



PHOTO BY THE LEAF PROJECT VIA FLICKR COMMONS

# COSTA RICA

## Spanish Language and Community Immersion

**8 DAYS** | Choose your dates

### About this trip

Immerse your students in the vibrant and welcoming culture of Costa Rica, where they'll put new language skills to use in real-world scenarios. In the capital of San José, share in the daily routines of local host families. In Turrialba, discover the connection between the region's natural resources and its indigenous history. Finally, in Sarapiquí, delve into the riches of the rainforest to observe the abundant flora and fauna, and embark on active excursions like zip lining and whitewater rafting. You'll also meet with community organizations and research institutes focused on environmental education and sustainable development.

### Your students will...

- Practice written and oral communication during daily formal and informal instruction facilitated by the Costa Rica Language Academy.
- Experience Costa Rican culture during a two-night homestay and through fun activities like dance lessons, games, and a cooking class.
- Spend the day in rural Acares, with opportunities to meet residents, visit the community church and schoolhouse, and learn about coffee production.
- Visit Guayabo National Monument, the site of an important pre-Columbian city that was mysteriously abandoned by 1400 AD.
- Plant native trees as part of a reforestation service project.

### Educational Connections



Spanish Language



Culture



Service Learning



Adventure Learning

### What's included?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

# Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## DAY 1 - SAN JOSÉ

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met and transferred to the Costa Rican Language Academy. Have lunch on arrival, and then receive an introduction to Costa Rica and orientation to your program. Afterward, enjoy a Spanish language class and an early evening Latin dance lesson. Then, meet with your homestay family and have dinner together.

*Overnight homestay. (D)*

## DAY 2 - SAN JOSÉ

This morning after breakfast, participate in traditional games and cultural activities followed by practicing Spanish. Spanish language instruction during the program will vary typically in the morning for two hours. Students will practice both written and oral language skills by reviewing grammar and vocabulary. After lunch, visit an orphanage to assist with service projects. Return to your homestay families for dinner and overnight. Spanish language instruction will be incorporated into your daily explorations throughout the program. *Overnight homestay. (BLD)*

## DAY 3 - TURRIALBA

Have breakfast at your homestay accommodations before returning to CRLA for a short class. Depart for Turrialba to the Tropical Agronomic Research and Educational Center (CATIE). CATIE is an inter-American institution for tropical agriculture dedicated to research and graduate education that would contribute to development processes. Take a guided tour of the botanical garden followed by an orientation on the establishment and objectives of CATIE. Before dinner, join your group for a presentation by a local expert. *Overnight at Guayabo Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 4 - TURRIALBA

Take an early morning nature walk around the grounds of the lodge. Have breakfast and then transfer by truck to the local Aquiares community. You will be greeted with a warm welcome at La Esperanza House by some of the residents. Have lunch at La Esperanza House, and then learn how coffee is grown and processed. A local guide will take you around the area for a stop at Ceibo lookout point then a visit to the community church and school house. Take a truck ride to the nursery, and then visit a waterfall for optional swimming. *Overnight at Guayabo Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - SARAPIQUÍ

Depart Guayabo Lodge for Sarapiquí with a visit to Guayabo National Monument en route. Built in 1000 B.C. on the southern slope of the Turrialba Volcano, Guayabo Monument was inhabited until 1400 A.C. when it was mysteriously abandoned by its residents. Your group leader will lead you through the ruins and discuss the important role Guayabo Monument played in politics and culture during the pre-Columbian era. Have lunch at a local restaurant, and then continue to Selva Verde Lodge. Conservation of the rainforest was a major reason for the establishment of the lodge, which was founded in 1985. The lodge is designed to have minimum impact on the environment. Selva Verde's extensive grounds include a 500-acre rainforest reserve. Selva Verde Lodge is proud to participate in the Certification for Sustainable Tourism program (CST). Receive an orientation to the lodge and private reserve and an introduction to the important work of the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center (SCLC). The SCLC's mission is to support conservation through educational programming and community development. The English as a Second Language program (ESL), the after school program, and the scholarship program have wide participation locally and are mostly funded by international guests via their participation in programs like this one. Next, gather around for a "charla," a presentation on local culture given by a community member in Spanish. After dinner, enjoy a guided walk around the lodge in search of nocturnal creatures. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning, participate in a reforestation project at a nearby farm. Planting native tree species allows the local people to benefit from

rainforest conservation through sustainable wood production and habitat protection for wildlife. Spanish language instruction will be incorporated into your explorations today. Return to the lodge for lunch. Afterward, enjoy a thrilling zip line canopy tour, where you will glide through tropical rainforest and over the magnificent Sarapiquí River, which you cross two times during the trip. Before starting the tour, receive a thorough safety lesson and quality gear that the guides will adjust to fit you perfectly. During the trip through the canopy, you will have time to rest, have snacks and water, and enjoy the sounds and sights of the forest. This evening, learn Latin dance moves at a class in the community center. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - SARAPIQUÍ

After breakfast, enjoy an exciting whitewater rafting trip on the Río Sarapiquí. All rafting trips include a professional river guide, the necessary safety equipment (helmet, life jackets, etc.), and a thorough lesson on rafting and safety procedures prior to your adventure. As you raft along the river, keep an eye out for the variety of wildlife in the surrounding forests. Enjoy a dip in the river along the way and some fresh fruit before returning to the lodge. For lunch, visit a local resident's home from the Sarapiquí community for a cooking class. Make and sample traditional Costa Rican foods while learning about the history and culture of the region and practicing Spanish. This afternoon, there will be time for personal reflection followed by a group exercise to share experiences. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Selva Verde Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 8 - DEPART

Depart for the airport for your flight home. (B)

## Program pricing

**\$1,655** (21 participants + 3 leaders)

**\$1,695** (14 participants + 2 leaders)

**\$1,795** (7 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

## Travel protection

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## The fine print

*Rates are based on double and triple occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations may be single or double occupancy based on availability. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable.*