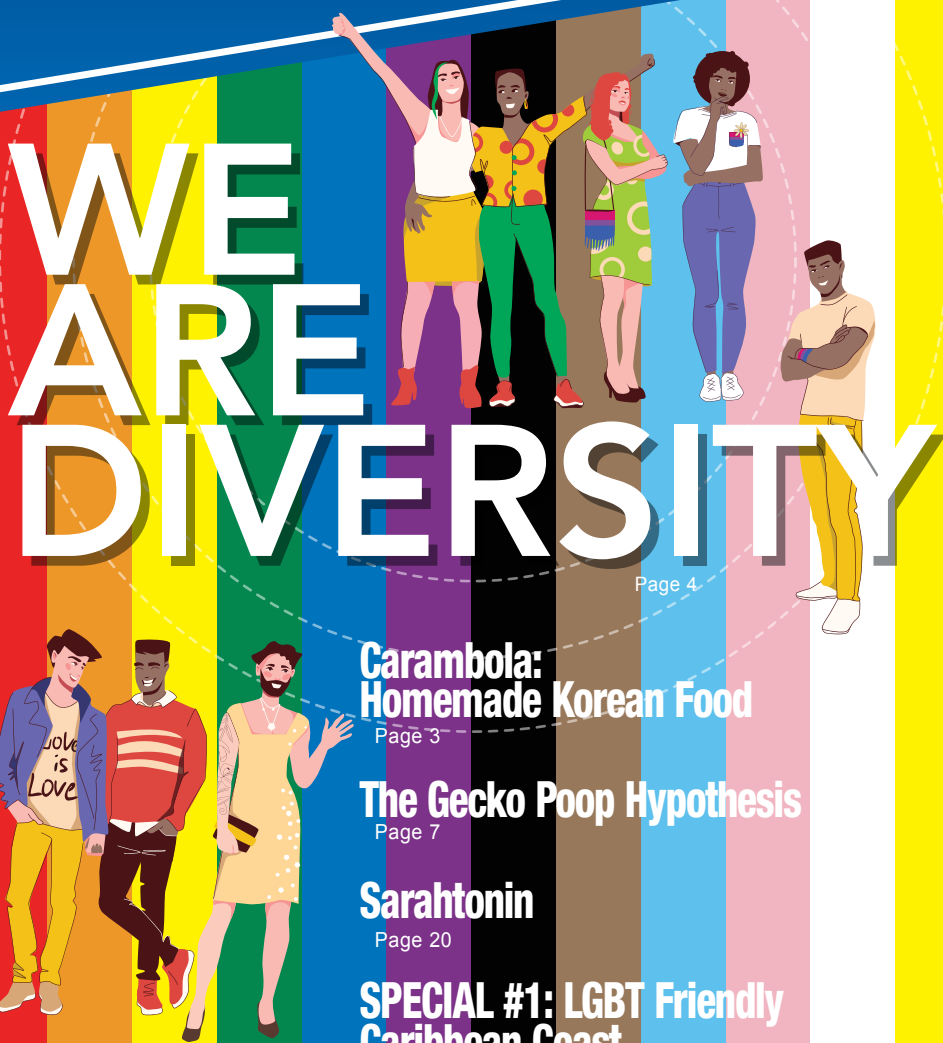


PLAYITA

MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH. QUEPOS, COSTA RICA

Year XXII • No. 81 December 2024 - March 2025
FREE MAGAZINE Gaylife News, Comments, Activities and Information

WE ARE DIVERSITY



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Caribbean Coast**

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Carambola

Star fruit: Homemade Korean Food

By Jose Chaves & Tim Dywer



This new restaurant located in the Mango Moon Hotel will provide a unique taste experience to those who appreciate exotic food. Fran, the owner, was born and raised in South Korea. She traveled to New York to study and then lived for a time in Boston.

