

Information for Costa Rica Trip

Location

Situated in Central America, Costa Rica is a small and peaceful country with many unique characteristics. It is an ecological bridge for thousands of species and plant varieties from North and South America. Costa Rica shelters within its valleys, plains and mountains a valuable part of the natural richness of the world: 200 species of mammals, 849 species of birds, 160 species of amphibians, 218 species of reptiles and 9,000 species of plants. The vast system of national parks encompasses both beautiful beaches and tropical rain forests.

The language school is located in San Pedro, close to the University of Costa Rica, and only fifteen minutes by bus from downtown San Jose. It is in a quiet, residential area; however, the proximity to the university makes a variety of restaurants and shops easily accessible. Within the school itself are tropical gardens, terraces, a library, a computer room (with Internet), as well as private study areas.

Language program

Classroom instruction is five days/week, four and a half hours/day and geared to the abilities and needs of each student. Upon arrival, students are assessed and placed in classes depending on their level of language skill, from beginner to advanced. Classes are small, no more than three other students. This assures active participation in an atmosphere which is stimulating, supportive and fun. Language instruction is followed by afternoon lectures, community service, cultural activities or field trips.

Living arrangements

Students are placed with Costa Rican families. An integral part of the program, the home-stay experience facilitates language learning and active participation in the culture and society of Costa Rica. Our host families provide private rooms, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Family placements are supervised by a housing coordinator who makes every effort to match the needs of the student with those of the host family. The home-stay is strongly recommended but information on alternative accommodations can be provided upon request.

How to enroll

Complete an application (it can be found online at: https://www.bu.edu/ssw/coned/2006summer-fall/workshop_application.html A \$100 application fee applies.). Space is limited so complete your application early. The complete tuition is due prior to departure. A payment schedule will be mailed to you once we have received your application.

Airline reservations should be made early and arrival date should be the day before class begins (Sunday). Students will be picked-up at the airport in San Jose. There will be an orientation session held in Boston 3-4 weeks prior to departure. You can also use EXITO Latin American Travel Specialists (800) 665-4053.

Additional Information

Contact Boston University, Professional Education Programs at 617-353-3756 or e-mail: pepssw@bu.edu. Trip leader Rick Cresta may also be contacted at rickcresta@aim.com

General Q&As

Is there a deadline to apply?

Applications will be considered on a space available basis until February 15, 2007.

I am not a social worker, may I attend?

Definitely! Many of our past participants come from a wide-range of fields and backgrounds.

I have submitted my application, now what?

Upon acceptance, you will receive a letter in the mail, information forms to fill-out and return, an in-depth packet of information on Costa Rica, and payment deadlines. We require a \$500 deposit by December 1, 2006 to hold your place on the trip upon acceptance. The remaining balance is due by February 1, 2007.

Do I need immunizations to go?

No immunizations are required to enter Costa Rica, however, the information packet you will receive details some recommended immunizations such as tetanus.

Do I need a passport and visa?

Yes, you need a passport. If you do not have a valid passport, you should begin your paperwork now to avoid delays. U.S. citizens do not need a visa if they are staying for less than 90 days.