

GUEST EXPERIENCES



[KayakLodge](#) is included in cruise packages: the place where people use the dock and take a snack of fresh fruit. This service center is used by the operator to bring the cruise tourism that comes to Puerto Quepos, to take a boat ride through the mangroves.

[KayakLodge](#) está incluido en los paquetes de cruceros: es el lugar donde las personas usan el embarcadero y toman un refrigerio de frutas frescas. Este centro de servicio es utilizado por el operador que trae el turismo de los cruceros que llega a Puerto Quepos, a tomar un paseo en bote por los manglares.



Guest review summary

5.0 Average rating: All Trip Types
100% Recommended 2 Reviews

5.0 Hotel Service 5.0 Room Comfort
4.5 Hotel Condition 5.0 Room Cleanliness

Average rating by Guest Trip Type
Select a trip type to see only those reviews

All Trip Types (2)	5.0	
Business (0)	0	
Romance (0)	0	
Family (1)	5.0	
With Friends (0)	0	
All Others (1)	5.0	

Recommended Trip type: Family "Great Spot and great hosts!"

Reviewed by a Hotels.com guest on Apr 8, 2011

We really enjoyed our stay at Kayak-lodge. The hosts (Bernal and Marlene) were great and they made our stay very pleasant. The location of the Hotel is very convenient (just 15 min from Manuel Antonio). Breakfast was excellent! We did not go on a kayak tour due to timing, but I heard it is fun, so next time we will plan more time for that. Thanks again for making our stay so easy. Muchos recuerdos!

Overall Rating

5.0 out of value="5"

- 5.0 Hotel Service
- 5.0 Hotel Condition
- 5.0 Room Comfort
- 5.0 Room Cleanliness

The following English reviews were posted by Hotels.com guests from other countries

Recommended Trip type: All Others "Kayak Lodge Review"

Reviewed by a Hotels.com guest on Apr 29, 2011

My Wife and I recently completed a stay at the Kayak Lodge in April of 2011. We thoroughly enjoyed this portion of our vacation in Costa Rica. The lodge is located inside the Mangrove Damas Estuary. This location is excellent for travelers looking for the peace and tranquility of the Mangroves while being within minutes of the busy Manuel Antonio Tourist areas. Kayaking the Mangroves is very relaxing and provides opportunities to see many wildlife species. We enjoyed daily breakfasts in the open air dining area while catching up with Family and friends via the wireless internet. Another outstanding feature of this Lodge is the overwhelming hospitality of the hotel staff. Bernard and Marlene welcome you in a way that makes you feel like family. Bernard introduced us to the Mangroves while educating us on the environment and animal species. He toured us into the Mangroves which were beyond the main Mangrove channels. His stories and personal experiences were very entertaining. Marlene guided us through the Mangroves to Damas Island for an afternoon on the beach. While there, we were introduced to her brother, niece, Grandmother and many of her friends. We felt very welcome while visiting Damas Island. The beach at Damas Island is outstanding. Smooth Black Sand beaches and beautiful surf. We drank fresh Coconut juice and enjoyed other fruits that were harvested from the island during our hike. The benefits listed above are only a sample of what the Kayak Lodge offers. I encourage everyone to consider this location when planning your Costa Rican vacation.

Overall Rating

5.0 out of value="5"

- 5.0 Hotel Service
- 4.0 Hotel Condition
- 5.0 Room Comfort
- 5.0 Room Cleanliness



Verified Reviews: All guest reviews are verified as submitted by our customers and reflect their stay at Kayak-Lodge

4.8 out of 5 avg. guest rating

Hotel service:

4.8

Hotel condition:

4.6

Room cleanliness:

5.0

Room comfort:

5.0

Location:

4.0

Neighborhood:

4.2

100% of guests recommend

out of 5 reviews

Showing 1 - 13 reviews (of 13)

Armando T from Sault Ste Marie,
On 5.0 out of 5 Recommends this hotel
Posted Apr 26 2011

“The hotel is located close to the mangroves - excellent for nature lovers.”

Marleana and Berlan, the owners, were excellent hosts. Very friendly and out going. They made us feel like we were at home. We loved the location as it was close to Quepos and the National Park at Maunel Antonio but far enough away to avoid the crowds. They also offer guided tours through the mangroves- on kayaks of course. We would recommend booking the large two bedroom suite. Recommend getting a rental car in San Jose or Quepos to get a better feel for the country side. This was our first trip to Costa Rica. When we return we will definately stop here.

Mary J from Michigan
5.0 out of 5 Recommends this hotel
Posted Apr 11 2011

“Great monkeys & awesome owners”

The rooms were very clean. The decorations were very nice. We seen monkeys every night & other wildlife. Good place close to Quepos, but a little drive. Far enough to get away from the tourists, but a close drive to town. The hotel is about one mile on a dirt road (road was pretty good). You drive through a small neighborhood. The hotel property is on a canal that you can boat or kayak to the ocean. The trip to Damas Island was great. This a very remote island that is beautiful. The owners Marlene & Bernal go out of their way to help you. Breakfast was great, fresh fruit, eggs, beans & rice, usually some kind of meat and toast.

kate from central pennsylvania
4.0 out of 5 Recommends this hotel
Posted Mar 11 2011

“great choice”

see above

Area recommendations
Manuel Antonio - beaches are lovely. Downtown Quepos a bit scary at night
Rainmaker park with suspension bridges was awesome !

Norm G from Seattle
5.0 out of 5 Recommends this hotel
Posted Dec 29 2010

“We'll be back”

The proprietors, Bernard and Marlene go out of their way to make your stay memorable. The location seemed a little out of the way at first, but you soon appreciate being out next to the mangroves with monkeys, iguanas, and birds as your constant companions. The rooms are clean, and ours was quite large. The breakfasts were great, and the beds comfortable with AC that worked. If you want to be close to stores, town, and the Manuel Antonio scene, this is probably not the place for you, but if you want friendly staff that makes you feel at home, and lots of monkeys, this is the place! I was traveling with my college aged daughter and she was worried about not seeing monkeys. Well she fell in

love with this place! And I highly recommend taking a kayak tour out to Islas Damas with Marlene. You will see more than the usual tourist places, and it is all quite reasonably priced.

Area recommendations

Manuel Antonio is a must see of course. Do take a kayak tour into the mangroves. It is very interesting. Getting around.

Due to the fact that this is in the small town of Damas, and is approx 6km north of Quepos and probably 13km or so from Manuel Antonio, a car is very helpful. The hotel is quite a ways down a side road off the highway, so a ways away from the buses.

James C from Park City, Utah

5.0 out of 5

Recommends this hotel

Posted Jan 3 2010

“Out of the way, but escape the hustle and bustle”

The very best thing about the Kayak Inn is the hosts, Bernard and Marlene. They took extremely good care of us while we were there. The Inn is located in Damas, a few miles north of Quepos, which is a bit out of the way, but by the same token away from the hectic tourist town. The Inn is located on a small canal lined with mangrove trees, which serves as a location to launch the Kayaks and paddle thru the jungle to the ocean out to Isle da Damas. Next time we go to Manuel Antonio we will stay at the Kayak Inn.

Area recommendations

Damas is a residential neighborhood, away from all the tourist trappings of Manuel Antonio and Quepos. Transportation to and from can be a bit of a problem, but as we found out, having a rental car can be a problem. Buses and Taxis seemed to be a better option where the roads are narrow and just plain bad, and absolutely limited parking.



IceKream from Minneapolis



Recommends this hotel

Couples

April 9, 2011

“Perfect place to wrap up my stay in Costa Rica”

Great place, beautiful, modern, clean, spacious. Bernal and Marlene upgraded us to their suite that had a large living room, dining/kitchen. What i liked was the view and access right out to the mangroves. Marlene called her monkeys (friends) over for us. Staying here is not your typical hotel where the manager/owner is a stranger. Instead, Bernal and Marlene were gracious hosts and went out of their way to make sure we enjoy our stay.

It is 20 minutes drive to Manuel Antonio Park/beach and that's the only reason for my 4 star. But the mangrove is right in your back yard if that's more of your thing. I enjoyed both.

nsorens31



March 30, 2011

“Don't miss this place!”

My wife and I absolutely loved this place, it was definitely our favorite part of our trip. The owners of Kayak Lodge, Bernal and Marlen, are very friendly and accommodating, they go out of their way to make you feel welcome. The grounds are amazing with a small mangrove estuary at the back of the property which leads to the secluded Damas Island(you can either kayak or take a boat to get there), and monkeys are regular visitors to the lodge. I would recommend booking a tour via the lodge to take you by boat to Damas Island, we loved it, you will essentially have your own private beach! We only stayed here one night as we were on the go trying to see as much as we could in our ten day trip to Costa Rica, we really wish we had another 2-3 days to spend at Kayak Lodge. Costa Rica is a fantastic country with some amazing people, my wife and I both agreed that it's been our favorite destination thus far (move over Hawaii), and that we will return. The Kayak Lodge is set apart from our other accommodations in Costa Rica because of Bernal and Marlen who go above and beyond. This is a great place to get away from the noise in Quepos, as I said- don't miss this place.

