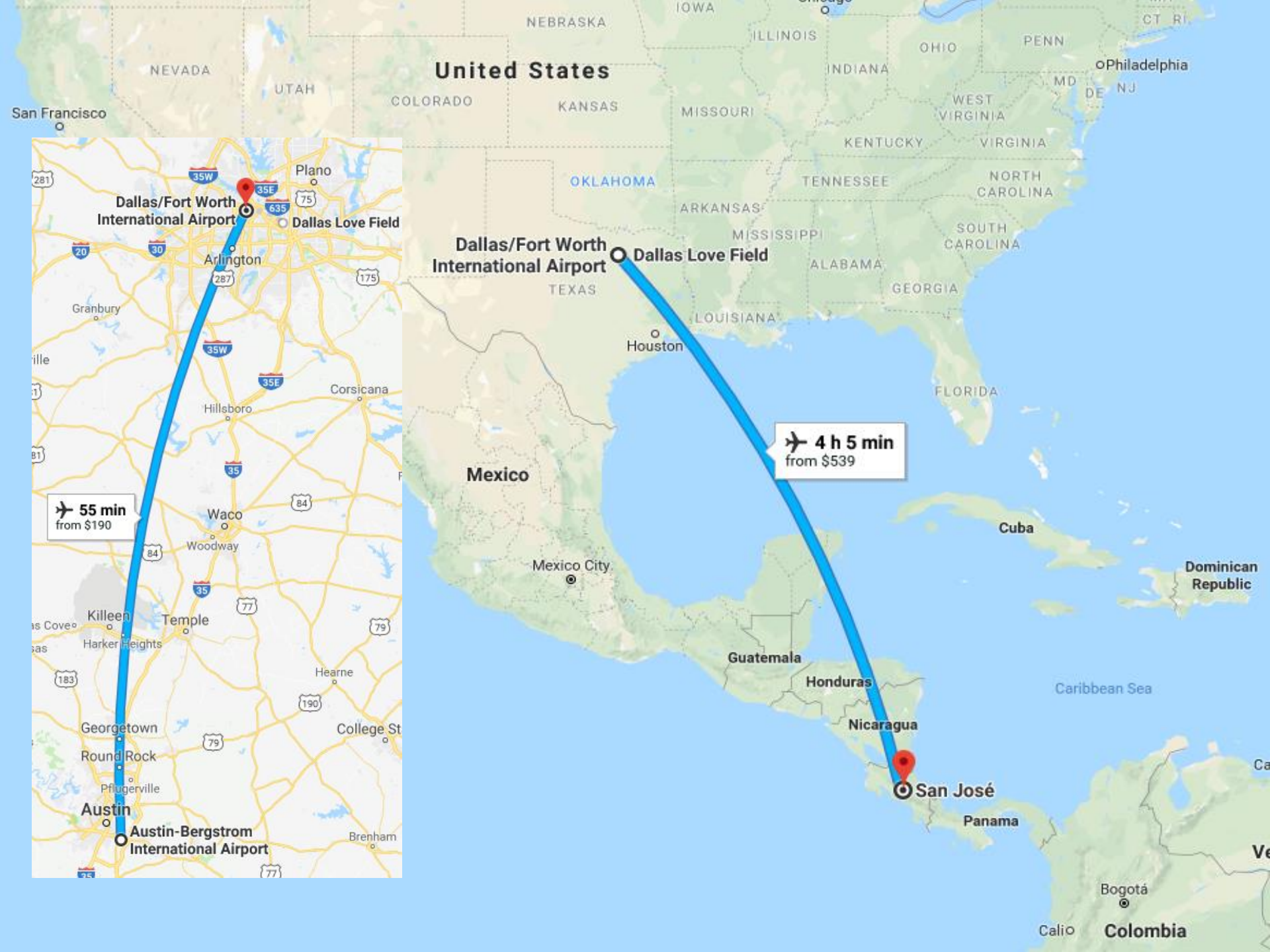
Your Itinerary

Carrier	Flight Number	Departing		Arriving		Booking Code	Meals
		City	Date & Time	City	Time		
 AMERICAN AIRLINES	1460	AUS Austin	Jun 03, 2017 07:00 AM	DFW Dallas/ Fort Worth	Jun 03, 2017 08:07 AM	Y	N/A
 AMERICAN AIRLINES	1053	DFW Dallas/ Fort Worth	Jun 03, 2017 09:05 AM	SJO San Jose	Jun 03, 2017 12:14 PM	Y	Breakfast
 AMERICAN AIRLINES	2436	SJO San Jose	Jun 06, 2017 06:55 AM	DFW Dallas/ Fort Worth	Jun 06, 2017 12:18 PM	Y	Breakfast
 AMERICAN AIRLINES	1414	DFW Dallas/ Fort Worth	Jun 06, 2017 02:45 PM	AUS Austin	Jun 06, 2017 03:44 PM	Y	N/A

Traveler Information

Passenger	Class	Seat Assignment
EDWARD STEIN	Economy	28A
ROBIN GERLACH	Economy	28B
EDWARD STEIN	Economy	21A
ROBIN GERLACH	Economy	22A
EDWARD STEIN	Economy	23F
ROBIN GERLACH	Economy	23E
EDWARD STEIN	Economy	25F
ROBIN GERLACH	Economy	25E

