

Friday

## Costa Manzana

### *Defining a Culture Project*

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Costa Manzana (Apple Coast) is an island in the Caribbean. It is located 300 miles northeast of Costa Rica. It gets its name because *manzana* is the Spanish word for apple, and the island is shaped like an apple. It has many rivers and lakes, producing fertile land, especially in the "stem" of the island. The island is a popular tourist area because of its many beaches, sports, and tropical climate. The major port in the island is named *Port de Manzana* (Apple Port) and helps the country with its many imports and exports.

Costa Manzana was founded in the summer of 1969 by the Americans Glenjamin Engelmeyer and his colleagues, Paul Klassen and John Primus. They were whale watching when an island appeared on the horizon. They rowed ashore and began investigating the island. The first things they noticed on the island were the beautiful colors and the diverse landscapes. This made them excited to explore the rest of the island and claim it as their own.

The first step of claiming the island was appointing one member to become president. Since Glenjamin was the oldest of the three, they decided that he would be the most responsible and the best leader. They knew their island would become popular very quickly because of its inviting climate and scenery, but they wanted their people to be free and to have a relaxed government. So, they decided to start a democracy, similar to the United States, so Glenjamin became the first President of Costa Manzana. Because the founders were American, almost half the population speaks English. However, since the surrounding countries' main language is

Spanish, the other half of Costa Manzana speaks Spanish. Many people who live there are bilingual to account for the diverse population.

There are many large rivers and lakes named after the founders and their children. River John is the island's main source of water. The water is taken directly out of the river and then filtered and distributed across the island. In the northwest corner of the island, there is a rainforest with many exotic species of animals. The mountain range is located in the southwestern corner of the island and provides bike trails for its visitors. It is an island surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and has many beaches. There are many highways that connect the major cities to the capital. In the "stem" of the island, there is a waterfall that attracts many tourists. The land north of the waterfall is very fertile and accounts for the majority of the island's agriculture.

The climate of Costa Manzana is very inviting. The temperatures are mild and consistent throughout the year. Light clothing is worn year-round and are imported from many Central American countries. All houses have an air-conditioning unit and tile floors to keep in the cool air. They also have solar panels as a source of energy. There are many methods of transportation, but biking is the most popular because of the nice weather. Bike trails can be found throughout the island, including through the mountains and along the coastline. There are many beaches that have surfing and sand volleyball. There are also many tennis courts and soccer fields throughout the island.

There are many natural resources in Costa Manzana. Gold was discovered in Goldmans River, which lead to a gold rush and a population boom in the 1990's. The climate on the island allows for many tropical fruits to be grown, which are distributed across the island. Meals are

commonly served with black beans, which are imported from Costa Rica. Other natural resources found in Costa Manzanana include silver and iron.

The Costa Manzanans value social relations above all. They believe that they must have healthy relationships with each other and other countries to maintain a strong country. They also believe education improves their society. By learning about their own history and the history of other countries, they can prevent past mistakes and succeed in the future. Religion is also very important to the Costa Manzanans, but there is no national religion that must be followed. They believe that it is important to have religious freedom. They do not believe that material objects are the most important thing for a society to succeed, and they do not believe that a large amount of material objects will bring happiness. They only want what is vital to life--not an excess amount of material things. Their technology is important in hospitals and other businesses, but it is not highly valued outside of what is necessary. They believe this leads to a simpler and more fulfilling life where they can focus on more important things.

The country's main source of income comes from its agriculture. There are many farmers who farm on the fertile land in the north. The country exports more than it imports because of the high amount of crops produced. Service jobs are the next highest field of work. Since education is highly valued, there are many teachers across the island. There are two main colleges on the island that educate people from all over the world. Many doctors and other hospital staff are employed at the many hospitals in Costa Manzanana. The least amount of jobs are service jobs, but some people are still employed to mine gold and silver.

The country of Costa Manzanana has a mixed economy. The president wanted everyone to be able to decide what job they would most enjoy and perform the best at. However, the

government is involved in determining regulations, such as minimum wage. This helps the country to be balanced and create equality. There are no credit cards in Costa Manzana because they believe that simplicity is key to life. Everyone is paid with Costa Rican currency because Costa Rica is its main source of trading.

Elders are respected in Costa Manzana. This value can be seen in their households. The Costa Manzanans live with their extended family and take care of their elders. The democratic government allows freedom to make decisions on how to live their lives. The government allows its people to vote every four years to keep their existing president or elect a new one. There is no limit to the amount of terms a president can serve in office. The president may also decide to retire from office after the age of 60.

The flag of Costa Manzana has the colors red, blue, and white. White symbolizes peace, blue symbolizes the many waters that surround our island which represent tranquility, and the red symbolizes the fire of devotion to the country. The national anthem of Costa Manzana is "The Summer of '69" by Bryan Adams because the island was founded then. Glenjamin Engelmeyer retired from office at age 69 after many years of a dedicated and loving presidency. The country elected Kylie Primus, the daughter of John Primus, to take Glenjamin's place as president. She became the first female president of the island and made history.

Costa Manzana is a beautiful country, filled with mountains, rivers, and lakes. Over one million people inhabit the country, and the population is growing steadily. Their simple lifestyle allows them to live a peaceful and healthy life. The country is still thriving today and will continue for many years to come.