travelersConnexion from San Francisco, California



Recommends this hotel

Couples

March 25, 2011

“Diamond in the rough”

If you prefer a tranquil place without the hustle and bustle of city life and tourist atmosphere, Kayak Lodge is the place! If you are driving, which I highly recommend, the place is easy to locate. You can see the sign directing you to the lodge. They are located near the mangroves and this is the place where you can start your kayak tour of the mangroves and tour of Damas Island. Close proximity to Manuel Antonio National Park, about 10km. Fantastic reception by Marlene and Bernal who showed us the facility and even called the 'monkeys' from the wild for us to see! I will rate this place as "EXCELLENT" for service and cleanliness of the room. Talking about "limpia" this place is clean! If you need further information about this place prior to your travel to Costa Rica, contact me at -----@-----.com, and I can tell you more about this fantastic place. Enjoy!

Ishmael and Maria

2010MariaB2010 from Minneapolis, Minnesota



Recommends this hotel

Family

July 30, 2010

“A perfect day, a perfect adventure! Marlen is WONDERFUL. Un dia perfecto, una aventura perfecta. Gracias Marlen!”

We are spending the summer in Costa Rica with our two kids (8 yrs. & 10 yrs.) and are always looking for fun adventures! We knew we wanted to see Isla Damas but when we just couldn't afford to pay the "tour" prices, we started asking around and knocking on a few doors in the town of Damas. We were so blessed to find Marlen and her lodge.

Marlen is the owner of Kayak Lodge and is one of the most wonderful people you will ever meet. We literally showed up at her door, asking about renting kayaks for the day and she welcomed us with open arms. She gave us a tour of her wonderful lodge (this is seriously the cleanest place we've seen since we arrived!) And, because it is situated on the "river" that takes you deep into the mangroves, it is also extremely beautiful and peaceful. Because we are renting a house in Manuel Antonio, we didn't need a place to spend the night, but we would definitely recommend this to others!

Anyway, back to kayaking...it was amazing! This is a very untouristy way to see the mangroves and Isla Damas, simply because it is still unknown to most, including locals (but more about that in a bit). Marlen offered us a fair price to rent to double kayaks and we were ready to head out when she offered to come with us. She needed a little rest and

relaxation and so we spent the next four hours paddling and talking and laughing. We saw crabs and more crabs, a really cool turtle sunning itself, monkeys, jumping fish - everything that made it fun and exciting for the kids. Because we were going with the tide, paddling was relatively easy although it did require a bit of elbow grease as we approached the area where the mangrove met up with the ocean. The view was AMAZING. We could see the mountains of Manuel Antonio from our spot on the river, waves in the near distance.

From there we headed to the island and headed out on foot. There are only about 6-8 people that live on the island and through Marlen, we met several of them. We even met a couple who had a small farm on the island; pigs & chickens. They showed us their farm, gave us some different foods to try - including a fried corn type tortilla made with freshly ground corn, platano roasted on the grill and the best avocado we've ever tasted, grown right there on the island, of course. Fruit trees everywhere. Herb plants everywhere. So cool. Of course, speaking Spanish was a plus...because we were able to understand one another. But, if you don't speak Spanish, don't worry. Just pull the kayak up on the "beach" - you will know where to land when you see a couple small boats and a small house (make sure to pull the kayaks up high enough that they won't be pulled out by the rising tide!), use sign language to tell anyone you see that you are going to walk around and then just walk straight up the dirt path (watch out for the ants on the trail - they will bite your toes feet if you don't watch out. Just keep walking and you'll be fine!) to the other side of the island which is only about a 5 minute walk. Another amazing view! An isolated, untouched beach!

No one on the island actually "owns" the land. They just came and set up a place to live. While the island has electricity and water, you will feel like you are entering a different world. The island used to be home to a shrimp farm and some wealthy home owners but climate changes caused water levels to increase and basically swallow up the homes and shrimp farm, destroying everything and turning Isla Damas (Woman Island) into an island. No one is sure of the long term fate of the island...it may eventually be overtaken by the ocean. But for now, a few call it home.

We headed back at the tide was cresting so it wasn't even necessary to paddle if you want to just relax. The water carries you slowly back home. We returned to the lodge and Marlen called the monkeys to come visit. "Vengan", she called. And, believe it or not, they came. She has a monkey roop hung off of the deck so so there were plenty of monkeys within arm's reach. The kids loved it! We've had monkeys pass by the house we are staying at quite frequently but this was up close and personal!

