

## Home-away-from-home comfort in Costa Rica's Papagayo Luxury Villas



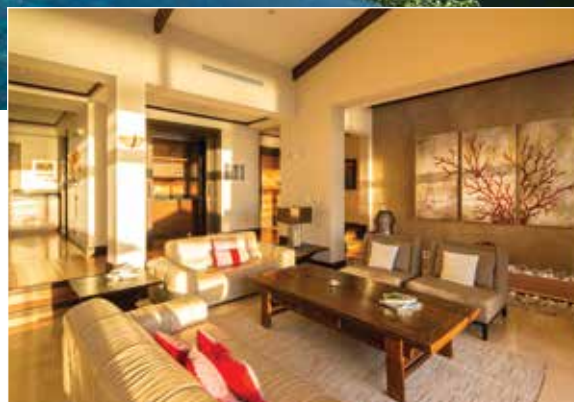
IN COSTA RICA'S EXCLUSIVE Papagayo Peninsula, you have 31 beaches, an 18-hole Arnold Palmer Signature golf course and grass tennis courts as your playground. Papagayo Luxury Villas puts you in the heart of this exclusive gated resort community. Most of the peninsula is a nature reserve, so when walking or driving a golf buggy around, you see white-faced capuchin monkeys in the trees and flocks of red-beaked ducks in ponds, but back in your villa, you have the civilized luxuries of daily maid service and a concierge at your fingertips (she welcomes you at check-in with her delicious, warm-from-the-oven, banana bread).

A member of Ultra Villas, which offers vacation villas around the world, Papagayo's collection ranges from a one level, three-bedroom/three-bathroom condo – like the one in which we stayed – to uber-deluxe 7,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. villas with private swimming pools. All have stupendous ocean views and are decked out with high-end furnishings.

Our condo, with marble and polished wood floors, was decorated with art the owners had collected from around the world, including a temple rubbing from Thailand and large abstract pieces from internationally-recognized Latin American artists. In the great room, there was an antique mahogany sleigh bed from Haiti, brass metal lanterns from the medina in Marrakesh, and antique red-and-black wood side tables from China. The condo was also fully stocked with every imaginable comfort – from mother-of-pearl placemats to a waffle maker.

Guests of Papagayo Luxury Villas have complimentary access to the exclusive Prieta Beach Club on a private beach, where attendants lay out your towels on cushioned lounge chairs shaded by leafy trees. Body surf the gentle waves, swim in the club's two outdoor pools, and when it's time for lunch, eat with your toes in the powdery-fine volcanic grey sand. Life doesn't get any better.

– JANICE AND GEORGE MUCALOV



PHOTOS COURTESY PAPAGAYO LUXURY VILLAS