



COSTA RICA

SPANISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION

25 Days
 Spanish language, community service & adventure program

YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST 2 YEARS PRIOR SPANISH FOR THIS PROGRAM. FOR PROGRAMS OPEN TO STUDENTS WITH NO PREVIOUS SPANISH, PLEASE SEE ALL OTHER TRIPS IN COSTA RICA OR SPAIN.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

- Program is run in Spanish
- Interact with local communities

SERVICE PARTNERS

Everybody participates together in each project.

- Hogar Ama Orphanage
- Zarcero School

ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Rafting Naranjo River
- Waterfall Rappelling
- Zip-line Rainforest Adventure
- Hot Springs
- Pacific Surfing Playa Uvita
- Cooking, Kayaking, Snorkelling

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ALL THINGS COSTA RICA!

Bargain in Spanish at a local market. Hike through lush rainforests and learn to surf the Pacific Ocean. Take part in a spiritual ceremony with a trained shaman. Get ready for the summer of a lifetime!

If you'd like to experience the Costa Rica that many travellers don't see, then this trip is for you. We move beyond the large resort areas and spend most of our time off the beaten path in small villages. While there is no formal class setting, the welcoming villages become our classroom as we integrate ourselves into the communities we visit through various projects. Surrounded by the language, you enjoy the opportunity to practice your Spanish in everyday settings – a true immersion experience.

Your commitment to speaking Spanish with your trip mates and leaders, along with our collaboration with local villagers on community projects, ensures your language skills improve on this in-depth look at Costa Rica. Return home with incredible new friends, an expanded Spanish vocabulary and broadened horizons from all we have experienced together.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 3 nights rustic rainforest cabins
- Modest hotels

CERTIFICATES

- Completion of language immersion component
- 35 hours community service

Specific projects are confirmed in late spring and are similar to those described.

OPTIONAL COLLEGE CREDIT

The community service aspect of this program may be completed for an option of 3 University credits. Optional credits have a fee of \$550 and are transferable to many Colleges and Universities. This decision is ultimately made by the school you attend.

GOOD TO KNOW...

- Price includes all lodging, 3 meals daily, activities, gratuities & taxes.
- This program requires an open mind and the desire to experience a different culture, new foods and modest hotels. Embrace these differences and you will be rewarded!

FONSECA FAMILY RAINFOREST LODGE

Travel by four wheel drive to El Brujo to begin our exhilarating hike into the beautiful and rustic rainforest. Trek across a suspension bridge, past scenic waterfalls and guava trees, and among the amazing sounds of toucans and other unique wildlife in the distance. We are greeted (in Spanish of course) by the Fonseca family, our hosts for three amazing days.

We stay in our own private cabins and experience the true "tico" lifestyle. Embark on a medicinal plant walk and partake in a traditional spiritual ceremony with Alvino Fonseca, a trained shaman of the Cabecar tribe. Rappel a 60-foot waterfall, make chocolate from cacao seeds, climb a 60-foot tree and zip-line over the surrounding forest! Fall asleep each night to the soothing sound of a waterfall. By eating our meals and participating in day-to-day activities with the FONSECAS, we improve our Spanish and our appreciation for Costa Rican culture.

GET TO KNOW THE LOCALS IN SAN GERARDO

After settling into our cozy lodge on the bank of the Sevegre River, our community hosts show us how they farm the delicious fruit for which Costa Rica is famous. We challenge them to a game of soccer (or 'fútbol') and put our Spanish skills to good use as we organize local kids in recreational games. We gather with them for a farewell bonfire where we learn to play native instruments and hear village stories passed through the generations.

HOGAR AMA ORPHANAGE PROJECT - SAN RAMON

This small town will be our home as we engage in a meaningful service project. Get to know the children of the Hogar Ama Orphanage and plan and perform a play with them. Help build a much-needed playground for the children to enjoy. Learn to salsa. At the end of our stay, receive recognition from the local government and feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment after our days of hard work.

PACIFIC SURFING - PLAYA UVITA & DOMINICAL

¡Bienvenidos a la playa! The pristine beach town of Uvita is the site of our incredible 2-day surf school. Professional guides cover all aspects of surf safety and technique, and quickly have you riding the waves with confidence!

Enjoy kayaking lessons, chilling on the beach, practicing your surfing, learning about the local culture and environment, and exploring the resort town of Dominical.

MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK

Immaculate beaches, amazing rainforest, and abundant opportunity for adventure activities have made this the most visited National Park in the country. Snorkel, surf, browse the local shops and take a guided hike. Whitewater raft the incredible Naranjo River, surrounded by impressive views of the rainforest.

IMMERSION & COMMUNITY PROJECT - ZARCERO

In the village of Zarcero, lend a hand at the local school and enjoy a truly special community project where the villagers become our friends in this small town. Interview local leaders, children and teachers – all in Spanish of course! Uncover facts about Costa Rica that some of them may not even know! You will get to know the unique flavor of this town, and by the end of our four days, you will have a great understanding of what typical, rural life in Costa Rica is really like. On our final night in town, we host a party for the villagers to present our unique take on their community. Use your own creativity – through photos and skits – to share your findings with our new extended family. We will be sad to leave but will take with us an amazing experience and undoubtedly many new friends.

ARENAL VOLCANO & LA FORTUNA

Enjoy two amazing days in the park that is home to Costa Rica's most active volcano! Of course we keep a safe distance as we dine at the Observatory Lodge, watching avalanches of lava cascade over the volcano. Learn about volcanology from a local specialist and relax in thermal hot springs. Zip-line over surrounding forests and waterfalls on a canopy adventure covering 1.5 miles – a once in a lifetime thrill! Look back with pride as we realize we have not only moved outside the classroom, but outside our own comfort zone and truly embraced "La Pura Vida".