Here's how the air travel shaped up



United States

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Dallas Love Field

✈ 4 h 5 min
from \$539

Mexico

San José

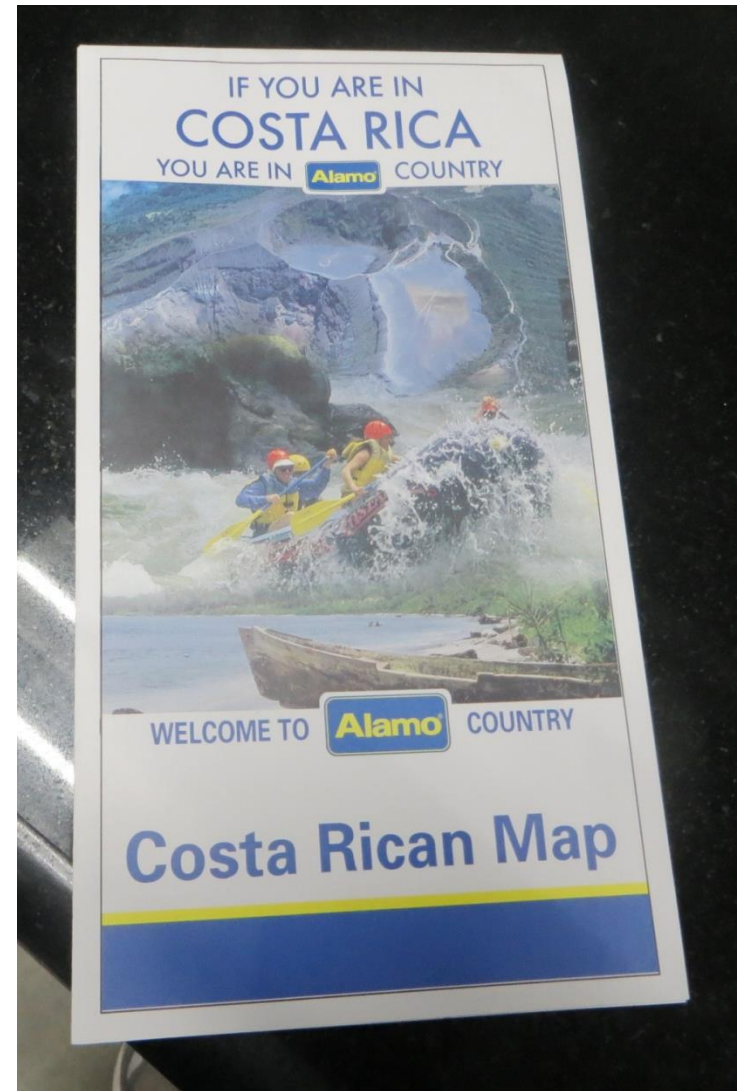
✈ 55 min
from \$190

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Dallas Love Field

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport



03 June 2017. We met at Ed's at 5a to get to the airport for the 8:07a flight. Ed was sitting on the tailgate of his truck with his laptop. Because of weather in the DFW area the night before, our plane didn't make it to Austin like it was supposed to.... Therefore our flight was cancelled. We weighed several options including driving to DFW to catch the 9:05 to San Jose. As it turned out, we went home until going to airport at 9:30 for noon flight – which turned out to be 12:30p. Flight to SJ was suppose to be 3p but actually left a little early. Got there at 6:30p where it was already dark. Strange.



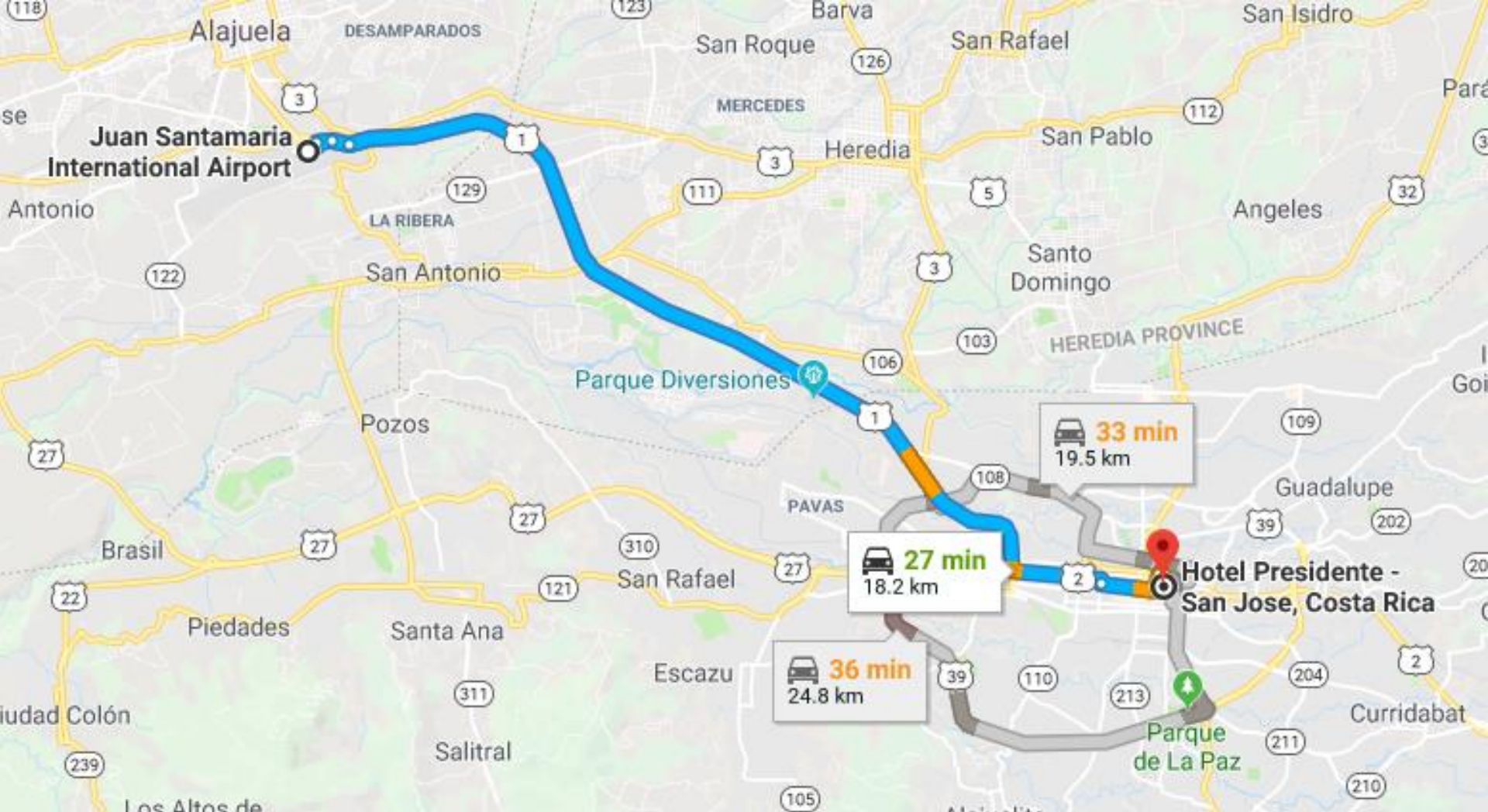
Time to kill at DFW. Have a lunch/beer and adapt plans.

**Got the car with
the help of Oscar
Azofeifa Mata at
Alamo**





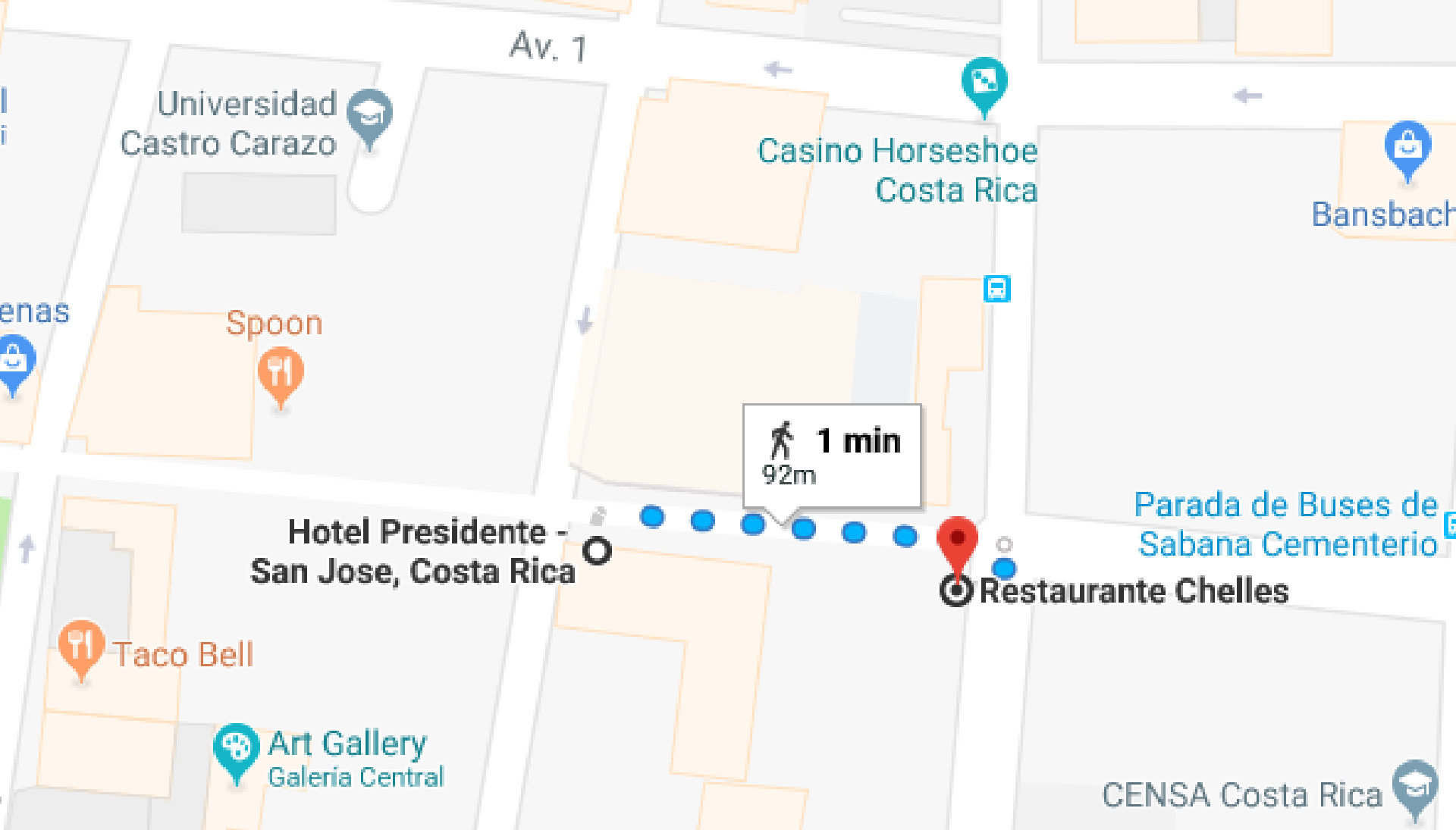
Soon on our way downtown



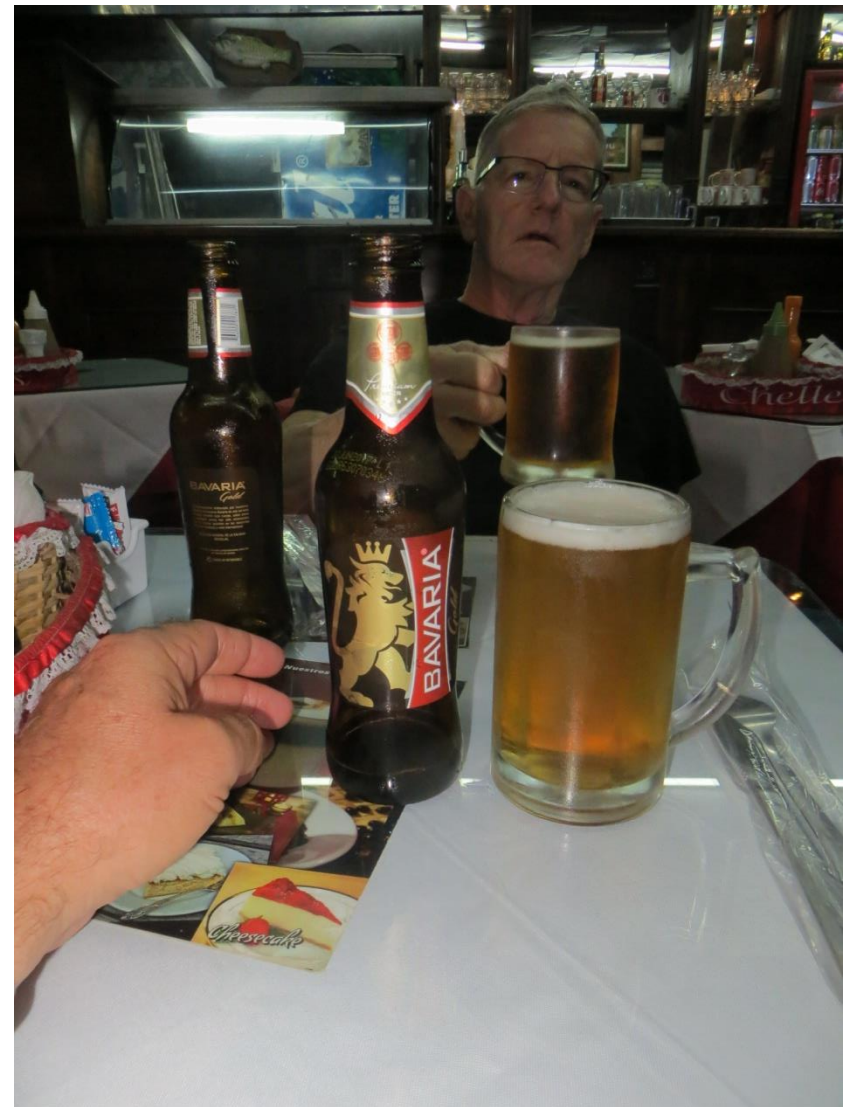
Well... plans changed. Our goal was to stay at a place near the volcano. Didn't think it wise to drive 3 hours in the dark out in the country of a place we'd never been. So we spent the night at Hotel Presidente in downtown San Jose.



Hotel Presidente was a nice place... and we got the last parking spot in the gated lot.



We had business to do. Our official Costa Rican beer. Upon the recommendation of the hotel clerk, we went to Restaurante Chelles for beer and some food.



**Oddly enough, our Costa Rican beer was a German pilsner. 10:09p
By 10:45 we were at the room crashed out.**



Day #2, 04 June 2017. Had complimentary hotel breakfast before heading out at 7:30a.





Las Americas Restaurant



Try our Bloodymary,
'cause it's too early for
scotch!





**Interesting winding
staircase at
Presidente.**

Hotel Presidente





HOTEL

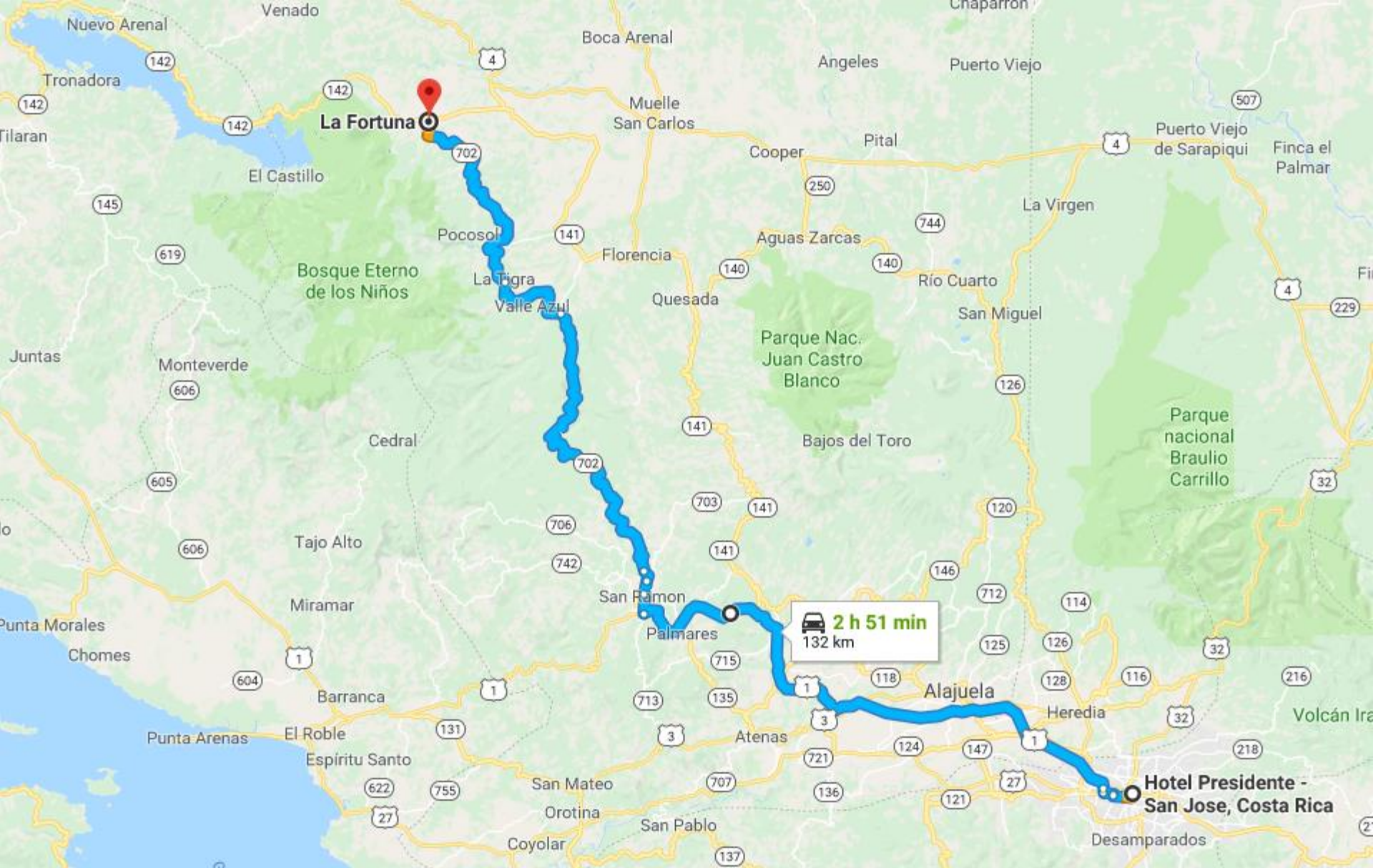
AGENCIAS
CENTRO
SAN JOSÉ

AutoCAD
2D & 3D

Formado
PISO

Mantenimiento
y reparación de
computadores

FI DW



On our way to La Fortuna



Heading out of San Jose



**Ed behind
the wheel,
Rob behind
the map**



619?

Cordillera de Tilarán

Monteverde

Ciudad Quesada (San Carlos)

Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí

San Ramón

Naranjo

Esparza

Heredia

SAN JOSÉ

San Isidro

Desamparados

Aserri

Tobosi

Carta



Interesting sights along the way

Our straight and level roads suddenly changed.





LEGO
CATARACTA

Stopped here for a cold drink. And yes, they take the American \$\$

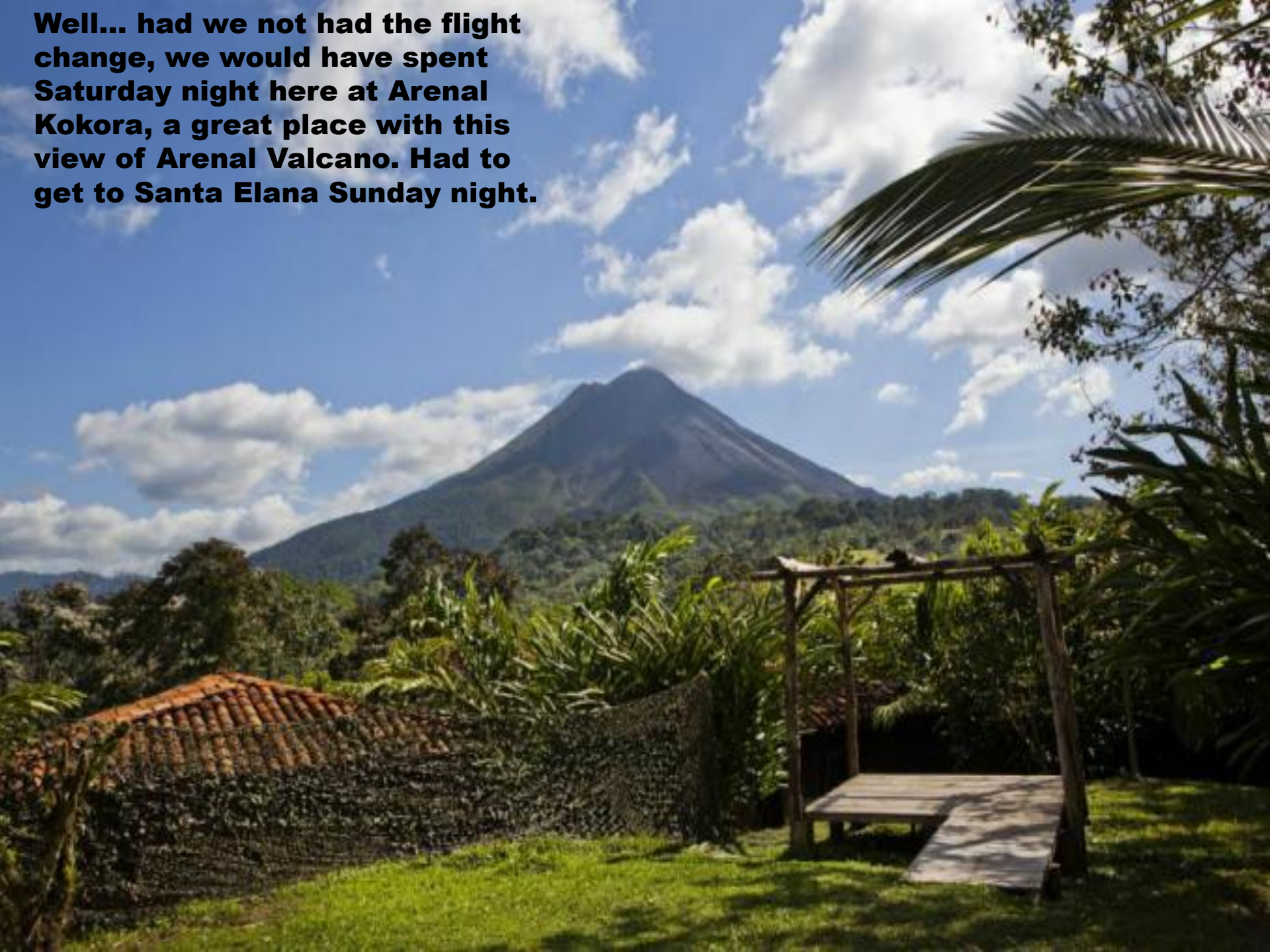






Made zip lining reservations for the next day here about 10:45a. Also learned that it was a 2.5 hour hike to the valcano's national park. Opted for waterfalls nearby.

