

Insider's Costa Rica

Mar 24 - Apr 1, 2017

Group Leader:

Amanda Norkoli

Group ID:

238361

Depart From:

Chicago



what's included



Round-Trip Flights



Daily Breakfast and Dinner
(unless otherwise noted)



Centrally Located Hotels



24-Hour Tour Manager

- ✓ Craft Workshop in Sarchí
- ✓ Visit with Local Students in San Carlos
- ✓ Río Frío Wildlife Boat Cruise
- ✓ Horseback Riding
- ✓ Monteverde Canopy Tour and Hanging Bridges
- ✓ Manuel Antonio National Park
- ✓ Costa Rican Cooking Lesson
- ✓ Costa Rican Dance Lesson

cultural connections



HIGHLIGHTS waiting to happen

Craft Workshop in Sarchí

Tap into the traditional skills and techniques employed by local artisans as you create your own piece.

Visit with Local Students in San Carlos

Compare a typical Costa Rican and American school day with students at a local school.

Costa Rican Cooking Lesson

Master the ingredients and preparation for a traditional Costa Rican dish before sampling the results!

Horseback Ride to Monteverde

Travel as the native populations would, by horseback, from the Arenal region up toward the cloud forest of Monteverde.

Monteverde Canopy Tour and Hanging Bridges

Gain a bird's-eye perspective on the cloud forest as you explore via thrilling zip-lines, hanging bridges and platforms.

Costa Rican Dance Lesson

Learn the steps of traditional Costa Rican dances, then show off your new moves on the dance floor.



trip itinerary - 9 days

Mar 24, 2017: San Jose

Depart from the USA. Arrive in the Costa Rican capital of San José, meet your ACIS Tour Manager and get out to explore this vibrant and bustling city full of Spanish colonial architecture and the friendliest people you may ever meet.

Mar 25, 2017: San Carlos

Journey to Sarchí, the hub of Costa Rica's arts and crafts trade, known for its ox-carts and leather rocking chairs. You'll participate in a craft workshop, learning about the history and the methods of creating this brightly colored furniture before painting your own small souvenir to take home. Then continue to the San Carlos region in the shadow of the Arenal Volcano. In the afternoon visit a local school to practice your Spanish with the students, discovering the similarities and differences between their typical school day and yours at home. This evening view the Arenal Volcano, among the most active volcanoes in the world. On a clear night it may be possible to see the orange glow of lava flowing. (B,D)

Mar 26, 2017: San Carlos

Today travel north to the Río Frío. Enjoy a boat trip on the calm river while you share company with exotic creatures such as osprey, storks, caimans, monkeys and freshwater sharks. Lunch will be included today on the excursion instead of dinner. Return to San Carlos for the evening. (B,L)

Mar 27, 2017: Monteverde

This morning is something truly special: from the Arenal area along the shores of Lake Arenal toward the lush cloud forest of Monteverde. Your bags will travel by bus and will meet you in Monteverde. If you choose not to ride, you may travel on the touring bus. Arrive at your destination with a new understanding of how the local native populations traveled and a deep appreciation of just how spectacularly beautiful Costa Rica can be. (B,D)

Mar 28, 2017: Monteverde

Today explore this important and fascinating cloud forest. Originally settled in the 1950s by a group of Quakers from Alabama, Monteverde Cloud Forest is home to more than 400 species of birds, 100 species of mammals and 2,500 species of plants including the jaguar, ocelot, Baird's tapir, three-wattled bellbird, bare-necked umbrellabird, and the famously elusive resplendent quetzal. Get ready for a different perspective on the forest, as this afternoon you will swing far above the forest floor on the world famous Monteverde Canopy Tour. You will have views from a series of platforms, suspension bridges and thrilling zip-lines. In the afternoon, you're back on solid ground with more earthly delights: a Costa Rican cooking lesson. Learn about the ingredients and techniques used in traditional meals before joining together to prepare a sample dish. (B,D)



