



SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT BY KELLY JARVIS

COSTA RICA

Cultural Immersion & Service Learning

7 DAYS | Choose your dates

About this trip

Journey to northern Costa Rica to become fully immersed in the culture of a small rural community. Experience typical daily life during a homestay with a carefully selected local family and participate in a valuable social and environmental service project based on the area's current needs. In addition, visit villages known for their folkloric traditions and artisan work, and learn about the region's biodiversity. An optimal combination of community-based service learning, environmental and social activities, and time for reflection make this program an outstanding educational and personal growth opportunity for students of all ages.

Your students will...

- Contribute to important community-based service learning projects.
- Experience typical Costa Rican life and practice Spanish language skills during a homestay with a local family.
- Interact with community members while taking part in fun activities like a soccer game and a dance workshop.
- Take a boat safari to discover wildlife like monkeys, iguanas, and tropical birds.



PHOTO BY THE LEAF PROJECT VIA FLICKR COMMONS

Educational Connections



Spanish Language



Service Learning



Social Sciences & Culture



Natural History

What's included?

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

Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - LIBERIA-SAN LÁZARO

Upon arrival in Liberia, you will be met and transferred to the community of San Lázaro de Nicoya, where you will meet with community members and receive a program orientation as well as a general introduction to Costa Rica. Discuss the program objectives, including living in a rural community, learning about community values, cultural exchange, contributing to service projects, and experiencing the nature of Costa Rica. Take a walking tour around the community for an introduction to the nature and culture of the rural town. Then head to your homestay accommodations and get to know your host family over dinner. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (D)*

DAY 2 - SAN LÁZARO

After a typical “tico” breakfast this morning, begin with a Spanish basics and cultural integration discussion, and then spend time with the community, playing games with the local children. After lunch, start a service project based on the needs of the community. The current project list includes developing a playground, establishing a recycling center, and a variety of other projects at the local school. Spend the afternoon working on the project. This evening, take a walk with a local naturalist to observe some of the nocturnal wildlife inhabiting the area. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - SAN LÁZARO

This morning after breakfast, continue your community service project. After lunch, visit Nicoya, one of the country’s oldest colonial cities. During a walking tour, visit the colonial church and local market, where you’ll get a feel for the unique traditions of the Guanacaste province. After dinner, take part in a tropical dance workshop with local children. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - SAN LÁZARO

Begin the day with early morning bird watching. After breakfast, spend the remainder of the morning working on your service projects. This afternoon, hike to explore the nearby tropical dry forest, and then enjoy a soccer game with the community. In the evening, you will have time to chat with your host families about the activities of the day. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - SAN LÁZARO

After breakfast with your homestay family, set off on a visit to explore two natural treasures in Guanacaste: the Cipancí National Wildlife Refuge and Palo Verde National Park. Take a boat safari to discover wildlife like monkeys, iguanas, herons, and other bird species. After a boxed lunch, continue to Guatil, an artisan community. Here, culture is expressed through traditional pottery, the heritage of the Chorotegas, the original inhabitants of Guanacaste. Before returning to San Lázaro, visit Santa Cruz, a folkloric village. After dinner this evening, continue to enjoy the company of your host families. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - SAN LÁZARO

This morning, finish up your community service projects. After lunch, gather for a group discussion to share what you have learned and reflect upon the impact of your hard work. This afternoon, have some free time to interact with your new friends before an evening farewell party with the community. *Overnight homestay with Costa Rican host family. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - DEPART

This morning, travel to the airport in Liberia for your flight back to the U.S. (B)

Program pricing

\$1,095 (21 participants + 3 leaders)

\$1,250 (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, travel insurance, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2022.



The fine print

Rates are based on triple and quadruple 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.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe