

# COSTA RICA



JANUARY 8TH TO FEBRUARY 2ND, 2010



**COSTA RICA** is one of the most unique destinations in Central America. This majestic country extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea where visitors can experience overwhelming diversity. Ecological communities and geological features such as rainforests, cloud forests, tropical dry forests, volcanoes, hot springs, incredible rivers and waterfalls, and beautiful beaches and islands all provide habitat for 5% of the world's flora and fauna species. With more than 25% of Costa Rica protected as national parks and reserves, places like the Monte Verde Cloud Forest and Tortuguero will make for breathtaking experiences!



## INCLUDED

- 🔗 Housing in your own room in a homestay family with laundry service provided by the family once a week.
- 🔗 Three meals per day, seven days per week.
- 🔗 An on-site orientation program consisting of a meeting with AIFS staff, a walking tour of the local area, student information packet including comprehensive student handbook and local area information, welcome reception, and half-day guided sightseeing tour of Santa Barbara and Heredia.
- 🔗 One cultural activity each week including a Latin American dance class, film night and farewell dinner.
- 🔗 Three Costa Rican Life and Culture classes (Introduction to Costa Rica; Eco-tourism; Industry and Agriculture in Costa Rica).
- 🔗 Three-day/two-night excursion to Tortuguero National Park with all accommodation, meals, transportation (coach and boat) and English-speaking guide included. Rooms will accommodate three to four students. The excursion will include entrances to Tortuguero National Park, a tour of Mawamba Lodge, a boat tour through the canals and a hiking trip on the trails.
- 🔗 Four-day/three-night excursion to Monteverde Cloud Forest and Arenal Volcano National Park with all accommodation, meals and transportation included. Multi-bedded rooms will accommodate three to four students. The excursion will include a visit to the butterfly farm, and entrances to Monteverde Preserve and to Arenal Volcano National Park.
- 🔗 Three-day/two-night excursion to Ensenada including private round-trip transportation, twin room accommodation at Ensenada Lodge with all meals, visit to the Crocodile Safari Park and guided tours of Carara National Park and Palo Verde National Park.
- 🔗 Three-day/two-night excursion to La Selva including visit to Poas Volcano, accommodation at La Selva Biological Research Station in triple rooms with all meals, guided hike at La Selva and private round-trip transportation.
- 🔗 Free Internet access in the AIFS Student Center.
- 🔗 Services of an experienced AIFS Student Advisor for information, advice, fax and mail services and emergency contact service.
- 🔗 \$50 non-refundable application fee.
- 🔗 Student medical and program fee refund insurance policies.

## FEES

Based on an enrollment of 25 or more participants, for the services specified above, the fee per person is \$2,995.

This fee excludes airfare (See Transportation Package section), a \$125 refundable damage deposit, optional medical insurance upgrade (\$65) and optional personal effects coverage (\$90), passport or visa fees if applicable, meals other than those indicated on the itinerary, personal expenses, any Citrus College tuition or administrative fees, textbooks, additional field trips or excursions required by the Citrus College faculty and anything not specified.

These fees are guaranteed not to change as a result of fluctuations in the \$ exchange rate.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Optional activities available on off days for additional fees include white water rafting, Baldi Hot Springs, Isla Tortuga, Zip-lining, canopy tours, coffee plantation tour and a Sarapiquí River boat tour. (A minimum of 10 students is required per tour.)

## TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

On a space-available basis, students may purchase the optional transportation package consisting of round-trip airfare (Ontario – San Jose, Costa Rica – Ontario) and round-trip transfers between the airport in San José and the housing for an additional \$395 excluding mandatory U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharges estimated at \$177 and subject to change for which students will be billed separately. A minimum of 10 students must purchase the flight for it to be offered. Participants have the option of purchasing their own transportation, but it is important that students arrive in time for orientation and the start of classes.

