



**STUDY
ABROAD
ASSOCIATION**

RCCD

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT



COSTA RICA

Focus: Environment and Wildlife

Length: 16 Days

Dates: January 12 - 27, 2023



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Costa Rica is a small country located in Central America. What it lacks in size it makes up for in breathtaking nature and friendly locals, who are more than happy to teach travelers the relaxed Caribbean way of “pura vida”, or pure life.

In Costa Rica, students can immerse themselves in the stunning diverse ecosystem, which is comprised of a myriad of natural wonders, such as dense tropical forests, pristine sandy beaches, active volcanoes, and more. The abundant and exotic flora and fauna are ready to be discovered by students from all fields through extensive walking tours in some of the most famous national parks, wildlife reserves and biological stations.

During this 16-day program students will have the opportunity to take part in various activities such as nature walks, tropical plant identification, bio forest and much more...

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS:

Autentico Hotel
San Jose

Hotel Manuel Antonio Park (or somewhere
near)
Manuel Antonio

Savegre Lodge **OR** QERC station
San Gerardo de Dota

Sierra Arenal Hotel
La Fortuna

Historias Lodge
Monteverde

Palo Verde Station
Palo Verde

Tamarindo - to be determined

**Accommodation selection will be based on group size, gender breakdown and availability. Students will share rooms of 2-4 people per room, each student will have their own bed. Faculty leaders will have their own private room with en-suite bathroom.*

Accommodation are always centrally located and top rated (minimum rating of 8 out of 10). Daily continental breakfast and Free Wi-Fi included.

PROGRAM PRICE PER STUDENT ON GROUND ONLY

15:1 16 travelers	20:2 15 travelers
\$2,745*	\$2,690*

PROGRAM PRICE PER STUDENT WITH AIRFARE (ROUND TRIP)

15:1 16 travelers	20:2 15 travelers
\$3,515*	\$3,485*

*Program price stands as an estimate until ticketing is finalized.



WHY STUDY ABROAD ASSOCIATION?

Since 2009, Study Abroad Association has been committed to customizing the most in-depth and affordable short-term, faculty-led study abroad and service learning experiences. We have been working with colleges and universities across the United States to assist in achieving their international education goals. All programs revolve around our core values of Education, Authenticity, Affordability, Sustainability, and Safety.



Authenticity & Affordability

By collaborating with local partners we enable our travelers to have unique experiences while supporting local economies. This allows us to provide authentic and locally designed experiences and keep our costs low.



Education

All SAA programs are built on the foundation of education. We offer unique programs in over 18 areas of study, striving to offer programs to underserved academic fields such as STEM, Business, Allied Health, Humanities.



Customer Service

A dedicated Account Manager will assist during the entire process. We fully understand the challenges that go into organizing the perfect faculty-led programs. We will assign you an account manager fully dedicated and available to assist you at every point of your process.



US Based

We are a fully insured and accredited US organization with the advantages of having direct operations in more than 25 countries. We also have strong partnerships with local universities to ensure credits and educational methods are fully respected.



Safety

Safety is our number one priority. To ensure our travelers are completely protected throughout the program, we provide an all-inclusive travelers insurance policy, comprehensive risk management procedures and training before the program starts. Additionally our programs include 24/7 on-ground emergency support and assistance.



Sustainability

We promote sustainability with all our programs, visiting local communities and projects in need, as well as establishing long-lasting relationships and positive impacts with everyone we collaborate with.



DAY 1 - DEPARTURE - Thursday, January 12

Depart Home for San Jose, Costa Rica

Arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica

Airport Transfer

On-ground Briefing

Orientation Walking Tour - *The group will become oriented with their neighborhood. Additionally, an in-depth safety briefing will be provided for what to do in case of an emergency.*

Welcome Dinner - *The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater all diets.*

DAY 2 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA - Friday, January 13

Travel to Irazu Volcano - *Here you can discover the grandeur of the highest volcano in Costa Rica. Easily accessible and close to the city, it has five craters and breathtaking views. With a beautiful mountain setting, low vegetation and very wet and cold weather, this site presents fog most of the time making the flora & Fauna mostly endemic to the region.*

Visit Lankester Botanical Garden

Continue to Travel to San Gerardo de Dota - *Area with a High concentration of Endemic plants & Birds*

DAY 3 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA - Saturday, January 14

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Driving up to the Highlands of Costa Rica -

Surrounded by mountains at an elevation, House of the Resplendent Quetzal one of the many endangered species of the Cloud Forest. We will study of the most fragile Life zones Costa Rica have.

DAY 4 - SAN GERARDO DE DOTA/SAN ANTONIO - Sunday, January 15

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Travel to San Antonio - *Staying just 5 minutes away from the beach, this destination is perfectly located to observe the amount of wildlife, which can even be spotted from your hotel. It would be our first experience with the tropical Rainforest.*

DAY 5 - MANUEL ANTONIO - Monday, January 16

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Manuel Antonio National Park - *This is one of the smallest National Parks in Costa Rica with only 1,983 hectares or 4,900 acres. The park ranges in elevation from sea level to 160 meters. It protects rainforest, beach, and mangrove habitats. There are hiking trails in the park that lead through the jungle and to one of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica, Playa Manuel Antonio.*

DAY 6 - MANUEL ANTONIO/LA FORTUNA - Tuesday, January 17

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Travel to La Fortuna (approx. 5 hrs) - *The Arenal area contains a bizarre landscape of solidified lava flows, lush natural forest and tropical flora and fauna which includes howler monkeys, toucans and over 350 bird species.*

Stop on route at Tarcoles River to see crocodiles

DAY 7 - LA FORTUNA - Wednesday, January 18

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Volcano hike & Hanging Bridges, Collecting Data - *Enjoy travelling the forest comfortably in our revitalizing paths full of nature and wildlife. In front of the majestic Arenal Volcano you can admire its beauty and the wonderful forest that surrounds it, as well as a reserve populated with wildlife in their natural habitat that will allow you an encounter with the roots of the human species.*





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DAY 8 - LA FORTUNA - Thursday, January 19

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Visit Arenal

Visit Rio Pena Blancas – *gather data on wildlife, plants, volcanic soil*

DAY 9 - LA FORTUNA/MONTEVERDE - Friday, January 20

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Monteverde (*approx. 5 hours*) -

We will take a transportation to Arenal Lake biggest man made lake in Costa Rica. A boat ride will take us to Rio chiquito town, and the we will drive to the clouds. The surroundings here are extraordinary. We will be exposed to approximately 5 different life zones, from which we will observe the changes little by little from the Rainforest to the Cloud Forest.

DAY 10 - MONTEVERDE - Saturday, January 21

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Monteverde cloud forest Reserve &

Conservatory with the Children's eternal

Rainforest - *This place was established in 1972 by a coalition of scientists from the Tropical Science Center (TSC) and Quakers from the local community. The purpose was to protect one of the last stretches of pristine cloud forest in Central America. The Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve is a pioneering and progressive model of conservation and ecotourism based on research and education on biodiversity.*

DAY 11 - MONTEVERDE - Sunday, January 22

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Ziplining & Classroom Day

The Zip Line tour includes 10 zip lines, with the longest zip line in all of Latin America (a 1,500-meter cable that you can do superman style), a walk over a hammock bridge, a Tarzan swing, and a walk before the ultimate zip line.

DAY 12 - MONTEVERDE/PALO VERDE STATION - Monday, January 23

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Palo Verde Station (*approx. 2 hours*)

Walk along the trails to explore the Dry Forest - *The Palo Verde National Park is one of the most biologically diverse sites in Costa Rica. It comprises a rich mosaic of more than 15 different natural communities, including the lowland deciduous forest, the evergreen forest, the flooded forest, the deciduous forest of limestone hills, grasslands and mangroves.*

DAY 13 - PALO VERDE STATION - Tuesday, January 24

Breakfast & Day Briefing

The Wetlands and its importance for migratory birds -

This place holds one of the largest and most important Central American wetlands and harbors one of the most intact patches of tropical lowland dry forest remaining in Central America. This Station offers a unique opportunity to study about 11 distinct habitats within a relatively small area as well as how they are affected by the human-dominated surrounding landscape.

DAY 14 - PALO VERDE STATION/TAMARINDO - Wednesday, January 25

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Transfer to Tamarindo (*approx. 2 hrs*)

Turtle watches - *Drive to the best places to observe baby turtles and adult turtles coming to lay eggs. Of course, it is mother nature so there is no guarantee of seeing them. This is a very popular and beautiful beach located in Santa Cruz de Guanacaste. It combines white sand, with good waves for surfing, and an incredible landscape surrounded by mountains.*

DAY 15 - TAMARINDO - Thursday, January 26

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Free Morning

Afternoon Class (2 hours)

DAY 16 - RETURN - Friday, January 27

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Airport Transfer to Liberia (*approx. 2 hrs*)

Depart Liberia, Costa Rica for Home



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Manuel Antonio National Park and Beach
- Tamarindo beach
- Arenal
- Palo Verde Park
- Monteverde Cloud Forest
- Los Quetzales National Park
- Ziplining
- Volcano Hike
- Hanging Bridges

PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Roundtrip Airfare
- 15 Nights of Accommodation
- All Ground Transportation
- Daily Continental Breakfast
- Daily Lunches
- Daily Dinners
- Historical & Cultural Walking Tours
- Full Time Local Guide
- 24/7 On-Ground Emergency Support
- Travelers Health Insurance & Liability Insurance
- Tips & Gratuities

ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS ARE 100% CUSTOMIZABLE.

Is there an experience you'd like to provide the students that's not included in the itinerary?

Let's add it!

Are there sites that better fit your subject than the ones provided?

Let's swap them!

Tell us your dream itinerary and we'll work with you to make it a reality.



**STUDY
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LIVE GLOBAL STREAMING



Bring professionals from around the globe directly into your classroom for a live streaming event from the location of your choice and/or on a topic related to your academic program content. We can often secure the specific onsite guest speakers you and your students will meet during the program abroad!

These **synchronous** activities are a great way for students to feel connected to the location and academic subject prior to departure. From live virtual walking tours of an area of a city to a Q&A session with a local business owner, these experiences can enhance your faculty-led program by providing participants a glimpse into what they will experience abroad. These live events also work as a great marketing tool to recruit students for your program.

Learn more at <https://studyabroadassociation.com/virtual-study-abroad/360-live-experiences/>

360 GLE™ (Global Learning Experiences)



What better way to get students excited about studying abroad than to let them explore the world virtually in advance? SAA's 360 GLE™ is an interactive platform featuring immersive international education materials and experiences from all over the world that you can use to supplement and enhance your courses and recruit more students for your study abroad programs.

The **asynchronous** 360 GLE™ content gives students an opportunity to virtually travel at their own pace to see what they will soon get to explore in person! It can also help institutions support globally competent and competitive students while expanding their career opportunities and perspectives.

Learn more at <https://studyabroadassociation.com/virtual-study-abroad/360-gle/>

Click [here](#) to see all of our affiliated Institutions & Consortiums

Testimonials



Cring Rosby recommends Study Abroad Association. April 4

This was my first trip as a professor taking students abroad. Christian and his team were magnificent. Everything was taken care of, accommodations were excellent, the guides were friendly. My students had an opportunity to earn college credit while abroad and Christian personalized our trip to meet those needs. I fully recommend the Study Abroad Association, and I can't wait to attend next year.



Brad Schatzel reviewed Study Abroad Association — 5 stars May 22

Outstanding tours at the lowest prices in the industry. Our institution has worked with the Study Abroad Association on five study tours to locations as diverse as China, Central Europe, and Costa Rica.

SAA worked with us to build an itinerary that was both educational and a ton of fun. The local guides far exceeded our expectations.



Amber Carey-Jernigan reviewed Study Abroad Association — 5 stars July 13 at 10:16 AM

Christian and his guides arranged an amazing and affordable adventure for our students.

The guides' expertise was unmatched. I have studied abroad before and have never had such knowledgeable, friendly, and fun guides. I definitely will be using SAA for all our future trips.



View more reviews on Facebook: [@studyabroadassociationpage](#)



#wearestudyabroad

Study Abroad Association has launched a **Private Facebook Group** made of educators, professors, directors, industry expert and like-minded people that would like to contribute, share and learn more about anything related with study abroad, faculty-led and service learning programs.

Click [here](#), or search on Facebook “#wearestudyabroad” and request your free access today.

Top Quality - Read all our 5 Star Reviews

Go and have fun reading all our public reviews of both students and educators on our Facebook page. In conjunction with those feel free to reach out to any reference we have. Due diligence is essential when choosing the right program for your students.

References

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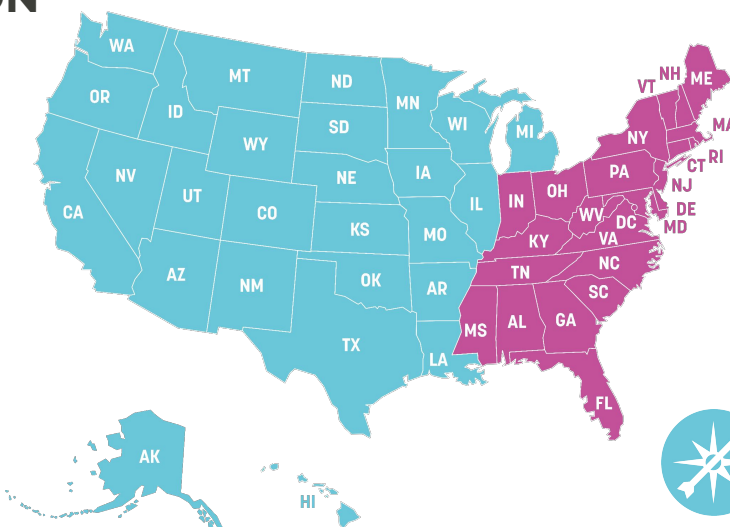
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