

## **How to Convert a U.S. Driver's License to a Costa Rican License (2026)**

- Appointments needed: Yes
- Approximate cost: \$90–\$100
- Locations: COSEVI offices, BCR branch, medical clinic, translation service
- Timeline: Varies widely depending on location

### **Step 1: Immigrant Status and Identifications**

Ensure immigration status is up-to-date in Costa Rica and that your passport and foreign driver's license are valid and in good condition. Costa Rica requires citizenship, legal residency, or a work permit to complete the homologation process. Proof that your license is active and in good standing is required.

### **Step 2: Register with COSEVI**

Visit a COSEVI administrative office to register as a user before making an appointment online. Bring identification and a working email address. Once verified, you will receive login credentials for the COSEVI online portal and can proceed with appointment scheduling.

### **Step 3: Obtain Medical Exam and Spanish Translation**

Complete a Costa Rican medical exam (*dictamen medico*) and obtain a certified Spanish translation of your driver's license before your appointment. These documents are required for homologation approval.

#### **Medical Exam Certificate**

The medical exam evaluates vision, hearing, and basic psychosocial health. Results are electronically uploaded to COSEVI and remain valid for up to six months.

#### **Spanish Translation Document**

Your license translation must be completed by an officially certified translator recognized by the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **Day of the Appointment**

Arrive early with all original documents and copies. As long as your paperwork is complete and valid, you will be appt for a Costa Rican license.

### **Step 4: Payment and Receiving the License**

After approval, schedule an appointment at a participating Banco de Costa Rica branch to pay the fees and receive your printed Costa Rican driver's license.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Can I drive in Costa Rica with my U.S. license as a tourist?*

Yes. Tourists can drive using a valid U.S. driver's license, passport, and legal entry stamp during their authorized stay.

*What if my driver's license is expired?*

Your license must be valid and in good standing before beginning homologation.

*Do I need to take a written or driving test?*

Generally no, provided your license is valid and verifiable.

*Do I need a lawyer for homologation?*

No. Most applicants complete the process independently, though some choose legal assistance.

*\*This is a quick, shortened version of the whole process. Reading the accompanying article first is highly recommended so as to not miss a step or required document!*

## CR License Approval Checklist

- Valid U.S. driver's license
- Valid passport
- Cedula or DIMEX residency card
- Proof license is valid and in good standing
- COSEVI online account
- Homologation appointment confirmation
- Medical exam certificate
- Certified Spanish translation of license
- Printed copies of all documents
- BCR appointment confirmation

**Tips:** Arrive 10-15 min early before every appointment • Save digital copies of all documents and appointment confirmations on your phone. -email [sotofam.cr@gmail.com](mailto:sotofam.cr@gmail.com) for help (:

