

Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica
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OVSICORI - UNA

LANDUSE, VISITING AND FREE TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AROUND ARENAL VOLCANO

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Restrictions to free transit of people and to land use around Arenal volcano:
As decreed by the National Commission of Prevention of Risks and Emergency Attention (CNE) and published in the Government's Official Diary, La Gaceta # 8, January 11, 2001.

R1: Restricted Zone 1 (Absolute Restricted Zone)
 This zone has been impacted, historically or prehistorically, by pyroclastic flows and glowing avalanches, therefore, it is forbidden to build inside this area new tourist infrastructure (lodges, bathhouses, trails, camping sites, canopy tours, hiking, horse riding, roads, rain sheds, complementary storage rooms) or to make bigger the existing facilities.
 It is also forbidden in this zone to build new houses inside pre-existing farms or in segregation's of pre-existing farms.

R2: Restricted Zone 2
 Area under the administration of the Arenal Conservation Area (ACA). This area should have an emergency plan approved by CNE and signs posted that will inform visitors in different languages about volcanic hazards, trails and emergency exits. The only infrastructure allowed in this zone are the signs posted to inform and guide tourists within the zone, as well as trails. Any type of construction is forbidden in this zone.

R3: Restricted Zone 3
 The only activities allowed in this zone are trailing, horse riding, fishing and other open air activities. No construction or camping facilities are allowed within this area.

R4: Restricted Zone 3
 Agriculture, cattle and forestry related activities are allowed, in addition to quarries for construction materials which were functioning in January, 2000. Constructors within this area could not be expanded.

As long as Arenal volcano will remain active with the emission of lava flows, pyroclastic flows, volcanic ashes and gases, restricted areas will be divided in two subzones regarding the visit and free transit of people.

SUB 1 Zone:
 In this zone there is absolute prohibition for people to visit or to transit. It is only allowed the access of researchers from national volcanology institutions or foreign scientists accompanied by representatives of national volcanology institutions.

The access to SUB 1 Zone is also allowed to emergency attention workers performing rescue operations, or performing surveillance activities as long as they carry proper institutional identification.

Police authorities capturing suspected criminals or investigators from court carrying the proper identification are also allowed to transit and visit the SUB 1 Zone.

SUB 2 Zone:
 It is possible to visit and transit this zone located on the west flank of the volcano. This zone includes the territory administered by ACA and the territories between the La Fortuna-Castillo road and the Arenal lake. allowed to visit only the west flank.

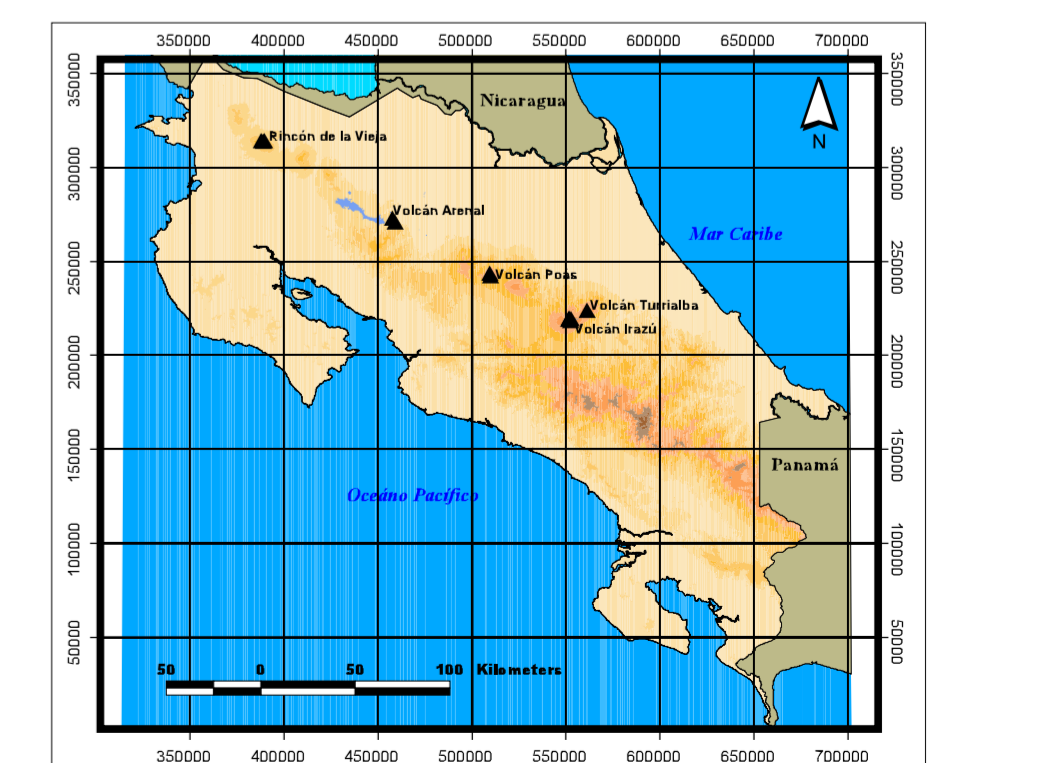
Access will be restricted to small groups (10) under the supervision of ACA personnel up to the 600 m. contour. The only tourist service allowed within this zone is the tour guide service for tour guides certified by the Costa Rican Tourist Institute.