Well... had we not had the flight change, we would have spent Saturday night here at Arenal Kokora, a great place with this view of Arenal Volcano. Had to get to Santa Elana Sunday night.



**A church in
Fortuna with
services going on**







Tripadvisor says, “The La Fortuna Waterfall (Catarata Rio Fortuna) is a must see!” Well, we did.



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One website says, “In order to observe this splendid Waterfall of 70 meters of height, the visitor will have to overcome a road of approximately 530 steps, for which the greater security is offered to its step and comfortable zones of rest and hydration, through a forest with native trees of area. Once in front of the Catarata, you will find a wide and comfortable viewpoint from which you can freeze your memories through unprecedented and unique photographs, and finally you can take a refreshing swim in the crystal clear waters of the Fortuna river and with a unique witness (the Fortuna River Waterfall).”





**530 steps as in stair
steps.**





**Pictures here
just don't do it
justice.**









ZETA TRECE

LA FORTUNA

Restaurante Tiquicia

6 min
3.8 km

702

Rio Fortuna Waterfall

Then to lunch at Restaurante Tiquicia



Somebody recommended this place, so... why not. Right at 12:30, let's eat. Some websites give this place a 5-star rating.



An open air pavilion type
of place.





restaurante
riquicia

restaurante
riquicia

Little babbling creek





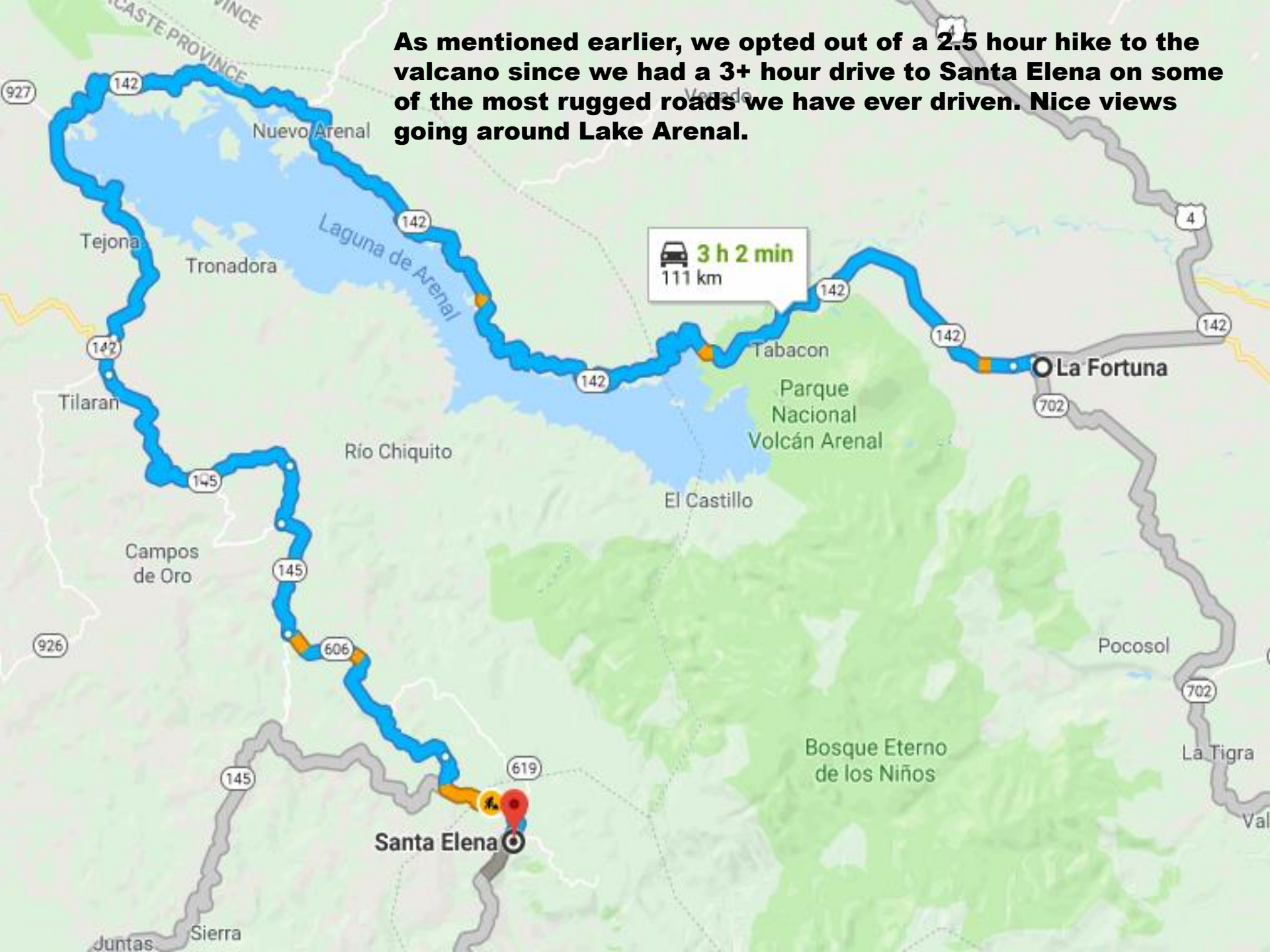
**A
decent
tilapia
&
salad
meal**



**Cloud cover kept us from getting a really good view of *Volcan Arenal*
1:11p**



As mentioned earlier, we opted out of a 2.5 hour hike to the valcano since we had a 3+ hour drive to Santa Elena on some of the most rugged roads we have ever driven. Nice views going around Lake Arenal.





Rounding the curve on Lake Arenal.





**Pavement gave out the last 30 miles
before Santa Elena.**



Any kind of road maintenance ended shortly after



Very bumpy. Good practice driving a standard 5-speed vehicle... and rarely hitting 3rd gear. Hard to get a picture in focus





COSTARICA

Monteverde & Santa Elena

is exploring leafy rainforests

PLACES ▾

Strung between two lovingly preserved cloud forests, this slim corridor of civilization consists of the Tico village of Santa Elena and the Quaker settlement of Monteverde, each with an eponymous cloud forest reserve. The cloud forests are premier destinations for everyone from budget backpackers to well-heeled retirees.

On a good day, the Monteverde area is a place where you can be inspired about the possibility of a world in which organic farming and alternative energy sources are the norm; on a bad day, it can feel like Disneyland in Birkenstocks. Take heart in the fact that the local community continues to fight the good fight to maintain the fragile balance between nature and commerce. (website)

Made it to Santa Elena about 4:30 and found our lodging for the night, Pensión Santa Elena, Monteverde. A 2.5 star place... quite luxurious for us. Pretty humid out.



**Pensión
Santa Elena**

Tripadvisor says, "This place has a great atmosphere, it's full of backpackers of all ages. Staff are very friendly, helpful with booking tours, but no pressure. Rooms were basic - comfortable bed, strong wifi, and warm showers - all the essentials." We agreed the wives wouldn't have gone for the musty smell of the bed linen. Ed aptly said they smelled of years of people using them.





