

Daniel Oduber International Airport LIR Airport



Distance & Time:
LIR Airport to Mission Base
60 km (1 hour)



ARRIVING TO LIR AIRPORT IN LIBERIA, COSTA RICA

The idea for an airport in the province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica was initially conceived during the presidency of Daniel Oduber Quirós (1974–1978). The airport was later named for the former president in honor of his work for the province of Guanacaste. Its popularity as an alternative airport to San Jose's busier Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO) has increased steadily through the years mostly because a flight to LIR Airport will leave you just a short ride away from some of Costa Rica's most beautiful beaches. Arrivals to and departures from LIR couldn't be simpler and more straightforward.

About an hour before you land on Costa Rican soil, a flight attendant will hand you 2 forms to be filled out: 1 is for Immigration, the other for Customs. Note that only 1 Customs form is required per family.

Once you have landed you will quickly notice that LIR is very small and incredibly easy to navigate. You will exit the plane directly onto the tarmac (Pic 1) and begin walking to the "Migracion" or Immigration (Pic 2 & 3). As you wait in line for Immigration, make sure to have your forms filled out and your passport ready. Immigration officials are generally friendly, and usually speak some English. Your Immigration official will check your form answers against your passport information, swipe your passport through a machine, stamp your passport, and send you on your way. This process only takes a few minutes.

After Immigration, walk over to baggage claim to get your luggage. Next, head to Customs. Have your Customs form ready (one per family), and hand it to the Customs official. You will need to place all items – checked luggage and carry-ons – onto the x-ray belt. After the official waves you on, proceed outside to the front of the airport where you will be met by one of our staff.

As you exit the airport you will see an outdoor waiting area (basically a large sidewalk). This is our Meeting Spot. **WARNING: YOU MAY BE APPROACHED BY STRANGERS TRYING TO "HELP" YOU WITH YOUR LUGGAGE. DO NOT FALL FOR THIS TRICK. DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW TO "HELP" YOU WITH YOUR LUGGAGE. THEY WILL SEEM FRIENDLY, BUT THEY CAN CAUSE MANY PROBLEMS FOR TRAVELERS SUCH AS STEALING ITEMS OR DEMANDING A LOT OF MONEY FOR THEIR SERVICE. POLITELY, YET FIRMLY, SAY "NO THANK YOU" & WALK AWAY FROM THEM.**

DEPARTING FROM LIR AIRPORT

Leaving from LIR Airport is usually a breeze. However, backups and problems do happen here, as in any other airport, so try to arrive at least 2-3 hours before an international flight.

As you arrive, **the first order of business is to pay Costa Rica's \$26 departure tax (you cannot check-in with your airline until you have proof that you have paid your departure tax).** Group leaders can take everyone's passport to the payment area & pay for the entire group at one time. There is only one section for collecting departure tax. It is easy to find, and most employees speak English.

After you've paid the \$26 departure tax, you'll be given a proof of payment and a form to fill out. Fill out the form immediately, and keep both it and your payment receipt handy. As you head into your airline check-in line, officials will make sure that you've paid the exit tax. Once you've checked your baggage and gotten your plane tickets, walk towards Airport Security.



Just like America's Airport Security you must deposit all metal objects (watches, coins, belts, etc.) in a plastic bin along w/ your shoes, laptops, etc.

Once through, pick up all of your belongings, and continue to your exit gate. Gates are well-marked and easy to find.

In general, the airport has 2 levels with an outdoor shaded seating area. You will find a Money Exchange, a duty-free store, restrooms, wi-fi and a small cafe.

Enjoy!