



Margot Robbie has been spotted taking surf lessons – one of the country’s top attractions – on Costa Rica’s Pacific coast.

# Las Catalinas

## STAR ESCAPES

This Costa Rican beach town is laid-back, luxurious and completely car-free  
**By Andrea Karr**

### EXPLORE

Located in Costa Rica’s Guanacaste province, Las Catalinas provides the perfect eco-conscious, outdoor-living escape. The town is free of motorized vehicles, which means you’ll hear nothing but crashing waves when you take surf lessons (a must-try on any visit) with Pura Vida Ride. ConnectOcean also offers PADI scuba diving courses and education on aquatic ecosystems, while biodiverse Palo Verde National Park is the perfect spot for a scenic hike.

### INDULGE

No trip to Costa Rica would be complete without a restorative dip in a hot spring. At Sensoria (1), step into five different rainforest thermal pools and soak your cares away. For a private wellness experience, pop into Center of Joy for everything from cupping with



1



2

aromatherapy to Tibetan sound healing. You can even book a dance meditation class to explore music and movement in a group.

### TASTE

No matter which Las Catalinas restaurant you choose, you’ll be dining under the sun or stars. For upscale fare, try Ponciana’s Mediterranean-inspired menu or seafood-forward dishes like tuna tartare and shrimp risotto at Sentido Norte (2). Craving a relaxed setting? Wander over to the beach for beers at The Brewhouse by Papagayo Brewing Co.

### STAY

Santarena Hotel pays homage to the grand mansions of Havana and Cartagena with its whitewashed walls, Juliet balconies and greenery-filled terraces. There’s also a rooftop pool with breathtaking views. If you plan to visit nearby Tamarindo – a popular spot with tourists – spend a night at beachy Cala Luna (3) and enjoy free yoga and bicycle access, plus farm-to-table dinners in the hotel garden. **H**



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### What To Pack



**Triangle Top**, \$81, and **Ruched Drawstring Bottom**, \$86, both in **Fiesta Red**, [londrebodywear.ca](http://londrebodywear.ca)

**Byoma Creamy Jelly Cleanser**, \$18, [shoppersdrugmart.ca](http://shoppersdrugmart.ca)



**Tavira Sandals in Kiwi**, \$225, [maguireshoes.com](http://maguireshoes.com)

**TRIP TIPS** Plan intense activities, such as hiking, in the early morning • To explore surrounding areas, use the town’s car-sharing program, with vehicles powered by 100 per cent renewable energy • Most businesses accept credit cards and U.S. dollars and colones, the local currency

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ISTOCK; SENSORIA INSTAGRAM; SENTIDO NORTE INSTAGRAM; CALA LUNA INSTAGRAM; STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY IMAGES