Our total trip time was about 4 hours. The kids did great and we all enjoyed our adventure. If you like a bit of adventure and are not really into the "tourist" thing, we highly recommend this trip. Although Marlen may not be able to accompany you, you would be just fine heading out & back on your own. She also knows several guides that she can call to accompany you. You will pay a bit more but it would be worth it if you might feel better having someone with you who can also educate you about the mangroves. Otherwise, look up information on line in advance to learn more about

mangroves before your adventure.

Be sure to bring sunblock and bug spray. Wear sandals. Hat is recommended to keep the sun off your face. We did not have bug spray but it would have been nice for the last part of our return when evening was setting in the bugs came out and started bugging us.

Overall, a wonderful adventure! Highly recommended. Kids loved it!

FJgirl_Smiles from Reno, Nevada



Recommends this hotel

Couples

July 22, 2010

“Don't miss the opportunity to stay with Marlen and Bernal”

I booked a normal room online, when we showed up we were the only ones staying during that time so they graciously upgraded us to the suite for free. This was our first hotel in Costa Rica, and they only went downhill from there. I didn't find one bug inside the room, the air conditioner worked great, and the bathroom was beautiful! The breakfast was wonderful, the monkeys come right up to the porch (they dance on the roof at night), and the lizards are plentiful! Kayaking the mangroves was a great adventure! Marlen and Bernal are very helpful, great hosts! It's a quick drive to Manuel Antonio park and Quepos for great food. Just remember to bring your bug spray for when you are outside!

Madisonmamma from Madison, Wisconsin



Recommends this hotel

Couples

July 4, 2010

“Wonderful hosts and great breakfasts!”

We really had a great experience in this out of the way bed and breakfast about 9 km from the little town of Quepos right in the mangroves. Monkeys woke us up on the balcony on our first night - what fun! And because we arrived in the off season, we had the place nearly to ourselves, and had the chance to get to know our wonderful hosts Marlen and Bernal, who were kind, considerate, and generous, and served us enormous breakfasts and delicious fresh local fruit (mangoes, papayas, pineapple, watermelon) every day. We took the kayak trip to the Isla de las Damas, where we swam in the beautiful Pacific and walked along the white sand beaches. There is also a swimming pool at the B&B where you can cool off. Nearby is the Manuel Antonio National Park, which has enormous sand beaches and plenty of hiking trails. Very enjoyable vacation! Be sure to bring your bug spray... :-)

Cheri083 from Halifax, Canada



Recommends this hotel

Couples

May 5, 2010

“Pleasant Surprise”

My husband and I spent 3 nights at the Kayak Inn. At first the Inn seemed a little out of the way. Probably about 15 minutes from Manuel Antonio. We didn't mind the location at all, as it was away from all the noise and hustlers near Manuel Antonio beach. The room was basic but very clean. We were treated so well by our host and hostess, Bernard and Marlane. Every morning Marlane would prepare an amazing breakfast with fresh fruit and pot of awesome coffee and what ever we wanted. Usually bacon and eggs. After a long 4 hour kayak through the estuary out to Damas Island, she greeted us with fresh squeezed pineapple juice. Kayaking through the estuary is extremely peaceful. Occasionally we would hear a clamour in the jungle and then we would see a bunch of spider monkeys. Marlane went out of her way to make us feel very welcome. Bernard her husband was a very interesting man to talk to. We sat for a few hours in the evening and talked over some fresh coffee, learning some interesting facts about Costa Rica. Meeting these people was certainly one of the highlights of my trip. We got to experience what true Tico hospitality is all about. I would highly recommend the Kayak Inn for people who enjoy the non all inclusive experience and really want to meet good Tico people who care about the well being of their guests

pabolo68 from bilbao



Recommends this hotel

Friends getaway

March 6, 2009

“muy buena gente”

Hemos estado muy agusto, lugar muy tranquilo y agradable con unos dueños muy serviciales y simpaticos. Cerca de Manuel Antonio (10 m en coche) y a un paso de Quepos. Habitaciones limpias y muy buen desayuno. Calidad precio estupendo. Al lado de los manglares. Paseos en Kayak hasta la isla de Damas. Repetiriamos



Kayak-Lodge B&B reviews

January 2011

Anonymous Guest

Young couple
USA



“ We could not have picked a better place to stay in the Quepos/Manuel Antonio area. The proprietor bent over backwards to make our stay perfect.