Our room for the night.

Monteverde
Beer House



Brewery &
Mediterranean
Cuisine

From Clouds to Earth

After getting settled in the room we walked around this small town, then back and down the hill about 3 minutes from the room to Monteverde Beer House. It isn't a brewery, but they do serve local craft brews.



Rob had “Gold” beer and Ed a red ale. Just 8-10 inches from Ed’s left elbow was....



This friendly fellow must be their mascot of sorts because he is pictured on their website.



**An American Blonde ale.
4.7 abv**

By the time we left at 7p or so it was dark. Walked up to the town “drag” and had a nightcap at Amy’s. (day shot of Amy’s, obviously)





Nightcap at Amy's about 7:30p. Glad we didn't have to drive in this fog. Not much to do here on a Sunday night. Back to room. Crashed out by 8:30p. Possibly a record for us.

pension
Santa Elena



**Click on icon for short video clip of Santa
Elena night life**



MMI_4618.MOV



05 June 2017. Day #3. Easily awake 4:30-5a, got up and ready to go. 6:53a.

Hotel gave you breakfast tokens for the taco place next door. Was good. Guy at hotel who gave us tokens was from Oklahoma.. Or maybe just an OU fan. Watermelon really sweet.





Monteverde Park

Sky Adventures Monteverde Park is located in one of the worlds most recognized and wonderful cloud forest. Monteverde's variable climate and high altitude has helped produce an extremely high biodiversity. It is home to over 100 species of mammals, more than 400 species of birds, thousands of insect species and around 2500 species of plants – containing the largest number of orchids in the world. Monteverde is acclaimed as one of the most outstanding wildlife refuges worldwide.

The Monteverde Region with the Santa Elena town as the center is situated in the Cordillera of Tilaran at an altitude of between 3930ft (1200 m.) and 4920 ft. (1500 m.) above sea level. Monteverde with its protected cloud forest reserves, its extraordinary flora and fauna is known as one of the most famous ecotourism destinations in Central America. We recommend you to stay at least a few days to explore the Monteverde Region, one of the most interesting places to visit in Costa Rica. (website)

Our awesome adventure of the day. Ziplining over a cloud forest.

Park Attractions Map:



Monteverde
Cloud Forest



Información
Information

Teleférico / Aerial Tram

- ↔ 800 m. / 2624 ft.
- ↑ 1736 m.s.n.m. / 5700 ft.a.s.l.
- ⌚ 10 km/h / 6 mi/h
- 🕒 15 min.

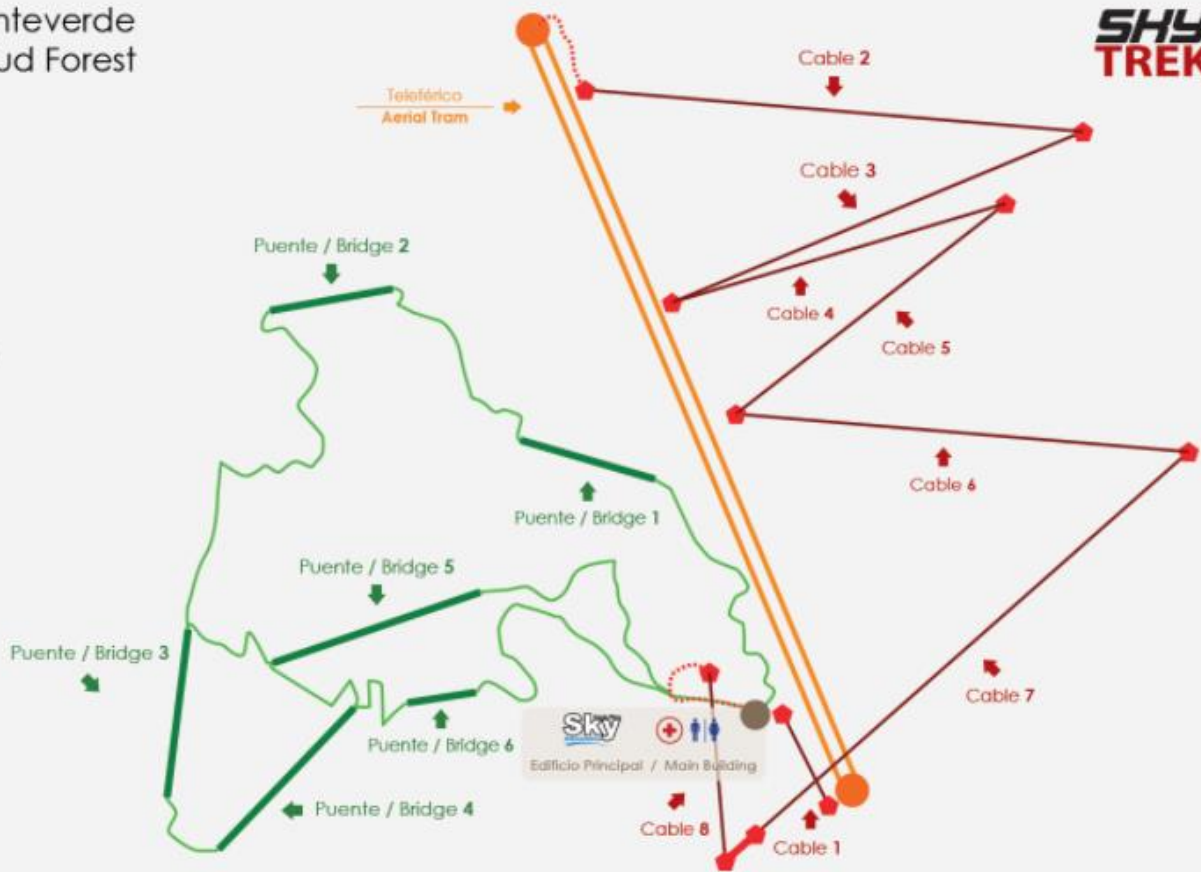
Información
Information

Puente / Bridge 1

- ↔ 66 m. / 216 ft.
- ↑ 15 m. / 49 ft.

Puente / Bridge 2

- ↔ 122 m. / 400 ft.
- ↑ 49 m. / 160 ft.



Información
Information

Cable 1

- ↔ 40 m. / 131 ft.
- ↑ 15 m. / 49 ft.
- ⌚ Practice / Practica
- 🕒 15s.

Cable 2

- ↔ 420 m. / 1377 ft.
- ↑ 50 m. / 164 ft.
- ⌚ 35 km/h / 21 mi/h
- 🕒 33s.

Cable 3

- ↔ 560 m. / 1837 ft.
- ↑ 38 m. / 124 ft.
- ⌚ 52 km/h / 32 mi/h
- 🕒 38s.

Por favor utilice los respectivo basureros.
Please put the trash into the assigned cans.

Utilice los senderos.
Walk only in the trails.

