

COSTA RICA

Ottawa Hills High School

November 10-18, 2018

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Conservation

Geology



Active Adventure

Biology

Explore the diverse terrain of the tropical paradise of Costa Rica on this 9-day adventure. Costa Rica is world-renowned for its beautiful tropical forests, amazing biological diversity, and dedication to environmental conservation. Discover lush rainforest, cloud forest and transitional forest habitats, venture to Arenal Volcano, and witness the wildlife of the Río Tárcoles. From lowland jungles to volcanic peaks, this is sure to be the adventure of a lifetime.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Costa Rica's rich volcanic history at Arenal Volcano National Park.
- Explore the primary and secondary rainforest at Selva Verde Rainforest Reserve and identify flora and fauna during guided hikes.
- Hike in the consistently cool and wet environment at Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve.
- Appreciate the rainforest from a different view through zip line and whitewater rafting adventures.
- Take a boat ride on the Río Tárcoles to witness giant crocodiles and explore mangrove ecosystems.
- Enjoy the beach and optional surf lessons .

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual naturalist guide
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Travel Insurance



PHOTO BY STEFFI LOPEZ

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

NOVEMBER 10 - SARAPIQUÍ

Upon arrival in San José meet your guide and transfer to Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve, located in the tropical lowlands of Costa Rica. Check in at the lodge and receive an orientation to the area. During your stay, expert guides will introduce you to the fascinating world of tropical ecology as they share their passion for this endangered habitat through interactive discussions and workshops. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (LD)*

NOVEMBER 11 - SARAPIQUÍ

Early this morning you will take a hike introducing you to the amazing tropical birds of Selva Verde. The avifauna of Selva Verde is abundant, and feeding stations have been set up around the lodge to facilitate observation and identification of the many species that frequent the area. After breakfast, set out on a second nature hike through secondary and primary forest of the reserve in search of new species. As you study the forest your guide will discuss the complex details of the ecosystem and how life in the rainforest thrives. This afternoon set out on an exciting whitewater rafting trip on the Río Sarapiquí. A professional river guide escorts all trips and you will be provided all of the necessary safety equipment (helmet, life jackets, etc.). Following a thorough safety orientation and basic rafting lesson, experience the Class II and III rapids of the Río Sarapiquí. This evening take a nocturnal hike around the grounds of the lodge. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge & Rainforest Reserve. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 12 - ARENAL

After breakfast, travel to Arenal. Stop en route at Iguana Bridge to view the large number of iguanas lounging in the nearby trees, and then continue to La Fortuna for lunch. Upon arrival, take a guided hike near the base of Arenal Volcano. Your hike along the base takes you through forest, over lava flows, and finally to the destroyed areas now in the process of regeneration. After your hike, enjoy the hot springs at your hotel. *Overnight at Arenal Paraiso. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 13 - MONTEVERDE

Following breakfast, depart for Monteverde on horseback (a vehicle will be available for those not wishing to travel by horse). Monteverde's consistently cool and wet environment receives more than three meters of rain annually and is home to an astounding variety of flora and fauna. Over 2,500 plant species alone have been identified, including 300 individual orchid species and more than 200 species of ferns. After checking in, have lunch and then visit Santa Elena village. In the evening, have dinner and attend presentations. *Overnight at Montaña Monteverde. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 14 - MONTEVERDE

Early this morning enjoy a guided hike in the cloud forests of Curi-Cancha Reserve. Cloud forests occur near mountain peaks, where rain turns into a life-sustaining mist that hydrates and nourishes epiphytic plants. After lunch enjoy an adventure-filled afternoon in forest canopies negotiating the many suspension bridges and zip lines of the Monteverde Sky Walk/Sky Trek park. The Sky Walk offers a spectacular chance to view flora and fauna from an "up-in-the-branches" perspective. Complete your cloud forest exploration with Sky Trek's exhilarating zip line adventure. Following the Sky Walk, the Sky Trek is a system of platforms suspended above the ground in the midst of tree boughs. Zip lines attached from one platform to the other allow you to slide through the canopy utilizing specialized

gear. Each platform commands exceptional 360-degree views of Guanacaste, San Carlos, and Puntarenas. Have pizza for dinner at Tramonti Restaurant. *Overnight at Montaña Monteverde. (LD)*

NOVEMBER 15 - JACÓ

After breakfast, depart for Punta Leona. En route, experience the Crocodile River safari and then have lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, continue the drive to Punta Leona Resort for check-in and orientation to the property. Punta Leona Hotel is a private reserve that is considered to be one of the most important in Costa Rica's Pacific Zone due to its geographic location and conservation plan. Founded in the late 1970s, the reserve now consists of 300 hectares (750 acres) of primary and secondary forest. The reserve is of great biological interest because it is one of the few remaining forests in the transitional life zone between the dry forest of the northwest and the rainforest of the southwest. Later, have dinner and watch presentations. *Overnight at Punta Leona. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 16 - JACÓ

This morning visit Jacó beach for optional surf lessons and beach time. This afternoon you will have free time to enjoy the beach at Punta Leona. *Overnight at Punta Leona. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 17 - SAN JOSÉ

This morning after breakfast, transfer to Aguas Beach and embark on a sea outrigger canoe excursion. Paddle along the Pacific coast. Enjoy paddling, tropical fruits and fun in the ocean. Have lunch back at the hotel, and then check-out and depart to San José, stopping en route for supermarket and souvenir shopping. Late afternoon arrival to the hotel. This evening dinner at own expense at the Hard Rock Café. *Overnight at Wyndham Herradura. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 18 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the international airport in San José for your departure flight home. (B)

LAND PRICING

1,960 - 1,995 (based on group size)

Price includes accommodations, in-country transportation, entrance fees, guide, meals and activities as listed in the itinerary, all tips/gratuities, and travel insurance.

Price does not include international airfare, items of a personal nature, surf lessons, or dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe.

AIR PRICING

\$885

Round-trip from Detroit to San José, Costa Rica on United Airlines

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on triple/quad occupancy (bed sharing may be required). Double and single rooms are available at an additional cost. Airfare may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable, excluding a \$100 cancellation fee, until August 7, 2018. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than August 7, 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/ottawahillscr18

Contact Jeremy Nixon at Ottawa Hills High School or Lisa Palmese-Graubard at lisa@holbrooktravel.com / 800-451-7111 x339