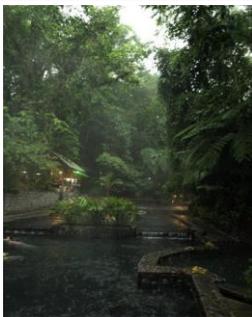


	<u>Tabacón Hot Springs</u>	<u>Baldi Hot Springs</u>	<u>The Springs Resort and Spa</u>	<u>Eco Termales</u>	<u>Paradise Hot Springs</u>	<u>Los Lagos Resort</u>
						
Price Apprx.	Limited pass \$70	Limited pass \$40	\$50 all day pass This is good for two visits. Not including a meal.	\$32 - 4 hour block	\$23 adult \$15 child	\$15 adult \$7 child <6 free
Pools	Offers a variety of hot springs baths of varying temperatures, from steaming hot, to lukewarm in a beautiful manicured tropical setting.	Offers a variety of hot springs baths of varying temperatures, from steaming hot, to lukewarm in a beautiful manicured tropical setting.	Several hot spring pools, not as hot as the other options. Nice cold pools and swim up bar. Mineral water with some sulfur smell at times.	Offers five hot spring pools in graduated temperatures and one cold pool. In a natural setting.	Offers a variety of pools and temperatures. Nice gardens.	Offers a few hot pools, nice swim up bar. 3 slides. Large cold pool.
Presentation	A lot of time and effort have been spent in making this resort as close as possible to paradise on earth. The pools are set in a natural fashion along the piping-hot Tabacón River. The buildings are also top notch, especially the dining room.	Baldi has a variety of hot springs pools, but is not quite as natural-looking as Tabacón. The presentation is certainly extravagant, but everything seems more man-made. Also, the greater distance between the hot springs pools makes for more walking, giving it more of a U.S. water park feel	Less natural feel with concrete 'boulders' and pools in a beautiful setting in the mountains above Fortuna. Entrance includes visit the wild cat and monkey rescue area.	The pools are cozily tucked within tropical forest with trees towering over them.	Basic, simple, but well done. Landscaping is nice. Some pools with jets and waterfall feature for water massage.	Nice grounds. Beautiful landscaping.
Views	Arenal is visible from some locations in the hot springs area.	Baldi has views of Arenal. There is a huge pyramid from which you get a great view of the entire area from the foot of the Arenal Volcano.	Amazing panoramic views of Arenal and the surrounding mountain range. In a safe location.	No views of Arenal. Guests often see wildlife here. A troop of Howler monkeys frequent the forest canopy above the springs.	At the base of the Volcano. Great views.	At the base of Arenal. Good views of the volcano.

Atmosphere	Tabacón for all of its natural beauty is often flooded with tourists. This is definitely a high-traffic area, so you may not get the kind of privacy you had expected. Guests are not limited. In peak season you will find crowds.	Since Baldi is very big, the pools are stretched out minimizing the confined feeling you may get at Tabacón. However, the pools with the most comfortable temperatures tend to be more crowded. Baldi has more of a party atmosphere with music playing, often disco type party music, especially on weekends in the evening.	Since opening in late 2008, The Springs is pretty quiet with few guests. This is a 15 minute drive from Leaves and Lizards.	The atmosphere is one of privacy and exclusivity. Eco Termales does not advertise, requires reservations, and limits the number of patrons to 100 at a time. Reservations are required. 10am-1, 1-5, 5-9pm.	The atmosphere is generally quiet, guests are limited.	Resort like atmosphere. Entrance includes access to mini zoo with crocodiles, nice hiking trails at the base of the volcano and an observation lookout. Good Value and great for kids.
Service	Tabacón is a professional establishment and its staff is no different. Due to the high volume of guests you may find your self waiting for services offered.	Guests comment on the lack of focus on customer service. Guests often complain about waiting for service, food or drinks.	Outstanding customer service.	The service here is excellent. Honor bar	Outstanding customer service.	Good customer service. Resort style.
Food and Drink	The food here is good, although some comments are less than average, maybe due to the high volume of customers and Drinks are good, but a bit expensive.	The food is average. Drinks are expensive and not impressive. Also, as stated before, the service was not very attentive.	The food is outstanding as are the drinks. But is it a bit expensive. Excellent sushi	The food and drink at Eco Termales are excellent. There is a set menu with your choice of either beef of chicken. The ambiance is peaceful. The drinks are reasonably priced.	Serves quality Costa Rican fare.	Average resort type food.

Hot Springs the Real Thing for Free:

The Tabacón River:

Park your car along side the road near the bridge over the Tabacón River (remember to leave nothing of value in your car or unattended).

Climb down to the river and find a nice spot to soak for free.

Rio Celeste:

During your hike to this geothermal paradise, take a dip in the river bubbling with hot springs.