Education Abroad Resources: Costa Rica

Whether you have browsed the IDEA website or just know you would like to have an abroad experience in Costa Rica, you should be aware that there are many options. To help you narrow down your search, set goals and ask yourself what you want out of your abroad experience in Costa Rica. Doing a bit of background research to narrow down the number of programs you’re interested in will not only help your advisor but will make you feel much more prepared and less overwhelmed. Below are several tools to help you explore programs and the many wonderful cities in Costa Rica!

1) Research your program options

   Study Abroad Program Website: [http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/students](http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/students)
   International Internship Website: [http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/internships](http://oregonstate.edu/international/studyabroad/internships)

2) Define your goals and ask yourself what you want out of the experience

   - Are you looking to learn Spanish while abroad and to what extent? Do you meet the language (also GPA, coursework, etc) prerequisites for the program?
   - In what language do you want your classes taught in (some programs offer Spanish and English options)?
   - Who do you want to take your classes with? Host-country students, US or international students, or a mix?
   - What do you prefer for housing: dorm-room, apt, home-stay, etc?
   - Do you feel more comfortable in an urban/large city or a smaller town (Heredia has a much more rural feel than San Jose)?
   - Do you want to attend another university or a field station? (The SFS program takes place at a research station).
   - How LONG do you want to go? (Not all programs are offered every term or for a full year – OSU: Costa Rica is offered during summer only).
   - Do you want to travel during your program?
   - Do you have a region of Costa Rica in mind (e.g. do you want to be near the ocean, mountains (Arenal volcano), or in a certain climate)?

3) Research the country and program locations

General Information

   - Site Directory: [www.costaricainternetdirectory.com](http://www.costaricainternetdirectory.com)
   - Lonely Planet: [www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/cam/costa.htm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/cam/costa.htm)

News Resources

   - [http://www.ticotimes.net/](http://www.ticotimes.net/)
   - [http://thecostaricanews.com/category/costa-rica-headlines](http://thecostaricanews.com/category/costa-rica-headlines)
San Jose


San Joaquin de Flores

- General Information: http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g1484845-San_Joaquin_de_Flores_Province_of_Heredia-Vacations.html

Monteverde

- Official Website: http://www.monteverdeinfo.com/
- An intro to the biology side of Monteverde: http://www.canopyintheclouds.com/home

Heredia


Corcovado

- National Park: http://www.corcovadoguide.com/

Manuel Antonio


Braulio Carrillo


Arenal

- Basic Information and Tourism: http://costarica.com/arenal/