

Costa Rica Jungle Teaching

Teach English and support local community projects whilst fully immersing yourself in the lives and colourful culture of Costa Rica's friendly, welcoming people.

Located in Central America, Costa Rica is nestled between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean and is home to over 500,000 different species of animals, giving it the highest species density of any country in the world. Over 50% of species found in the country call the Osa Peninsula home, meaning this project is located in the most biodiverse region of one of the most biodiverse countries on the globe – truly a hotspot within a hotspot! Due to the remote location, there is a lack of resources for teaching and learning English and this is a good opportunity for you to step in and help the jungle community!

The camp itself is based amongst dense tropical forest on the edge of Corcovado National Park, close to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Teaching volunteers will stay on the same camp as research volunteers who live and work with other enthusiastic and energetic conservationists, working together to carry out critical surveys and data collection activities. As a Teaching volunteer, you will support a small primary school which is located very close to our camp. You will be offering support to children learning English and supporting them with other aspects of their lives and education. The school staff are also extremely keen to develop their English teaching curriculum and you will also provide English lessons to local adults to increase the positive impact of language education on the community of the region.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover a land of intense beauty and colourful culture
- Earn your TEFL certificate for free if you complete 20 teaching hours
- Help improve the lives of local children and communities
- Awaken your creativity & initiative as you immerse yourself in local culture

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Basic Spanish recommended, but not compulsory
- A criminal background check (DBS check if in UK)
- CV

FAST FACTS

Location	Costa Rica
Activities	Help to teach English Get involved in extracurricular activities Support community development activities
Transport	Pick-up from Puerto Jimenez weekly on Monday before 12:00pm. pick-ups available at all other times for \$40
Accommodation	Frontier forest research station in communal eco-cabins

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

The project aims to help improve the social and economic well-being of some of the poorest children in various communities, within outlying areas of the Osa Peninsula. The number of people living below the poverty line in Costa Rica is on the decline in recent years, though individuals and communities still face barriers to full participation in economic activities which can help to improve their well-beings. You will contribute to the improvement of the communities' future by helping to provide basic education and conversational English. You will also be playing games with children in a primary school located within the jungle community. The project will allow you to not only contribute towards the well-being of underprivileged children, but also quickly improve your Spanish language skills, through interacting with the local community members and making new friends and exploring the all that the region of Costa Rica has to offer!

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Your work schedule will be challenging, varied and sometimes unpredictable but always enjoyable, as you embark on your placement within a primary school located in the jungle community. There are a range of activities taking place and you will finalise your schedule on arrival based upon local needs and duration of your stay. Whatever your schedule you will engage fully with local children, local teacher and community, using your creativity and initiative to assist in the activities of the project.

You will benefit in terms of your personal and professional experience and will be encouraged to formulate ideas and develop your teaching skills and techniques. You will teach English to a small class of children for at least an hour per day and you will also have the opportunity to provide English support to the teaching staff. The camp being located in communal eco-lodges, another activity for you to get involved in is planning English lessons for the lodge staff. This would empower them with great skills to improve their living conditions. Your level of involvement will obviously depend on the length of your stay as well as your existing skills and qualifications.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

If you arrive on a Monday before 12:00pm, you will be greeted at Puerto Jimenez airport or bus station by a Frontier staff member and escorted by local bus to the project camp. If arriving after 12:00pm on a Monday or at any time on any other day, a pick-up can be arranged for an additional EUR 68.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Life on camp is a unique experience! You will be staying in simple, shared, mixed-sex eco-cabins amidst the jungles near to Carate, where the school is located. This is a jungle research camp, so a mosquito net is an absolute must! We have tried to keep the camp in harmony with its pristine surroundings, so conditions are simple, environmentally friendly and comfortable.

The camp is situated about 5 minutes walk from Playa Carate, a beach which stretches for over 20 miles all the way into Corcovado National Park. There are cool, refreshing showers and toilets on camp too. You'll be feeling at one with the jungle before you know it!

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

We feel it is very important to support the local economy, so most of our supplies are sourced locally. This means we do not have access to everyone's preferred foods and much of what we eat is seasonal and fresh. Costa Rican food is delicious, with a focus on rice, beans and good quality fruit and vegetables.

Cooking and cleaning are carried out communally on a rotational basis, so everybody will be responsible for preparing meals. You will have the opportunity to learn how to cook the national staple food, gallo pinto, consisting of fried rice and black beans. Another dish that is simple to prepare with local ingredients and is often eaten on camp is light and crispy tortillas stuffed with refried beans and vegetables.

There are no refrigeration facilities for meat, fish and dairy, so the team takes the environmentally friendly option of vegetarianism during their time on project. If this sounds worrying to you, not to worry, as volunteers regularly make delicious comfort foods such as pizza, falafel-style burgers, curries with homemade chapattis and ginger and cinnamon cakes to name but a few. Get creative! There is also powdered milk to satisfy you avid tea-drinkers.

Much of the fresh water in the streams surrounding the camp and on the peninsula is safe to drink and it's important to remember to keep hydrated. Just be sure to check with staff first.

Costa Rica is also world famous for its coffee and it represents the country's biggest export, so coffee lovers will have plenty of opportunities to get their hands on some. Luxuries like chocolate and packet soup are available in the town nearby, but it is worth bringing some of your favourite treats out with you as well as any herbs or spices. It is recommended that you buy snacks when in town (cereal bars, biscuits etc) for mid-morning sugar dips or to give you energy on long treks.

COSTS

1 week	€ 405
2 weeks	€ 540
3 weeks	€ 740
4 weeks	€ 1.010
5 weeks	€ 1.280
6 weeks	€ 1.480
7 weeks	€ 1.680
8 weeks	€ 1.885
10 weeks	€ 2.220
20 weeks	€ 3.910
Extra week	€ 205
Christmas week	€ 205

DEPARTURE DATES

Every Monday

DURATION

You can join this project for a minimum of 1 week.

CHRISTMAS OFFER

This project is available for the special price of EUR 202 per week over the Christmas period. Placements starting on the 23rd or 30th of December 2019 are eligible for this price, subject to availability. Please apply using the orange button below and then tell your volunteer advisor that you wish to take part over Christmas.

During school holidays a modified program will run with one to one coaching, educational workshops and extracurricular activities. Please be aware that these dates may be subject to change at short notice.

The Carate School will be closed between mid-December to the middle of February.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

- Pre-departure support & documentation
- Travel advice & documentation
- Kit advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt (UK & US)
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

In-country

- Accommodation
- 3 meals daily (while on project)
- Project orientation and training
- Airport pick-up, Mondays before 12:00pm
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ backup
- Free Frontier TEFL certification if you complete 20 plus teaching hours

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Puerto Jimenez (PJM), San Jose Juan Santamaria Apt (SJO)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.