

THE BEST MAN'S COST BREAKDOWN

Bachelor Party Math: Jacó vs. Las Vegas

Same budget, wildly different trip. A line-by-line look at what your money actually buys in Las Vegas versus a private villa, chef and boat day in Jacó, Costa Rica



www.jacobeachchef.com

Before You Book Vegas, Read This

You have the hardest job in the wedding: **plan a trip everyone can afford and nobody forgets.** For years the reflex was Vegas. But almost nobody runs the actual numbers first — and the numbers are the whole story. In the pages ahead I put a four-night Vegas weekend for twelve guys head-to-head with the same four nights in Jacó, Costa Rica: villa vs. hotel rooms, private chef vs. \$18 cocktails, your own boat vs. bottle service. I'm Chef Bill'ardee, your Jaco Beach Chef, and I have helped plan more of these trips than I can count. Read it, do the math with me, and then let's build the send-off the groom actually deserves. — Chef Bill'ardee

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The Best Man's Budget Problem



Every best man runs into the same wall. You want to give the groom a send-off he will never forget, but you also have to sell the trip to a group of guys with wildly different bank accounts. Somebody's saving for a house. Somebody just had a kid. And the second the total climbs past a certain number, half the crew quietly bows out and your epic weekend shrinks to five guys and a hotel bar.

For years the default answer was **Las Vegas**. It is close, it is easy, and everyone has seen the movie. But here is the thing almost nobody does before they book: **the actual math**. Add up what a Vegas weekend really costs once the hidden fees, the drink prices and the bottle-service minimums land on the card, and it is a genuinely eye-watering number for what you get.

This little guide does the math for you. We put a four-night Vegas trip for twelve guys side by side with the same four nights in **Jacó, Costa Rica** — private villa, private chef, a day on a boat and a wild night out — line by line. I am Chef Bill'ardee, your Jaco Beach Chef, and I have fed and helped plan hundreds of these group trips. The numbers below will surprise you. Learn more any time at www.jacobeachchef.com.

A quick note on the numbers: the Las Vegas figures are typical published ranges for Strip hotels, clubs and dining. The Jacó figures are honest ballpark illustrations to show how the math compares — your real, exact quote depends on your dates, group size and villa, and I will build it for you personally on WhatsApp. Nothing here is a fixed price.

The Big Picture — Four Nights, Twelve Guys

Let's start with the headline. Here is a realistic four-night bachelor weekend for a group of twelve, compared at a glance. We will break every line down in the chapters that follow — but this is the shape of it.

	Las Vegas	Jacó, Costa Rica
Lodging	6 Strip hotel rooms	1 private villa, sleeps 12+
Food	Restaurants & room service	Private chef at the villa
Drinks	\$15–\$20 cocktails, \$10+ beers	\$5–\$8 cocktails, \$2–\$4 beers
The 'big day'	Nightclub table + bottle service	Private catamaran or fishing charter
Getting around	Cabs & surge Ubers on the Strip	Cheap Ubers, most of it walkable
Hidden fees	Resort fees, covers, minimums	Almost none
Vibe	Crowded, air-conditioned, indoors	Beach, jungle, pool, ocean sunsets

Two very different weekends. On paper they compete for the same dollar — but as you will see, that dollar stretches roughly twice as far on the beach, and buys you a private, personal trip instead of a crowded, transactional one.

“Vegas rents you a hotel room. Jacó rents you a whole house with a pool — for less.”

Lodging Math — Hotel Rooms vs. One Big Villa



This is where the gap opens up first. In Vegas, twelve guys means about **six hotel rooms** (two per room, because nobody wants to share a bed with the groom). A decent Strip room runs roughly **\$150 to \$350 a night** on a weekend — and that is before the **resort fee** of \$40–\$50 per room, per night, tacked on for a 'resort' you will barely use.

Do that math: six rooms at, say, \$250 a night for four nights is around **\$6,000** — roughly **\$500 per guy** just to sleep. Add resort fees and it climbs higher. And everyone is scattered across six rooms on different floors, so the group is never actually together.

