



COSTA RICA

March 2020

WWW.BEYONDTHEMAP.ORG



COSTA RICA

student immersion

Document prepared by: Cody Bliss



GENERAL TRIP INFO



Group: Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Group Coordinator: Tammy Orilio

BTM Trip Coordinator: Cody Bliss

Participants: Min:8/Max:20

Trip Length: 6 nights/7 days

Trip Dates: June 3-9, 2020

Cost: *Price breakdown below*





ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1: Fly to San Jose, Costa Rica. Visit eco-lodge & farm. Introductions and orientation.

Day 2: Backpack to a remote village. Hike to a cave, swim in the river and cultural immersion homestay.

Day 3: Backpack to another homestay, make homemade chocolate, participate in an indigenous sauna ritual, tree climb and explore the rainforest.

Day 4: Whitewater raft and learn the importance of this river to the environment and local communities. Explore the Pacific Coastline.

Day 5: Hike to a hidden waterfall, waterfall swim and exploration, rappel and cave camping.

Day 6: Journey to the central highlands to stay at an eco-lodge and farm for your final night.

Day 7: Depart from San Jose.

ITINERARY



Day 1: Welcome to Costa Rica!

Hola amigos and welcome to Costa Rica! Arrive at Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose where our private transportation and Beyond the Map guide will be waiting for you. Our journey begins immediately as we point our compass south towards the highest point in the country and over the Cerro de la Muerte, or "The Mountain of Death." Along the way, we will stop at a local soda (equivalent to a diner) for lunch. Today will primarily be a travel day to set us up for the adventures ahead! Our first dinner will be followed by a brief orientation. Relax, you've made it!

Day 2: Living Pura Vida

Today we set out to reach a local village that is quite literally off the map! This town is tucked away in the rainforest and can only be reached on foot. Once we arrive we will stay with a local family where we will experience the everyday lifestyle of Costa Ricans. Spend the morning learning traditional cooking methods and sustainable farming practices alongside our host family. An afternoon trek will lead us along the mountainside and deep into the rainforest before reaching a remote cave system. Channel your inner explorer as we discover the unique formations and wildlife hidden in this seldom-seen underground world. Spend the evening sharing stories with the local community before falling asleep to the sounds of the jungle.

Day 3: An Authentic Costa Rica

Wake up to the smell of a freshly made breakfast and local coffee waiting for you in the kitchen. After breakfast, we will continue our journey to the next local homestay. Traverse rapids to reach an eco-lodge that is perched high above the river. Spend the afternoon scaling towering trees using a climbing and rope system and then partake in a traditional indigenous sauna and river ceremony. Spend the evening drifting into relaxation on the open air, covered deck while listening to the river flowing below.

A high-angle, top-down photograph of a person rappelling down a rope. The person is wearing a blue helmet, a black tank top, and a climbing harness. They are positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame, looking down. The background is a dense, vibrant green forest with a rocky riverbed and a small stream visible on the left side. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and outdoor recreation.

LIVE LIKE THE LOCALS

Day 4: Jungle Rapids

Rain and water are the fuel for life in Costa Rica. Around each corner, waterfalls seep from the Earth and rivers carve their way through the jungle, shaping the valleys and coastal plains of Costa Rica. Today you will hop aboard a raft (or inflatable kayak for the adventurous bunch) and navigate down class III-IV whitewater rapids. Twist and turn along this remote stretch of river while gaining a true understanding of their importance to the local communities and also their raw power and ever-changing features. Along the way, stop for a lunch with a view and enjoy a refreshing dip beneath a nearby waterfall. Finish the day on the edge of the Pacific Ocean watching the sunset during dinner.

Day 5: Waterfall Wonderland

Today we embark on an adventure of a lifetime! A 2-3 hour hike will lead us to our own hidden oasis for the evening. With our overnight bag in hand, we will set out on this nearly vertical climb through the jungle, but not to worry, we have had everyone from the fittest athletes to the older, adventurous souls on this journey! Along the way, search for playful monkeys in the canopy and explore undiscovered taste buds when we stop to experience exotic fruits and herbs at the high-altitude garden midway. The final stretch of the trail will guide us to a view that will have you questioning if you are in Costa Rica or a made-for-Hollywood film set! Continue on behind a series of towering waterfalls and into the cave that we will be calling home for the night. The cave is outfitted with sleeping pads, a kitchen designed for royalty and fully functioning bathrooms. This evening we will watch the sunset over the Pacific Ocean from atop a 120 ft waterfall. Finish the evening dining by candlelight, enjoying a campfire overlooking the jungle and falling asleep to the soothing sounds of the waterfall steps away from our sleeping quarters.



DISCOVER PRISTINE NATURE

Day 6: Highland Homestay

This morning we will take a short hike to a series of smaller waterfalls where you will have the chance to take the plunge from the top of a 30 ft waterfall or simply swim beneath. On the way back, we will skip the trail and instead pull on a harness, rope up and step backward to rappel off the 100 ft waterfall that we slept behind the night before. Before touching the ground, free hang for a few moments to take in the overwhelming beauty of the surrounding area and this seldom seen view. After lunch, we'll pack our belongings and begin the hike back to civilization. We will spend the remainder of the day in the paramo highlands learning the lifestyle of a local family on their organic farm and sustainable eco-lodge. Reminisce about the adventures from the days gone by, tonight is our final night in Costa Rica.

