

COR 275: COSTA RICA

JANUARY 2020

Kim Bowen

The small country of Costa Rica is an oasis of tranquility, democracy and education. The oldest democracy in Latin America enjoys an international reputation for its friendly people and the outstanding beauty of its diverse environment and wildlife. Scientists have estimated that close to 4 percent of the Earth's species live in Costa Rica. Explore the wonders of a cloud forest, search for the rare quetzal bird, and learn about the rain forest up close as you become knowledgeable in bio-diversity. Meet indigenous Native Americans to become aware of their unique culture. Costa Ricans call themselves "Ticos." You will get to know the gracious Ticos through family stays in a small mountain community.

EDUCATION Visit a language school and possibly take a university tour. Interact with university students about higher education, allowing students to compare and contrast cultural and academic expectations.

FAMILY Students will enjoy a home stay immersion with the coffee farmers. The stay will include meals, family activities, church, and possibly special family gatherings. Students will live life with the hospitable Costa Ricans and may pick coffee.

GOVERNMENT Visit a national monument for a Costa Rican who worked for and achieved civil rights for all Costa Rican minorities. Tour the nation's capital and historic sites. Dialogue with a former press secretary for a Costa Rican president.

No cost* for those with full CCS benefit
\$1,400* for those with half CCS benefit
\$2,800* for those with no CCS benefit

RELIGION There are several opportunities to meet missionaries in their service areas. Students will examine the role of Catholicism, the official national religion of Costa Ricans.

ECONOMICS Experience the market in San Jose where bartering and negotiating are the principal methods of exchange. Speak with the farmers and learn about local agricultural cooperatives including the cooperative for the exportation of coffee.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS MAY INCLUDE:

- View an active volcano. Costa Rica has some of the largest geyser-type craters in the world.
- Interact with children of poverty in a Nicaraguan barrio project.
- Meet with the Nicaraguan vice-consul to Costa Rica to hear about immigrants in Costa Rica. She will share her personal story of the tragic conflicts in Nicaragua.
- Visit with indigenous Native Americans in their isolated mountain community. They perform the Danza de Diablitos and display their beautiful art and crafts.
- Enjoy a trip to Manuel Antonio National Park to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat and experience beautiful beaches.
- Experience the modern bustling capital city of San Jose. Visit its Plaza de Cultura and museums of historical artifacts.

DEPARTURE DATES January 2020 experiences may begin sometime during the last week of December 2019 and last 19-23 days. Students should not make irreversible plans until their departure date is confirmed by the CCS office in early Fall 2019.

This experience, like all CCS experiences, is subject to political and safety realities at the time of departure. CCS options can be physically and emotionally intense and stretching. Before enrolling, all participants should consult the disclosures on Physical Hardships of CCS.

Passport and immunizations required (both at additional cost).



"Thanks for a special program, you made my cross cultural a positive experience that I will remember forever!"

Chris Triplett

"This is a wonderful program and a great opportunity to experience Latin American culture!"

Robert Corser

"Get to know unique people with stories and lives very different than your own. Partake in Central American culture and the Pura Vida lifestyle. Do life with a family in a rural, mountainous, coffee growing community called San Cristóbal Norte. Explore rain-forests filled with rivers, waterfalls, and incredible plant and animal life. Deepen your faith in God as you talk to and worship with believers who see God's handiwork in everything around them."

Caleb Shotts

"Being in Costa Rica and getting a personal look at what the poor and underserved live like reminds me that my college career is for them and for God and not just myself. I also feel more motivated to be committed in my undergraduate (and hopefully graduate) work because I will someday have the opportunity to serve others, so I should work to the best of my ability."

Brooke Nanna

"Understanding the impact my ignorance can have has shown me the importance of being informed, not only of issues within my state and country, but in relation to the world as a whole. It is not safe to try and help change the world without understanding the issues at stake. I no longer believe that I can be of any help to the world without being first educated and informed about those issues in which I may unwittingly involve myself. This is not a change that can take place quickly, but it is an important one to be aware of so that I can now take action to change it."

Brooke Cooper

*CCS program costs do not include: tuition, passport, immunizations, or the \$150 study abroad fee. The study abroad fee provides the basic international ID, insurance, travel photos and support services.