## FACULTY

**Robert Goodman** instructs a diversity of classes in Natural History, Wildland Resources and Forestry, Environmental Science and Biology at Citrus College with over 17 years of teaching experience. His interest in natural resources with emphasis on plant and animal ecology has increased significantly with field experiences in Alaska,

Costa Rica, Mexico and the Galapagos Islands. He taught students through the Citrus College Costa Rica study abroad program in winter 2009. With over 15 publications and continuing wildlife research, Bobby is thrilled to share his knowledge with students to enhance their understanding of Costa Rican natural history.

## COURSES

### **NAT 181B – Natural History Series Coastal Mountains, Coastlines, Tropical Regions and Islands (3 units) (CSU)**

A field course where the topography, climate, geology, ecology, life zones, wildlife, plant life, and human history of Costa Rica will be covered.

### **NAT 182B – Natural History Series Inland Mountains, Valleys and Costa Rica (3 units) (CSU)**

A field course where the topography, climate, geology, ecology, life zones, wildlife, plant life, and human history of Costa Rica will be covered.

## MEDICAL INSURANCE

AIFS provides each student with a group insurance policy issued by The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania. The policy provides two distinct types of coverage:

1. Before the program begins, AIFS will refund fees paid by students unable to participate on the program because of covered injury or illness or quarantine in a travel area. However, a fee is retained from the amount paid which includes a \$100 processing fee, the \$50 non-refundable application fee and \$125 insurance premium.
2. Once the program has begun, the plan covers the cost of medical treatment abroad, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per sickness or accident and with a daily hospital charge limit of \$300. There is a \$50 deductible per incident for medical claims against this policy.

These two categories of insurance are mutually exclusive. That is, the policy does not cover medical expenses before the program begins, nor does it refund any portion of the AIFS program fees once the program has begun.

The insurance also covers costs associated with changing the return flight if a student is unable to complete the program due to accident, illness or quarantine in a travel area. It offers 24-hour travel assistance in case of an emergency, legal assistance, medical transportation and emergency cash transfer in case of theft or loss. Full details of the coverage are provided to students with their final invoice for payment of the balance of their program fees.

**Optional medical insurance upgrade and personal effects insurance** A *medical insurance upgrade* provides a maximum \$50,000 per sickness or accident with a daily hospital charge of \$300 (\$50 deductible for each accident or illness). Optional *personal effects insurance* covers loss or theft up to \$1,000, subject to a maximum \$100 per item (\$500 for electronic devices) and a deductible of \$100 per incident. Students are advised to arrange additional insurance for special items. Bicycles, jewelry, cash and computers are not covered. Expensive or irreplaceable items should be left at home.

## AIFS REFUND POLICY

All notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing via fax or certified mail to: Registrar, AIFS Partnership Programs, College Division, River Plaza, 9 West Broad Street, Stamford, CT 06902-3788. The fax number is (203) 399-5597. Postmark date or date of fax transmission is considered date of withdrawal. *All withdrawal statements must be signed by the applicant, or they will not be processed.*

If a student's application is not accepted by AIFS, a refund of all payments is made, less the \$50 non-refundable application fee and any non-refundable deposits paid by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf. If a student withdraws on or before Thursday, November 19, 2009, a full refund will be made less \$250 plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

If a student withdraws after Thursday, November 19, 2009, but on or before Thursday, December 29, 2009, for any reason except medical covered by the AIFS Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, the \$450 deposit is forfeited, along with any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

If a student is forced to withdraw from the program because of covered medical reasons after final fees have been paid but before departure, a refund will be made through the Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, less a \$100 processing fee, the \$50 non-refundable application fee and the \$125 insurance premium. The policy requires written proof of medical reasons provided by your physician.

Students withdrawing voluntarily for any reason after Thursday, December 29, 2009, including withdrawals because of medical reasons not covered under the medical refund policy, receive no refund of fees paid unless they are able to provide a qualified replacement. In this case, they receive a full refund of all payments made less the \$150 processing and cancellation fee and any non-refundable deposits. Replacement students must pay in full at the time of application. Flights cannot be arranged for replacement students applying after Friday, October 23, 2009. Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. This refund policy is necessary because the booking of facilities in Costa Rica requires substantial non-refundable payments and commitments by AIFS in advance.

### For more information and an application, contact:

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