The 5.5 radius around Arenal volcano was defined as follows:
 Studying the historic and pre-historic record of Arenal volcanic eruptions, it was found that the maximum distance traveled by a lava flow or by a pyroclastic flow produced by gravitational collapse at the crater rim during the eruption of a lava flow is 4.5 km. from the summit. One kilometer is added as a security margin due to the possibility of having special conditions that might increase the maximum distance traveled by a lava flow or by a pyroclastic flow, and to cover for events that will leave no stratigraphic record (i.e. forest fires or clouds of turbulent hot gases) despite of having the potential of threatening lives.

Both eruptive processes, lava flows and pyroclastic flows, occur when the volcano has an open conduit regime, that is, after the initial explosions that clear the volcano conduits during an eruptive cycle.

Information

1 Hotel Sierra Arenal	29 Balneario Tabacon
2 Restaurante La Casona del Cerdo	30 Hotel Tabacon, Resort
3 Restaurante Chino Pura Vida	31 Balneario Tabacon Las Fuentes
4 Hotel Las Flores	32 Mirador El Silencio
5 Hotel Arenal Rossy	33 Cruce Castillo, Puerto PAR (Uso Oficial)
6 Restaurante Maca Muca	34 Entrada Parque Nacional Arenal
7 Restaurante - Hotel Vagabondo	35 Reserva Bosque Lluvioso Arenal
8 Hotel Villas Vilma	36 Observatorio Lodge
9 Hotel Lomas del Volcán	37 Reserva Ecológica Catarata
10 Hotel Restaurante La Pradera	38 Tienda Souvenirs
11 Discoteca Volcano Look	39 Soda
12 Balneario Baldi Termas	40 Parqueo
13 Hotel Los Lagos	41 Venta de tiquetes
14 Hotel Volcano Lodge	42 Tienda de Souvenirs
15 Cabinas Palo Verde	43 Albergue Ecoturístico
16 Cabinas Mirada Arenal	44 Cerro Chato Lodge
17 Hotel Arenal Paraiso	45 Area para acampar
18 Restaurante Acuarelas	46 Catarata's Resort
19 Hotel Montaña de Fuego	47 Cabinas La Catarata
20 Hotel Tacotal	48 Campamento Cristiano
21 Restaurante Mirador Arenal	49 Restaurante
22 Cabinas Fuego Arenal	50 Arenal Country Inn
23 Cabinas Erupciones INN	51 Cabinas Rios Arenal
24 Cabinas Los Guayabos	52 Cabinas Doroty
25 CNE - OVSICORI (Uso Oficial)	53 La Fortuna
26 Restaurante El Novillo	54 Hotel Las Cabañitas
27 Mirador	55 Cabinas Sanchal
28 Oficina de Información	58 Hotel Jardines Arenal



Legend

	Urban landuse
0 - 200	Cemetery
200 - 400	Store, restaurant, super market
400 - 600	Under construction
600 - 800	Industry
800 - 1000	Public institutions
1000 - 1200	Hotels
1200 - 1400	First aids
1400 - 1600	Undefined use
1600 - 1800	Quarry
1800 - 2000	Water reservoir
	Farming use
	Mixed use
	Recreative use
	Residencial use

Restricted Zone

- 5.5 Km radius
- R1
- R2
- R3
- R4

Hotels
 Farm house
 Lookout point
 Trail to lookout point
 Trail to lava flow
 Roads
 Contours lines
 Rivers

Projection Lambert, Costa Rica Norte
 Esteroide Clarke 1866
 Ocotepaque Fundamental
 1:25000
 1000 0 1000 Meters