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LAST MINUTE

Tourist project of \$ 400 million gestates in Limón

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Thursday 26 april, 2018 01:31 pm



Patti Rao, renowned Vancouver architect, is in charge of the project. Gerson Vargas / The Republic

A \$ 400 million mixed-use tourism project is being developed in Limón, called Casino City Caribe.

This will be located in the northern area of Moín, at the entrance to the Tortuguero canal and will be in charge of Patti Rao Projects, developer headed by the renowned Vancouver architect who gives the company its name.

The tourist complex that will be located between the Tortuguero canal and the Caribbean Sea includes three hotels with 264 rooms, three casinos and 219 apartments.

The construction of two convention and culture centers is also planned, one for 60 people and the other for 150, as well as a wellness center, an entertainment complex, a business center and secondary recreational support facilities in the areas green.

The complex will also have a heliport, a marina and access to the beach.



Master plan of the project presented by Patti Rao Projects. Courtesy Patti Rao Projects / La República

In its construction stage, it is estimated that it will generate 150 jobs, a figure that would rise to 1,500 once the works are completed.

If it were built today, it would be the ninth most expensive real estate project in the country, not counting the works of public and private infrastructure, according to Patti Rao, the developer in charge.

The architect of Hindu origin, based in Canada, explained that Limón was selected as the destination of the megaproject due to its untapped tourist potential and the interest of its partners to invest in ecotourism projects related to the characteristics offered by Tortuguero.

Rao is recognized in Canada for leading several construction projects in Vancouver, as well as other works in British Columbia and the state of Washington.

"I want to help Limón and be proud of the project. My purpose is to contribute something to the development of Costa Rica (...), it was an idea that emerged after I retired," said the architect.

Rao already has the title of ownership of the construction zones to the inalienable area of the coast that connects Tortuguero with the sea.



Project plans approved by the Municipality of Matina and sealed by the Minae. Jeffry Garza / The Republic

The master plan, which includes seven real estate projects, is already approved by the municipality of Matina and has the approval of the Costa Rican Tourism Institute and the Ministry of Environment and Energy, as evidenced by documentation submitted by Rao.

It is expected that the first stage of the project (residential areas) will begin construction at the beginning of 2019 and that the entire complex will be ready in 2027.