In 2018, she came to Costa Rica and was given the opportunity to buy the Mango Moon Hotel with a partner. At that time the hotel was in need of some updates and their idea was to fix it up and sell it again. After some time in Manuel Antonio and at the end of the Pandemic, she realized that she had fallen in love with the place, so she decided to buy her partner's share and stay.

Mango Moon already had a restaurant on its premises and Fran decided to restyle it as a Korean restaurant, using what she knew from her native country. So, in November of 2023 she opened her rebranded restaurant, calling it **Carambola**. The name is inspired by the beautiful carambola fruit tree at the hotel's back patio. They use the fruit in cocktails, smoothies and as decoration on dishes and drinks.

Fran's goal is to introduce Costa Ricans and the world to authentic Korean home cooking. Fresh, local ingredients are combined with three imported Korean essentials to achieve the traditional flavors of Korea: Bean Paste, Pepper Paste, Pepper Powder.

Come and try Kimchi, the traditional fermented cabbage dish, or tantalize your taste buds with a traditional barbecue, prepared at your table by the chef. **Carambola** offers a peaceful, pleasant atmosphere and panoramic mountain and ocean views. Entrees are priced between \$18 and \$39. Open to the public 7 days a week from 1 to 10 pm. Mango Moon Hotel is located 300 meters west of Banco Promerica, Manuel Antonio. Everyone is welcome.



WE ARE DIVERSITY

By Jose Chaves & Tim Dywer



Diversity is the presence of people with different physical, social and personal characteristics in a group or organization. These characteristics include, among others, race, ethnicity, age, sex, sexual identity, religion and language.

In reference to the LGBT community, the diversity has grown to LGBTTTIQPA+: Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transsexuals, Transgender, Transvestites, Intersexuals, Queers, Pansexuals, Asexuals and we leave the plus (+) to include any new group that wants to join, including heterosexuals.

But in addition to these groups, each person can define themselves as binary (which understands that every human physical trait can be measured as masculine or feminine) or non- binary (not identifying with the male or female gender). And cisgender, which refers to people whose gender identity and expression matches the biological sex assigned to them at birth, and of course non-cisgender people who do not identify with the gender they were born with.

Discrimination is unacceptable. If we want to be respected, we must respect others. We will not advance as a community if we separate ourselves. Together, woven in our tapestry, we are far stronger.

Gaytours, Playita and Pride on the Beach openly declare themselves **DIVERSE**. We will no longer exclude anyone, nor do we believe in exclusive groups.

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The Gecko Poop Hypothesis

By Andrew Milbauer, Foreign Ecologist



This was a question I never planned to navigate when I moved here 4 years ago. A fellow recent immigrant approached me. He was an expert on everything because he had been here a few months longer.

"You need to call an exterminator to kill the geckos in your house. They will make you sick," he told me, "I know a guy."

I love the geckos. As a biologist I thought there were good, they eat the bad things. He further explained, *"No, their poop can make you sick. They will poop everywhere. They poop on your plates, on your counters where you cook. They can poop in your mouth while you sleep, it will make your sick."*

What spoke of was salmonella. It is correct, reptiles often carry salmonella. I responded as the insufferable nerd I am. I told him I never heard of this theory, but I would investigate. My concern for aggressive fumigation is that geckos will go outside and get ingested by monkeys, hurting the titis and howlers. They feed the basilisks that hang out near our pool. The geckos eat the vectors that spread other diseases. Pesticides are effective but they must be used wisely.

I didn't know the answer. I reached out to experts. As a nerd, I have nerd friends. Armed with the gecko poop hypothesis I reached out to two people that know more. One, Erin, is a reptile biologist. She knows reptiles and frogs, and works with the USGS. The other, Anna, is a veterinary microbiologist working with diseases jumping from other animals into humans. She is at CSU but also has worked with the CDC.

I explained to them both the gecko poop hypothesis. They understood the facets: risk of disease, geckos, dead monkeys, dead basilisks, and possible human misconceptions. They spent some time with their research associates to find what the peer reviewed research indicates regarding the gecko poop hypothesis. Everyone first laughed at this research question. Then they also agreed we didn't know.

They found peer reviewed research on this very thing. It was done because the gecko poop hypothesis is everywhere. With the help of the World Health Organization experts determined how much salmonella is in gecko poop, the "abundance." Based on abundance they determined how much gecko poop you need to ingest daily to be at risk of salmonella. It is about two measuring cups, two mouthfuls, ingested daily. So, yes, you can get salmonella from geckos. But you really need to put some effort into it.

The research continued to point out the beneficial impacts of the geckos were far greater than the minimal risk of salmonella. It is better to keep the geckos as they reduce the abundance of those other vectors like cockroaches, assassin bugs, and mosquitoes.

Delighted I shared the research with my fellow immigrant. *"I don't believe your research, it is wrong,"* he said as he walked away. Maybe he was mad he wouldn't get a commission.



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THE TIDE

DECEMBER

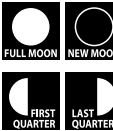
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WEATHER:
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JANUARY

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	11:49	-0.04	21 Tue	01:38	1.50
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	12:34	7.62	28 Tue	01:43	8.12
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	19:33	1.18		08:44	0.29
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16 Thu	04:18	9.07			
	10:29	-0.17			
	16:49	9.06			
	22:51	0.58			
17 Fri	05:01	8.88			

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How to read the Tide (example):

01 Wed	04:37	9.90
	10:45	-1.18
	17:06	10.23
	23:13	-0.82

High Tides at 04:37AM (9.90 feet high) and at 17:06PM (10.23 feet high).
Low Tides at 10:45AM (-1.18 feet high) and at 23:13PM (-0.82 feet high).

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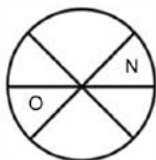


Juegos mentales

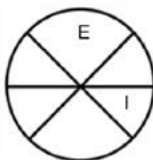
Encierre en un círculo y enumere las siete diferencias en las siguientes imágenes:



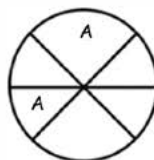
Al poner 4 letras, formará el nombre de un animal, ¿cuál es?



Al poner 4 letras, formará el nombre de una profesión, ¿cuál es?



Al poner 4 letras, formará el nombre de un continente, ¿cuál es?



Ordene las letras de cada palabra para encontrar una animal:

1. tapo: _____
2. aplaca: _____
3. pasiva: _____
3. rutina: _____
4. acabalo: _____
5. almaceno: _____
6. procesion: _____
7. llenaba: _____
8. rubro: _____

Ordene las letras de cada palabra para encontrar un medio de transporte:

1. tomo: _____
2. novia: _____
3. cobra: _____
4. checo: _____
5. inpetas: _____
6. bautuso: _____

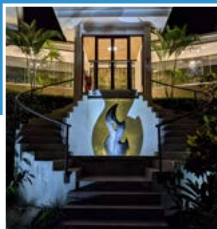
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THE TIDE

FEBRUARY

date	time	height	date	time	height
01 Sat	04:40	9.39		11:49	0.43
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	17:05	9.76	18 Tue	00:17	0.69
	23:12	-0.42		06:27	7.73
02 Sun	05:23	9.33		12:22	0.85
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	17:48	9.84	19 Wed	00:54	1.04
	23:57	-0.40		07:05	7.23
03 Mon	06:08	9.06		12:58	1.33
	12:11	-0.47		19:23	7.84
	18:33	9.70	20 Thu	01:36	1.43
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	17:10	1.82	25 Tue	00:22	7.30
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09 Sun	06:06	1.22		13:02	7.14
	12:27	7.22		18:59	1.60
	18:26	1.72	26 Wed	01:18	7.85
10 Mon	00:47	8.00		07:30	0.76
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	13:29	7.65		19:51	0.83
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	21:11	0.64			
13 Thu	03:20	8.69			
	09:30	-0.03			
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	21:51	0.40			
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	22:50	-1.17	19 Wed	05:55	7.67
03 Mon	05:02	9.54		11:47	0.88
	11:04	-1.09		18:06	8.22
	17:23	10.22	20 Thu	00:18	0.74
	23:35	-1.04		06:32	7.22
04 Tue	05:47	9.23		12:23	1.31
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05 Wed	00:22	-0.65		07:13	6.76
	06:35	8.71		13:04	1.77
	12:35	-0.21		19:26	7.33
	18:58	9.33	22 Sat	01:44	1.56
06 Thu	01:13	-0.07		08:03	6.38
	07:28	8.06		13:53	2.17
	13:27	0.50		20:19	6.92
	19:53	8.62	23 Sun	02:40	1.89
07 Fri	02:11	0.59		09:06	6.16
	08:30	7.41		14:57	2.42
	14:28	1.23		21:28	6.68
	20:58	7.92	24 Mon	03:47	2.00
08 Sat	03:19	1.16		10:19	6.27
	09:43	6.96		16:13	2.37
	15:42	1.78		22:42	6.75
	22:13	7.44	25 Tue	04:58	1.80
09 Sun	04:37	1.44		11:27	6.73
	11:03	6.87		17:27	1.93
	17:07	1.96		23:50	7.14
	23:30	7.32	26 Wed	06:00	1.33
10 Mon	05:54	1.37		12:25	7.45
	12:17	7.15		18:29	1.21
	18:24	1.74	27 Thu	00:47	7.73
11 Tue	00:38	7.49		06:53	0.69
	06:58	1.07		13:15	8.29
	13:15	7.60		19:23	0.39
	19:24	1.32	28 Fri	01:38	8.38
12 Wed	01:34	7.79		07:41	0.01
	07:48	0.71		14:01	9.12
	14:03	8.08		20:10	-0.40
	20:12	0.88	29 Sat	02:24	8.97
13 Thu	02:20	8.09		08:26	-0.58
	08:29	0.40		14:45	9.82
	14:44	8.48		20:56	-1.02
	20:52	0.50	30 Sun	03:09	9.40
14 Fri	03:00	8.32		09:11	-1.00
	09:05	0.18		15:29	10.28
	15:21	8.78		21:41	-1.41
	21:28	0.22	31 Mon	03:54	9.61
15 Sat	03:37	8.45		09:55	-1.17
	09:39	0.07		16:14	10.45
	15:55	8.94		22:27	-1.49
	22:02	0.06			
16 Sun	04:11	8.45			
	10:11	0.09			
	16:27	8.96			
	22:35	0.04			
17 Mon	04:46	8.31			

WEATHER:
www.imn.ac.cr

WEATHER:
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How to read the Tide (example):

01 Wed	04:37	9.90
	10:45	-1.18
	17:06	10.23
	23:13	-0.82

High Tides at 04:37AM (9.90 feet high) and at 17:06PM (10.23 feet high).
Low Tides at 10:45AM (-1.18 feet high) and at 23:13PM (-0.82 feet high).

WARNING:

To go to Playita DO NOT Cross the rocks 2 hours after or before High Tide



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*Times subject to the season. All groups need a minimum of people. PAYING IN CASH. Between December 1st and April 30th, (High Season) the tours tend to be more in the afternoons and are more exclusively LGBTQ+. From May 1st till November 30th, (Green Season) the tours tend to be in the mornings, with mixed crowds, but always with the most gay friendly tour operators and crew.



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(506) 8830 7477
Across the street from Cafe Milagro

CREDITOS

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- Productor: Tim Dwyer
- Diseño: Diego Hidalgo
- Playita Online:
<http://gaytourscr.com/Playita.html>

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*Todas las opiniones expresadas
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www.sarhtoninbnb.com
www.massagetodd.com



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Sarhtonin

Come stay with us!

