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Arenal Lake

**TILARÁN**  
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# Tilarán

Tilarán is a canton located in the mountainous zone of the eastern portion of the Guanacaste province called “Sierra Minera (mining) de Tilarán”. It is composed of seven districts: Central, Libano, Santa Rosa (more known as Los Angeles), Tronadora, Arenal, Quebrada Grande and Tierras Morenas. From the center of Tilarán city the Miravalles and Tenorio Volcanoes can be seen, and a few kilometers to the east the Arenal Volcano.

It is said that the name Tilarán stems from the native word Tilawa which means “Place of winds and rains”. Actually because of Tilarán’s location and altitude, the climate and temperatures there are cooler than in the rest of the province.

Tilarán used to be known for its gold mines located at the district of Libano, and subsequently by the development of the reservoir of the Arenal Lake and Hydroelectric plants as well as Aeolian energy in the zone of

Tejona. Nowadays it is also a zone of great tourist interest, especially in the outskirts of the Arenal Lake and in the districts of Arenal and Tronadora.

During the 80’s a Nicaraguan refugee camp was settled in Tilarán, at the old installations of the Costa Rican Institute of Electricity.

Tilarán is also the headquarters of the Bishopric of Tilarán that covers all the province of Guanacaste. His first bishop was a Monseigneur Román Arrieta Villalobos, who subsequently became Archbishop of San Jose. Monseigneur Hector Morera Vega followed, and is now retired; the current bishop is a Monseigneur Girardi, a native of Italy.

The population of Tilarán derives mainly from the Central Valley, particularly from the towns of the province of Alajuela as Athenas, Grecia, sabanilla, Fraijanes and Poás, among others.