



Service Learning Trip Costa Rica



College students are invited to join SEE Turtles and EcoTeach for a 12 day sea turtle volunteer trip to Costa Rica. On this trip, we will spend 8 nights working with two sea turtle conservation organizations working to protect leatherback nesting beaches along the Caribbean coast. Our nights will be spent patrolling the beach with researchers and days will be free to explore the jungle, play volleyball or soccer with locals, or hang out with volunteers from around the world. During this time of year, there is a good opportunity to see and work with hatchlings! This trip will be led by award-winning young conservationist Zander Srodes along with an experienced Costa Rican guide.

Price: \$1,595 pp land. Includes two guides, transportation, meals, activities, and a donation to turtle conservation.

Dates: June 10 – 21, 2010

Day 1 – Arrival to the Central Valley

Our guides and bus will pick you up from the airport and take you to our comfortable hotel in a country setting to get acquainted with your guides and get a restful night's sleep before an early start.

Days 2 – 5: Gandoca Sea Turtle Conservation Project

After breakfast, board your group's private bus where you will head to the South Caribbean coast. Along the way, you will stop for lunch at a wonderful butterfly farm. In Gandoca, you will spend two nights at one of the country's most important leatherback sea turtle nesting beaches. Your group will help monitor the beach, looking for nesting turtles, helping to collect data on giant leatherback or green turtles, and transplanting eggs to a protected hatchery.

During the day, your group can sleep in, hike in the rainforest, or relax on the beach. There will also be volunteer activities, including helping to clean the beach, building the hatchery, or releasing hatchlings (depending on timing).



www.seeturtles.org





Highlights:

- 8 nights working with turtles and hatchlings
- Hike the rainforest
- Visit an indigenous reserve
- Rafting and ziplines

Day 6: Cahuita

After breakfast, we will head to the laid back surfing town of Cahuita. We will have a picnic lunch on one of the country's most beautiful beaches, enjoy the warm water, and explore the park's trails. Later on, we will visit the Kekoldi Indigenous Reserve where we will learn where chocolate comes from and about their work to protect iguanas.

Days 7 - 10: Parismina

Today, our bus will take us north to catch a boat to Parismina, a small coastal community along the northern Caribbean coast. Once we arrive, we will have free time to walk around town before dinner and a presentation by Save the Turtles of Parismina (ASTOP in Spanish). Tonight, our group will patrol this leatherback nesting beach, helping researchers collect data and protect the eggs. We will be staying for the next four nights at the Carefree Ranch, a simple and clean hotel.

Day 11: Return to the Central Valley

Today, our bus will take us north to catch a boat to Parismina, a small coastal community along the northern Caribbean coast. Once we arrive, we will have free time to walk around town before dinner and a presentation by Save the Turtles of Parismina (ASTOP in Spanish). Tonight, our group will patrol this leatherback nesting beach, helping researchers collect data and protect the eggs. We will be staying for the next four nights at the Carefree Ranch, a simple and clean hotel.

Day 12: Departure

We'll return home with a new appreciation for the hard work of conservation and to share our experiences with our friends and family.

SEE Turtles

The goal of SEE Turtles is to connect travelers with sea turtle conservation sites that will most benefit from the visit and provide an authentic wildlife-viewing experience. SEE Turtles does this by working with leading tour operators to offer unforgettable experiences that directly benefit sea turtles. SEE Turtles works with companies that have proven high quality service to organize tours and logistics, resulting in the most enjoyable experience possible. Every trip taken through SEE Turtles generates donations for sea turtle conservation.

EcoTeach

EcoTeach is dedicated to providing travel experiences that combine education with conservation, and recreation with cultural awareness. Since 1994, more than 5,000 students have traveled with EcoTeach to experience the culture and natural wonders of Costa Rica. From the personal care you'll receive from our staff, to the hospitality you'll enjoy with our Costa Rican staff and friends, and to the warm friendships you'll develop with our guides and bus drivers – you'll sense a special kinship based on a strong commitment to the ideals of cultural exchange and ecological conservation. www.ecoteach.com

For more information:

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