December 2009

Robert Neuner

Family with older children
USA



“ The owners were extremely cordial and helpful, providing us with all necessities and information about the area resources. Breakfast was outstanding and the kayaking very enjoyable. The monkeys and wild life appeared most abundant. The only negative side of the experience was the remodeling of the hotel and adjacent pool, but that was to be completed in the near future. I would highly recommend the Kayak Inn as advertised. R.F. Neuner

March 2009

Anonymous Guest

Group
SPAIN



“ We have benn in this hotel for two days and it has been marvelous. Very good rates escelent breakfast near Quepos and Manuel Antonio, and the best thing the owners, they are excelent. Iwould repeat

January 2009

Anonymous Guest

Family with young children
USA



“ While we had visited the area before, this was our first stay at the Kayak Inn. The staff was amazing and did everything in their power to make us feel at home and like family. The food was delicious, the room more than adequate, and the kayaking spectacular. I'd recommend it to anyone going that way!!!

ARTICLES:

Vacationing in Costa Rica
Kayak Lodge
Maritime Rural Tourism
A perfect day, a perfect adventure ...

If you plan to vacation in the Central Pacific zone of Costa Rica and are looking for fun adventures to enjoy with your family, we suggest you visit the Kayak Lodge at Damas de Quepos is the ideal place to stay. It is located close to Manuel Antonio National Park, one of the most beautiful parks in Central America. Your hosts, Marlene and Bernal, will welcome you warmly.

The Lodge is surrounded by a natural paradise where white face monkeys, colorful birds, iguanas and other wildlife live in the natural paradise that surrounds the lodge.

You will enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared each morning by Marlene. Your breakfast will include fresh fruits such as mangoes, papayas, pineapples, watermelon and the aromatic taste of the famous Costa Rican coffee.

A kayak tour is the best way to see the mangroves although taking a boat through the mangroves to Damas Island is an adventure. There you will meet people who live in harmony with their environment, engage in fishing, farming the land, and the raising of pigs and chickens. On Damas Island you can swim in the crystal waters of the Pacific or walk along the beautiful beach and enjoy nature at its finest.

We recommend starting the tour with the high tide of the sea, which coincides with the early morning hours, making the travel easy as you drift with the flowing current. As you enter the mangrove forest the fascinating maze of aerial roots you will encounter provide the perfect background for the crabs, turtles, monkeys, birds, fish and other wildlife that make it their home. It is a journey where the salt waters of the sea meet the fresh waters of tropical rivers. It's safe, fun and exciting family recreation!

We suggest you include in your bag or backpack sunblock cream, insect repellent, sandals, hat, sunglasses, bathing suit, light clothes, binoculars and camera.

Dare to explore this corner of Costa Rica and stay in contact with nature. Bernal and Marlene will welcome you to the Kayak Lodge where you'll find fun, adventure and relaxation!

OTHERS

Good morning, Bernal,

This is just to let you know that we arrived home safely and without incident late last night. Despite rain and wind, the plane was only a few minutes late.

Edda and I want to thank you and Marlene again for your hospitality and for helping to make our first trip to Costa Rica so memorable. We felt much more as though we were staying with friends than at a hotel. This morning I really missed sitting in your open dining room and having a great breakfast put before me!

All the best,
Michael

Hola! Mi familia y yo visitamos Costa Rica recientemente y tomamos el tour de kayak maravillosa de su casa de campo. Fue muy amable de su parte. Tomé algunas fotos de la casa de campo y de su perro maravilloso, Sally(?). Me disculpo por haber tomado tanto tiempo en enviarlos a usted. Espero que les gusten. Para verlos, basta con hacer clic en el "link" a continuación y se descargara. Déjeme saber si usted tiene alguna faya con él.

<http://www.xxxx.com/costarica>

Gracias de nuevo!

David

"June 2011"

Dear Marlene & Bernal

We would like to sincerely thank you for everything that you did for us.

I have stayed in A LOT of hotels, but this was clearly my best stay.

You were both extremely friendly and always helped in any way you could.

Your generosity and enormous hospitality made our stay here at the Kayak Lodge absolute great. Feeding the monkeys has been my favorite activity in Costa Rica, and we would like to thank you for allowing us to do so.

Kayaking in the mangroves was fun as well, and something I would definitely do again.

The breakfast was great, too! I/we really enjoyed the trip to the islands. Our stay here could not have been better. !!Muchisimas gracias!! We will never forget. You guys and the Kayak Lodge.

Martha, Jeannette, Oliver & Ludwig