Day 7: The End of the Journey

Today we travel up the coast back to the airport. Along the way, we stop for lunch and souvenirs before heading home.

**Itinerary is subject to change under certain circumstances*



TERMS & CONDITIONS



Price Includes

All expenses outlined in itinerary, including:

- Pre-Trip Research, Planning & Logistics
- Accommodations (double occupancy)
- Private In-Country Transportation
- Roundtrip Airfare (from FLL)
- One Complimentary Teacher/Chaperone (1:10)
- Activity & Entrance Fees, Permits and Associated Tips
- All Meals, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinners
- Personal 24/7 BTM Trip Director
- BTM Local Guides (CPR/Lifeguard/First Aid certified)
- Student Travel Insurance
- Departure Tax
- Personalized Trip Webpage
- Catching the sunset over the Pacific Ocean!!

Price Does Not Include

Expenses of personal nature during international travel or during the trip including alcohol, additional snacks and souvenirs.

Participant Abilities

Fitness level: moderate and will be required to walk moderate distances on several occasions with a few activities that require strenuous up-hill hiking and a good sense of adventure! Participants should feel comfortable in water. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

PAYMENT DETAILS



Trip Cost:

\$2450 per student (*standard rate*)

\$2350 per student (*early bird rate: by Oct 1, 2019*)

\$1850 per additional teacher/chaperone

Deposits:

A \$400 deposit per person is due no later than Dec 1, 2019.

Spots are limited and first come first serve. A monthly payment plan will be scheduled once the trip is reserved.

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions approved in the contract.

Authorized Trip Coordinator:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Beyond the Map Trip Representative:

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TODAY!

Email: info@beyondthemap.org

Ph 1: 724-757-6474

Ph 2: 954-772-7800

Follow Us @beyondthemaptravel



BEYONDTHEMAP.ORG

Details & Policies

Trip Cancellations:

The trip coordinator agrees to notify Beyond The Map (BTM) with written notice of trip cancellation **90** days prior to the trip date. Complete trip cancellations less than 90 days prior to the trip date will be charged the remaining balance of the trip. Any deposits paid prior to the cancellation are non-refundable.

Refunds For Individuals:

- 100% full refund (Now-1/1/2020)
- 50% refund of any deposits made to date (1/2-4/3/2020)
- 25% of any deposits made to date (4/3-5/3/2020)
- No refunds are provided within 30 days of the trip. Students will be provided will travel insurance that can be used for partial trip refund in an event of trip cancellations or emergencies. For more information on the travel insurance please visit: <https://bit.ly/31KqpG1>

Deposits

Initial deposit is based on the contracted minimum and is required to secure trip dates. **Please see above refund schedule.** A custom payment schedule will be determined by BTM and the group leader and listed in the contract. If the deposit is not received by the due date noted in the contract, the trip dates will be released and the contract will be voided.

Weather & Uncontrollable Events:

Many of our trips run regardless of the weather conditions; however, in the event of an extreme weather event or safety concern, BTM will determine if the trip cannot proceed. If this were to occur, the trip would be rescheduled and no refunds will be issued.

Release Forms & Other Documents:

In many instances, release forms and other documents are required prior to the trip. BTM will be sure to provide ample time for delivery and return of these documents to each traveler. In the event that a traveler does not return the documents in the allotted amount of time, there is a chance that he/she may be denied access to an activity or experience.

Details & Policies

Dietary Restrictions:

Various BTM trips require prior meal planning for the group. BTM will be sure to provide ample time to request special dietary needs or restrictions prior to the trip. In the event that the traveler has failed to respond in the allotted amount of time, there is a chance that he/she will not have the appropriate rations during the trip and will be responsible for supplying their own if need be.

Accommodations:

Most BTM trips require prior planning to determine room configurations. BTM will be sure to provide ample time to request special room configurations prior to the trip. In the event that the traveler(s) have failed to respond in the allotted amount of time, there is a chance that he/she will not be given the appropriate room configurations requested and will be responsible for any changes that may be necessary.

Cut-Off Date:

The minimum number of participants must be reached by the date in the contract. If the school has not reached the contracted minimum number of participants by the cut-off date, BTM will release the respective trip date(s).

Roster:

Must be received **30** days prior to the trip. If the trip has exceeded the contracted minimum, an updated invoice will be provided.

Contracted Minimum and Maximum Participants:

The price is based on a minimum and maximum number of participants. The minimum number of participants must be reached by the contracted cut-off date in order for the trip to occur. The final cost of the trip is subject to change if it falls below the contracted minimum or above the maximum number of participants.

Please Make Checks Payable to:

Beyond the Map

3440 NE 12th Avenue

Oakland Park, FL 33334