Mar 29, 2017: Puntarenas

Observe the shift in landscape as you travel from the mountainous inland cloud forest to the beaches and Pacific breezes of Puntarenas on the Golfo de Nicoya. This area draws visitors from around the world, and, once you see the curving coastline dotted with bays and islands, you will understand why. Enjoy time to relax on the beach and settle in to your new neighborhood. (B,D)

Mar 30, 2017: Puntarenas

Although you may not want to leave, this morning's excursion to Manuel Antonio National Park brings you to one of the most stunning parks in Costa Rica. A series of small beaches with lush forests and well-maintained trails are yours to discover for the day. Explore the park and its wildlife (Capuchin monkeys play in trees just behind the beach) before returning to Puntarenas for the evening. (B,D)

Mar 31, 2017: San Jose

Say adiós to the coast and drive through lush vegetation back to San José. Celebrate the Tico culture of music and movement during a Costa Rican dance lesson with a local expert—a festive and fun way to spend your last night in this beautiful country. (B,D)

Apr 1, 2017: Departure

Depart for the USA. Optional Extensions and Extra Nights: Further immerse yourself in the culture and wonders of Costa Rica with an extra night in San José, including the services of your ACIS Tour Manager, at the beginning or end of your tour. (B)



learning objectives

1. Students will experience part of a traditional school day for a Costa Rican student and will be able to compare and contrast it with the school system in the United States.
2. Students will explore and discover the rich and diverse topography of Costa Rica's lush rainforests, volcanic mountains and sparkling Pacific waters.
3. In experiencing the rich biodiversity of Costa Rica, students will come to understand the value and importance of preserving endangered species.

tour cost

Participant Fees

Program Fee	\$3051
Early Registration Discount	\$-100
Weekend Surcharge	\$80

Total Participant Fees ²	\$3031
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² Valid through 12/01/16 with \$495 deposit.

Additional Fees (as applicable)	
Single Room Supplement	\$760
Double Room Supplement	\$360
Ultimate Protection Plan	\$270
Comprehensive Protection Plan	\$225

notes from acis

- Save \$50 off your Total Participant Fees if you pay for your trip by E-Check or through our Automatic Payments Plan.
- All registered participants can enjoy the convenience, security and savings of having payments automatically withdrawn from a checking account by enrolling in an Automatic Payments plan. To learn more, visit www.acis.com/autopay
- Adult travelers age 24 and older should add in the Adult Surcharge and Double or Single Room Supplement to calculate their Total Participant Fees.
- This educational travel program is not school or district sponsored unless expressly stated by the Group Leader.

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Travel Changes Lives

To learn more, we invite you to read our free ebook, "The Making of a Five-Star Future."
<http://pages.acis.com/ebook>



Can travel make a difference in students' futures? It certainly can and does every single day. In fact, we surveyed 930 former ACIS travelers to see how their tours abroad as young adults influenced their choices in education and paved a way for future careers. Many of them credit travel as a defining moment in their adolescence, and below is a recap of our findings.

education



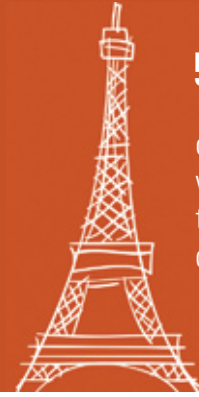
81%

of those that traveled in middle school or high school continued their studies at the college level compared to the national average of 68%



37%

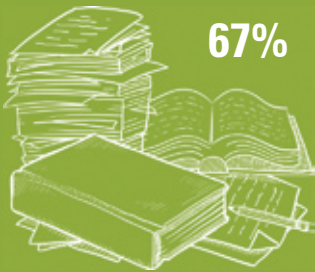
of travelers, who went on to college said their travel experience influenced their field of study.



57%

of respondents were motivated to study abroad during college.

language skills



67%

of students continued to study foreign language in college.



73%

of ACIS travelers say they speak one foreign language fairly well compared with 18% of the American population.



personal development



94%

felt more independent after their trip.

78%

saw an increase in their problem solving skills.

92%

noted improvement in their interpersonal skills.



65%

have traveled overseas again since their ACIS trip.

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