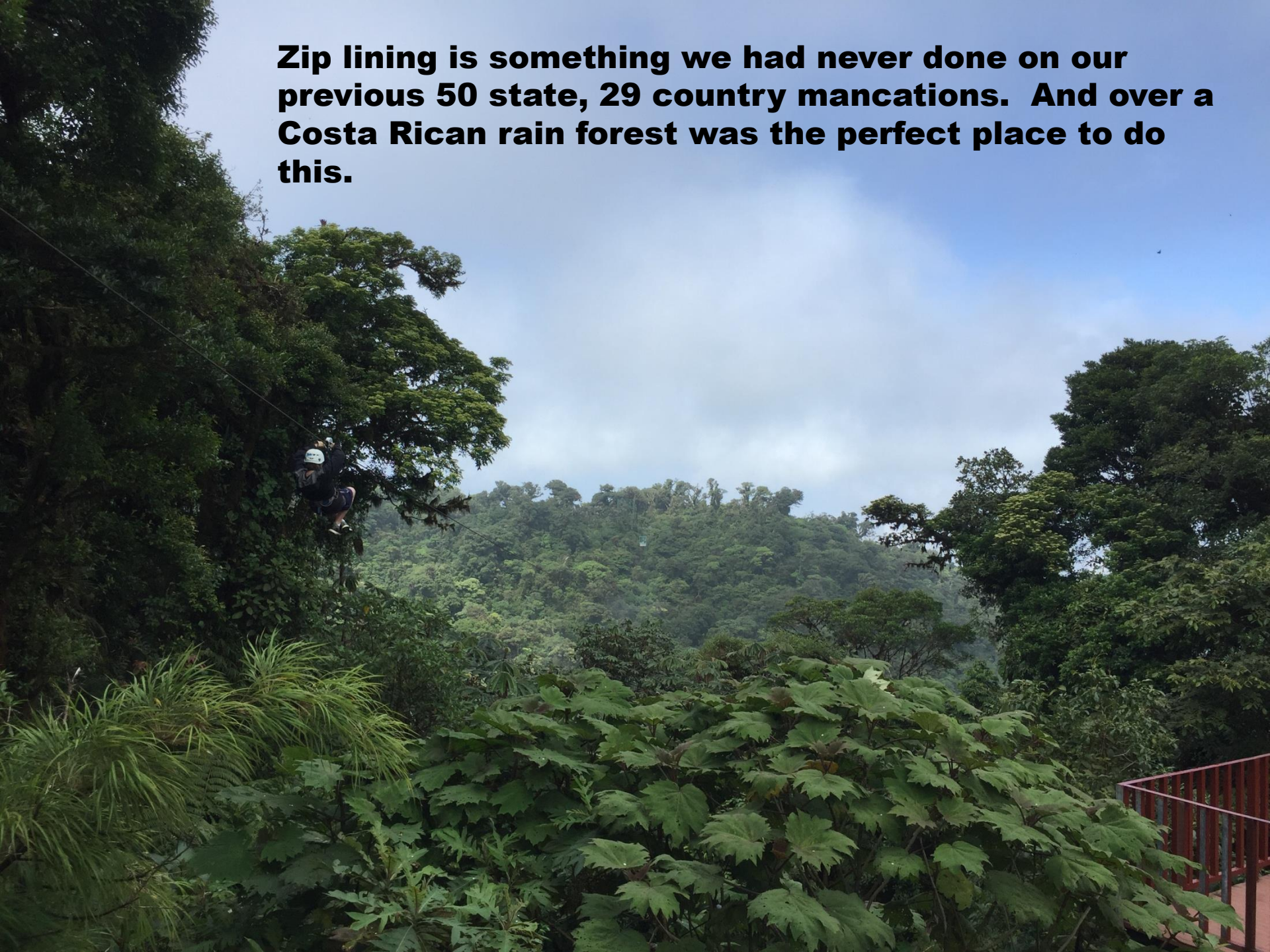
No alimente los animales.
Do not feed the animals.

No extraiga plantas ni animales del bosque.
Do not take animals or plants of the forest.



Our ziplining adventure was scheduled for 9a. Not knowing how long it would take to get there on rough roads, we got there shortly before 8. As it turned out we tagged on to a school group from Houston, TX for their 8a session.

Zip lining is something we had never done on our previous 50 state, 29 country mancations. And over a Costa Rican rain forest was the perfect place to do this.



Had to ride the gondola to the top. A scenic experience in itself.





Here we go





Spectacular vistas



There goes Ed







**Rob opted to
do this plunge
at the end.**



IMG_2525.MOV



It was just beautiful everywhere you looked

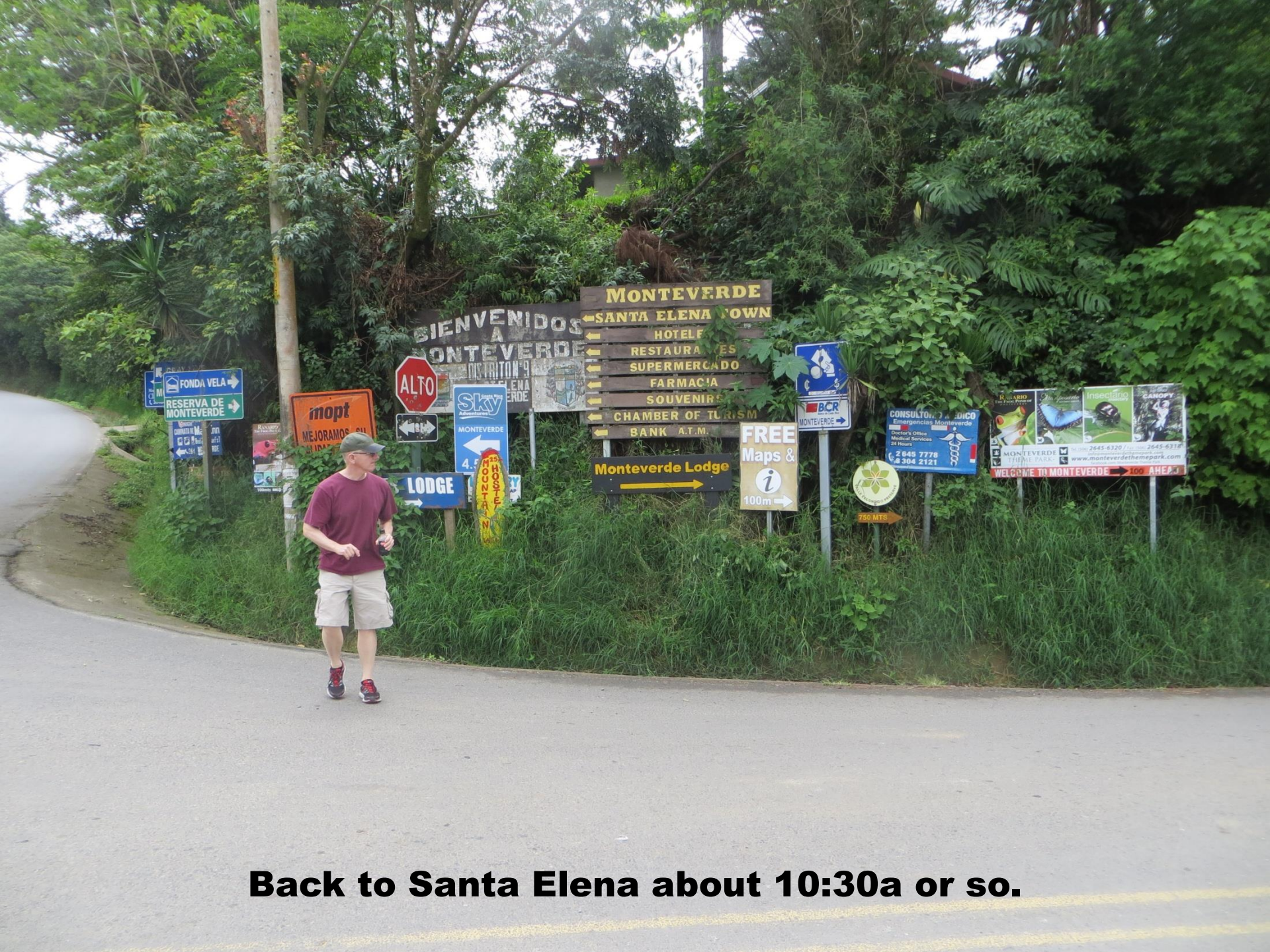


The walk back to the main building to turn in equipment included this cool bridge... and a photo op for these two world travelers.





**Then the bumpy road back
into Santa Elena**



Back to Santa Elena about 10:30a or so.

pura vida

loc. adj. [jergal] Bueno, que gusta // 2. Con salud // 3. loc. adv. Bien o muy bien. // 4. De acuerdo, conforme, satisfecho // 5. Expresión usada como saludo y despedida (¿Todo bien?, ¡Si, pura vida! / Hasta luego, ¡Pura vida!).

loc. adj. {slang} Pura vida literally means "pure life", fine, cool, very well or everything is ok. It can be used as a greeting, farewell, to express satisfaction or wellness (Is Everything ok?, Yes, pura vida! / Goodbye!, ¡Pura vida!).

**All kinds of stuff here with
this Costa Rican theme that
translates *Simple Life* or
*Pure Life***



The Monteverde Theme Park, previously known as Frog Pond Ranarium (Spanish: *Ranario de Monteverde*), located in Santa Elena, north of Monteverde, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica, is a frog pond turned animal theme park that houses a butterfly farm with approximately 30 live butterflies species and other insects and over 25 species of frogs and other amphibians from around the country in a climate controlled habitat.



We were suppose to see ga-zillions of frogs. Here are two out of may 3 or 4 we actually saw.









MARIPUSAKIN



Entrada
Entranc



About 11:30a we
stopped here for
lunch.
Interesting
advertisement

**Interesting views from
restaurant balcony**





**By a little after 1p we gassed up
and hit the road back to San Jose.
Another 30 miles of slow going.**

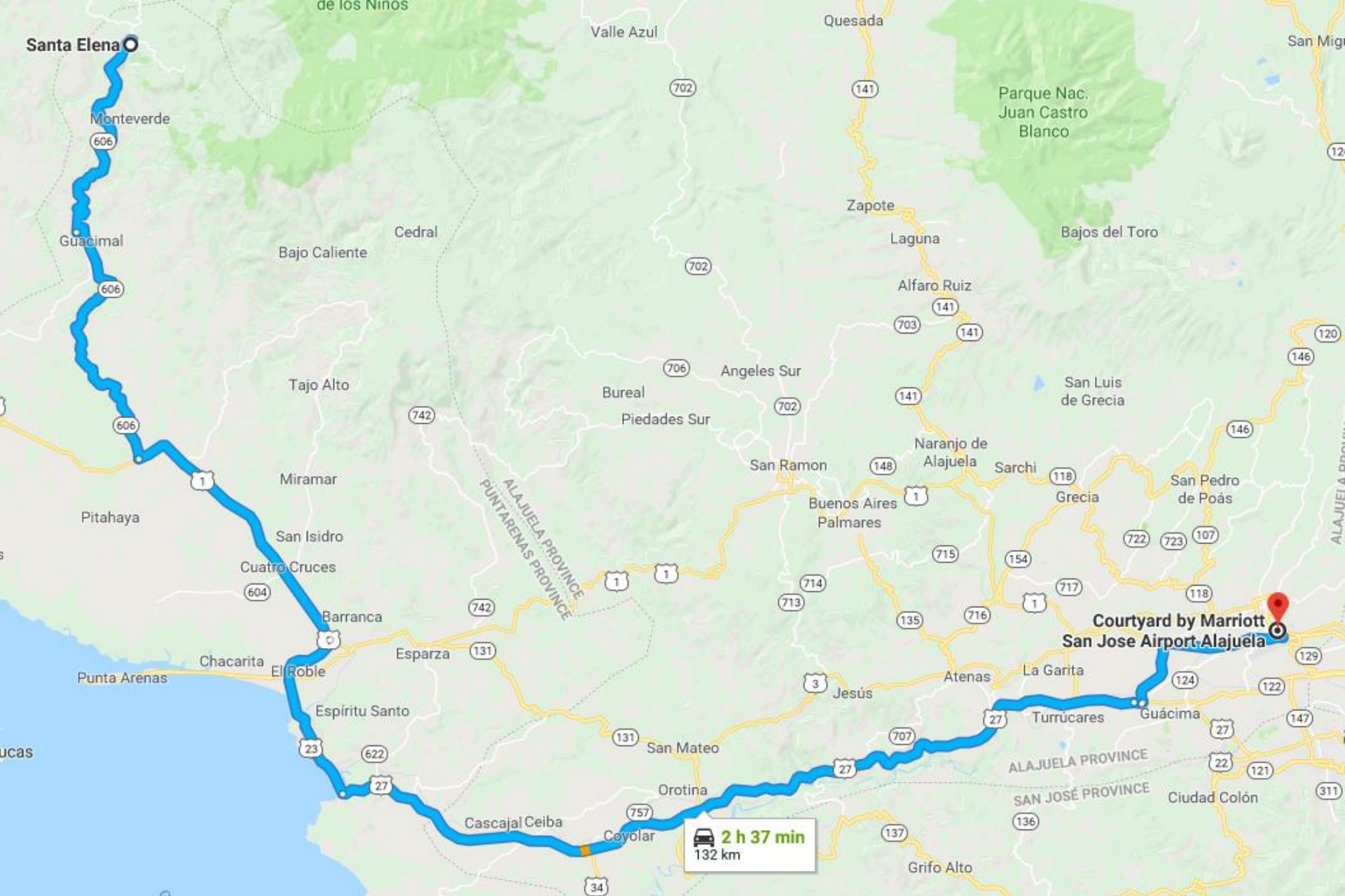






Yea!! Pavement





82 miles

Nice views along the west coast... the Gulf of Nicoya







Shortly after 3p we rounded the curve taking us away from the coastline. The ominous clouds brought rain shortly after this pic.



**Traffic got tied up after this
accident. 3:40p**





By 5p we checked into Courtyard San Jose Airport Alajuela, and were on our first beer. Alamo car rental allowed us to just leave the car on hotel parking lot, which saved us beer drinking time. Dinner and more beer before crashing out early for early flight out.

**Day #4 6 June
2017**

**Had to get up
early to shuttle
to the airport for
6:55a flight.**

**Glad to say it
was smooth
sailing back.**

**Thanks again to
our wives Joan
and Mary Kay
for blessing our
mancations.**