Now the Jacó version

In Jacó you rent **one large private villa** that sleeps the whole crew — private pool, big kitchen, terraces, the works. Split a villa twelve ways and the per-person nightly cost typically lands **well under what a shared Vegas hotel room costs**, and instead of a room you get a private headquarters where the party never has to end at last call. These are the exact homes I help my groups rent — browse them on my site.

→ [Browse the villas we rent](#)

→ **Browse the beachfront condos we rent**



A private villa with a pool sleeps the whole crew — and splits cheaper per head than six Vegas hotel rooms.

Same money, and instead of six separate boxes you get one house, one pool, and one crew under the same roof. That alone is the difference between a good trip and a legendary one. See the full lineup at www.jacobeachchef.com.

Food & Drink Math — \$18 Cocktails vs. a Private Chef



Feeding and watering twelve guys is where a Vegas budget quietly detonates. On the Strip, a sit-down group dinner runs **\$60–\$120 a head** once you add tax, the automatic large-party gratuity and a couple of rounds. Do that three or four nights and you are into four figures per person on food alone. Cocktails are **\$15–\$20 each**, beers \$10 and up, and a bottle of water in the room can cost more than a six-pack at home.

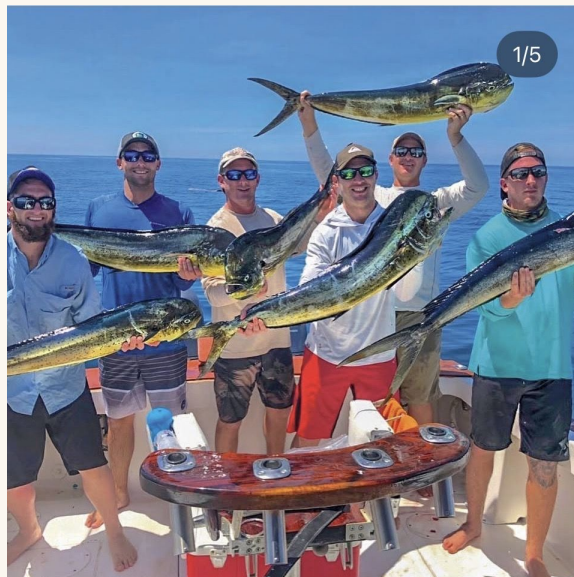
The Jacó version: the chef comes to you

Here is my favorite part, because it is what I do. Instead of herding a hungover crew into restaurants, **a private chef cooks for the whole group right at your villa**. Fresh-caught seafood, a whole Hawaiian-style pig roast, filet mignon, big hangover breakfasts — restaurant-quality food, by the pool, on your schedule. Split among a big group, a chef-cooked feast very often costs **less per plate than a Strip restaurant**, and it is a hundred times more fun.

And the drinks: a beer in Jacó runs a couple of dollars, a cocktail a fraction of the Vegas price, and I can stock the villa's bar and fridge before you even land. Pre-game at the pool for what one round costs in a Vegas club.

→ [See my full menus & dishes](#)

→ Book your private chef



Catch it in the morning, and I cook it that night — there is no Vegas equivalent.

“In Vegas the food eats your budget. In Jacó the food is the best part — and it costs less.”

The Big Day — Bottle Service vs. Your Own Boat

Every bachelor party has one marquee event — the thing the trip is built around. In Vegas, that is usually a **nightclub table with bottle service**. Brace yourself: a table for a group on a weekend runs anywhere from **\$1,000 to \$3,000 and up**, plus tax and tip, for a couple of bottles and a place to stand. A daytime pool cabana? Another **\$500 to \$2,000**. For a few hours.

The Jacó version: charter the whole boat

In Jacó, the marquee event is a **private catamaran or fishing charter** — the entire boat and crew, just for your group. Cruise the coast, anchor in a hidden cove, swim and snorkel, drinks and lunch on board, dolphins and turtles off the rail, and a sunset cruise home. For a full day. Split among the crew, a private charter is in the same ballpark as a single night of Vegas bottle service — except you get the whole Pacific Ocean instead of a roped-off booth.

And if there is an angler in the group, an offshore sport-fishing charter puts you on marlin, sailfish, tuna and mahi-mahi — then you bring the catch back and I cook it for dinner. These are all trips I can book for you.

→ [See the party boats & tours we sell](#)

“A Vegas table buys you a place to stand. A Jacó charter buys you the ocean.”

The Hidden Costs Nobody Tells You About Vegas

The sticker price of a Vegas trip is never the real price. It is death by a thousand add-ons, and they are the reason so many best men come home to a credit-card bill far bigger than they planned. Here are the ones that get everybody:

- **Resort fees** — \$40–\$50 per room, per night, mandatory, for Wi-Fi and a gym you never touch.
- **Club cover charges** — \$20–\$50 a head just to walk in the door, more if there is a big-name DJ.
- **Drink markups** — \$18 cocktails and \$10 beers, everywhere, all weekend.
- **Table & cabana minimums** — spend commitments of thousands before you have had any fun.
- **Surge rides & taxis** — short trips on the Strip that balloon at peak times.
- **Parking, ATMs and 'convenience' fees** — nickel-and-dimed at every turn.
- **The gambling gravity** — the whole town is engineered to separate you from your money.

Jacó's hidden costs?

There basically aren't any. No resort fees on a private villa. No cover to walk the strip in Jacó. Drinks are a couple of dollars. Ubers are cheap and most of the town is walkable. Your biggest 'surprise' expense is deciding to add one more tour because you are having too much fun. That is the whole difference: Vegas is designed to extract; Jacó is designed to relax.

“The Vegas 'deal' disappears the moment the resort fees and the \$18 drinks land on the card.”

The Side-by-Side Budget — Per Guy, Four Nights

Let's put it all together. Here is a realistic, honest per-person estimate for a four-night bachelor trip for a group of twelve. Remember: the Vegas figures are typical published ranges, and the Jacó figures are ballpark illustrations — your exact Jacó quote depends on your dates and villa, and I will build it for you personally.

	Las Vegas	Jacó, Costa Rica
Lodging (4 nights)	~\$500–\$700	~\$150–\$350
Food (4 days)	~\$300–\$500	~\$150–\$300
Drinks	~\$300–\$600	~\$80–\$200
Marquee event	~\$150–\$300 (table share)	~\$80–\$150 (boat share)
Adventure / extras	~\$100–\$200	~\$100–\$200
Getting around	~\$80–\$150	~\$30–\$60
Hidden fees	~\$100–\$200	~\$0
Per-guy estimate	~\$1,500–\$2,600	~\$600–\$1,300

Even on the conservative end, a Jacó bachelor party comes in around **half the cost of Vegas** — and that is before you count what you actually get: a private house instead of a hotel room, a personal chef instead of a check, a whole boat instead of a booth, and a beach instead of a casino floor. Same money, roughly twice the trip.

Estimates are illustrative and vary with season, group size and choices. Message me for your real, custom quote — no guesswork.

Same Money, More Trip — The Verdict



Do the math and it is not close. For the same budget — often for a good deal less — a Jacó bachelor party gives you a private villa with a pool, a chef cooking feasts at the house, a private boat day on the Pacific, jungle adventures, and a walkable strip of bars and clubs at the end of the night. Vegas gives you a hotel room, a bar tab and a bill full of fees.

The best part for the best man: you do not have to piece any of it together. I help my groups line up the villa, the boat and the tours, I cook the food, and I stock the bar before you arrive. You tell me your dates, your group size and your budget, and I build the whole weekend around it — and give you the honest, exact numbers up front. See everything at www.jacobeachchef.com, or just message me and let's start planning.

[→ Browse the villas & condos we rent](#)

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“The groom deserves the ocean, not a hotel bar. And your crew deserves to afford it.”

Let's Run Your Numbers

Ready to see what your trip actually costs? Tell me your dates, your group size and your budget, and I'll build you an honest, exact plan for a Jacó bachelor party — villa, private chef, boat day and nightlife, all in one. As your **Jaco Beach Chef**, I cook the feasts, stock the bar and help line up the whole weekend, so you get the trip the groom deserves without the Vegas bill. Message me and let's do the math together.

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Book on WhatsApp: +506 6079 6435

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