By Tim Dwyer & Jose Chaves

Sarhtonin is the newest privately rented two-bedroom, two-bath luxury tree top suite available for short or long-term rental. Sitting high in the jungle with stunning ocean and jungle views Sarhtonin is now ready.

Located in the heart of Manuel Antonio and a minute walk to the nearest store, Sarhtonin is a unique private get away for one to four people. The owners have twenty-five years of living in this in the amazing community and finally realized their dream by finishing construction this year.

They are on site and always available. A bird watchers paradise as a result of the ample decks and elevation high on top of a hillside there is no need to leave unless it is for a quick ride to the beach. Sunsets, fully furnished, full kitchen, California king mattresses in black out rooms with air conditioning, everyone is beyond comfortable here.

Todd, the owner, also pioneered massage therapy in Manuel Antonio and has a studio below Sarhtonin. Nothing could be more perfectly comfortable for a quick vacation, or a month long stay. Three nights minimum. Please check out the website at:

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 Todd on WhatsApp is 506-8830-7727
www.massagetodd.com

20 PLAYITA • Year XXII • No. 81 December 2024- March 2025

LGBT Friendly Caribbean Coast

By Tim Dwyer & Jose Chaves



Costa Rica's Caribbean Coast is a unique travel destination, it is like traveling to another world, in terms of its Afro-Caribbean culture and its ecological biodiversity. This verdant coast along the eastern side of the Talamanca Mountain range, has beautiful rainforests, abundant wildlife and great cultural diversity.

The South Caribbean, which includes beaches like Cahuita, Puerto Viejo, Cocles and Manzanillo, are absolutely stunning. Fortunately, the development bug hasn't caught on here as much as the rest of the country, so it is a very pleasant atmosphere that captures a culture as it has been for decades. Historically, the LGBT community has always been present in this area, especially in Puerto Viejo, Playa Negra, Cocles, Punta Uva and Manzanillo.

Since 2019, Pride in Puerto Viejo has been organized by Antonio Caputo (Toni). Toni is originally from Berlin, who's lived in Puerto Viejo since 14 years. Toni performed as a Drag King in Germany, Europe and the the US. Now organizes Queer events under the name of Sea Breeze Events Costa Rica in Puerto Viejo.

Inspired by Pride San José, they decided to start organizing Pride events in Puerto Viejo.

With the slogan: We are Queer and we are here. Pride & Diversity, One Human - No separation. Love is Love.

For members of the LGBT community visiting the Caribbean Coast, here are some of the businesses that may interest you.

• **Stashu's Con Fusión Restaurant** **Food for the soul!**

Stash Golas is originally from Guyana but also lived in Trinidad and Tobago and Toronto. Being the eldest of 5 kids, with a single mom in the Caribbean, he had the obligation to do the cooking and that is where he discovered his passion: owning a restaurant. He arrived in Puerto Viejo 31 years ago, to help a friend who had a restaurant for high season. He later opened his own establishment, inspired by Indian-Caribbean-Asian fusion cuisine, 22 years ago. Stachu's was the first business to host the Gay Pride in Puerto Viejo. Stash strongly believes in supporting all members of the community.

• **Quinta Guarumo**

Joaquin (Spain) and Hans (Holland) came to visit Costa Rica in 2007 and, like so many visitors, they fell in love with the country. The following year they returned and visited the Caribbean and discovered that the Caribbean had something very special, an authentic and unique energy. Everything seemed to fall in place for them to move to Costa Rica and they bought property in 2014 and moved permanently in 2018. In 2021 they built their home and two rental villas. They were inspired by Caribbean style architecture with its open concept and integration with the jungle with minimal alteration of the environment. They welcome guests to very comfortable and practical spaces. Each villa has a large terrace, a fully equipped kitchen, a room with air conditioning and a full bath.

If you want more information or see pictures of the above, check out the ads for the websites and social networks.

To get to this beautiful area of the Southern Caribbean, you may travel by plane via Sansa Air or take the bus in the Estación Mepe in San José.



quinta GUARUMO

Cocles, Puerto Viejo



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