

SERVICE LEARNING COSTA RICA

PRIMATES,
TREES AND
INDIGENOUS
TRADITIONS

(11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS)

Fields of study: biology, animal science, forestry, and sustainable tourism

Costa Rica

San José > Osa Peninsula

Located in the southwestern corner of Costa Rica, the Osa Peninsula is a priority area for conservation. With 2.5% of the world's living species relative to its small size of just 700 square miles, it is considered to be one of the most biodiverse places on the planet.

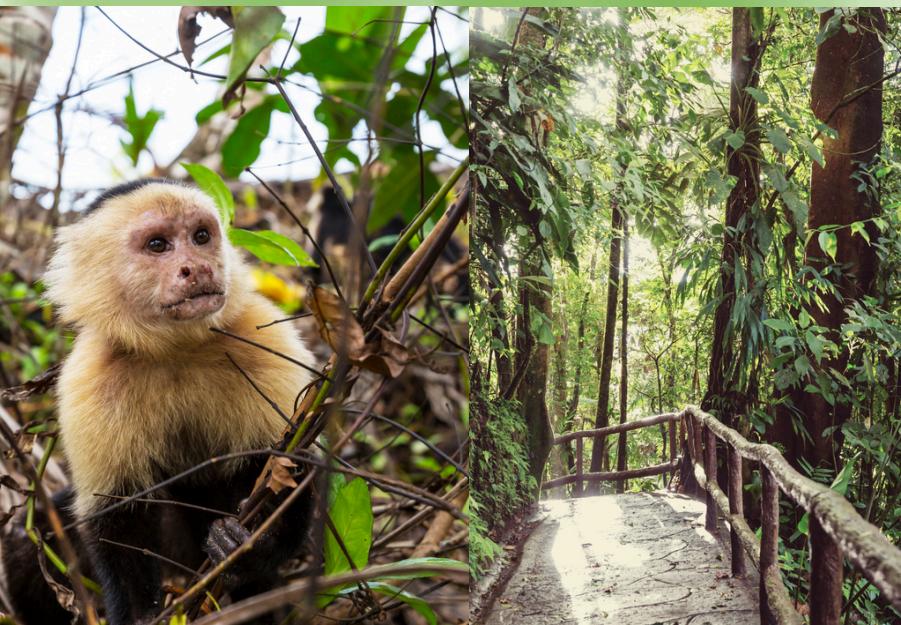
During the service learning experience, students will learn about the tropical forest and the importance of primate conservation to preserve natural ecosystems through selected lectures and hands-on activities in the forest.



Fundación Saimiri is a Costa Rican non-profit organization which was founded in 2010 by the biologist Daniela Solano. It is based directly on the Osa Peninsula, in the mountains of San Miguel de Cañaza, a small village located close to the National Park of Corcovado. The objective of the non-profit is to protect Costa Rica's natural resources and especially the primates of the Osa Peninsula.



CEPA is committed to positively impacting climate and social sustainability and strives to be a leader in environmental sustainability within international education. As part of this commitment, we offset the carbon footprint of our company's operations and the footprint created on-site by our study abroad programs in Europe. Additionally, we go the extra mile by funding environmental projects that plant native trees for each program participant.



SERVICE LEARNING IN COSTA RICA

Day 1 >> San José

Stay 1 night in San José

- Flight to San José, Costa Rica (group airfare can be booked separately)
- Arrival at San José Juan Santamaría Airport (SJO)
- Check-in and orientation session by your on-site coordinator
- Welcome dinner at a Costa Rican restaurant

Day 2 >> San José - Osa Peninsula

Stay 8 nights at an eco lodge in Osa Peninsula

- Transportation by private bus from San José to Osa Peninsula
- Check-in and orientation session with an introduction to the Osa Peninsula's history by your on-site coordinator

Day 3 >> Osa Peninsula

- Lecture on tropical forest ecology, gain an introduction to the forest
- Guided walk in the forest to explore your new surroundings
- Cultural/leisure activity such as kayaking or a trip to the nearby beach

Day 4 >> Osa Peninsula

- Lecture on the trees of the Osa Peninsula and potential threats to the tropical forest
- Hands-on service learning activity: Walking in a tropical forest - seed collection

Day 5 >> Osa Peninsula

- Hands-on service learning activity: Tree planting - working in a tree nursery
- Lectures on habitat preservation and conservation of tropical forests

Day 6 >> Osa Peninsula

- Lecture on mammals and primates of the Osa Peninsula
- Guided walk in the forest which focuses on the primates
- Night walk to discover the forest in the dark

Day 7 >> Osa Peninsula

- Lecture on the importance of primates for the rainforest and important trees for the diet of the squirrel monkeys
- Hands-on service learning activity: Botany & Taxonomy: Identifying important trees

Day 8 >> Osa Peninsula

- Excursion to a forest neighboring the Corcovado National Park
- Lecture on the role of protected areas in conservation

Day 9 >> Osa Peninsula

- Lecture on community conservation, environmental education, and indigenous traditions
- Hands-on service learning activity: Community Conservation and Environmental Education Practice
- Student presentations and reflection on the program
- Farewell dinner in the local community

Day 10 >> Osa Peninsula - Manuel Antonio National Park - San José

Stay 1 night in San José

- Private bus transportation during the day
- Free time around Manuel Antonio National Park. Spanning several natural habits, this gem boasts more than 109 different species of mammals and 184 species of birds

Day 11 >> San José

- Departure from San José Juan Santamaría Airport (SJO)



Example of local lodge in Osa Peninsula



Included in this sample itinerary:

- Lectures and hands-on service learning experience as described
- Cultural excursions and field trips with local, bilingual guides
- Accommodation in a B&B in San José and in an eco lodge in the Osa Peninsula (twin room occupancy)
- Daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Special welcome and farewell dinner
- Local transportation by private coach bus as needed
- On-site coordinator during all planned activities
- Orientation sessions
- Time to instruct, study, discuss, reflect, and explore
- Offsetting the emissions created on-site during the program

Program Price:

\$ 2,790 per person

(based on a minimum number of 10 participants)

Updated March 2025

Not included in the price: airfare, tuition/credit hours, insurances, passport/visa, personal expenses, entrance tickets to parks approx. \$20 per person