

STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

STARTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This Study & Volunteer program combines a minimum 1 week Standard Group Study program followed up with a 2 week minimum volunteer placement in the community. All opportunities will work in partnership with local people in a variety of community-based projects. This unique program offers exciting hands-on volunteering opportunities, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.

CITY AND COUNTRY INFO

San José has close to 1,000,000 inhabitants. At 4,000 feet above sea level, it has a springtime climate year-round. The city surprises visitors by its vitality. Despite its cosmopolitan atmosphere with Central, South and North Americans as well as Europeans on busy downtown streets, its residents display an unmatched friendliness and warmth. Tourists as well as visiting businessmen happily testify to this. Every year the country attracts a large number of people who, having visited Costa Rica once, decide to return to settle here.

The capital of Costa Rica is home to several excellent museums and many of the country's best hotels, restaurants, and nightlife options. The city's other great assets are its location and mild climate, as San José enjoys pleasant weather year round and stands in a broad fertile bowl ringed by jagged mountains, some of which are active volcanoes. Downtown, the grid-plan streets are lined with an pastiche of mirrored high-rises and elegant bungalows; in the affluent suburbs at the eastern and western ends of the city, middle-class Ticos (as Costa Ricans call themselves) tend their tidy gardens, while sprawling barrios stretch to the north and south.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM

After participating in this Study & Volunteer Program in San Jose, students will gain experience in foreign poverty and need first hand while helping others in severe need, greatly improve foreign language abilities, gain personal growth and confidence both nationally and internationally through service, and combine travel, academics, and community service into one incredible life-changing experience.



What's Included

- **Tuition and Class Materials:** 1 week minimum-group 20 Spanish 50 minute lessons per week in group of 2-5 students per class.
- **Volunteer Placement:** in local organization
- **Lodging:** In a Homestay
- **Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner in homestay
- **Placement Testing**
- **1-2 Organized Activities Weekly***
- * Entrance fees, transportation, etc. may be at additional cost.
- **Access to E-mail**
- **Access to Multimedia Learning Center**
- **Certificate of Completion**
- **Pre-Departure Information**
- **Planning Guide**
- **Medical, Accident and Sickness Coverage ****
- ** See policy for definitions and exclusions.
- **Medivac Coverage**
- **Other Travel Coverage:** repatriation, baggage, personal effects, accidental death and dismemberment , etc.
- **24 Hour Emergency Multilingual Hotline:** call collect from anywhere in the world

FULL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

STUDY PROGRAM

The Study Program has a minimum of 1 week in duration and includes 20 hours per week of Group Spanish classes. Maximum number of students per class is 5, with the average being 2 students. Groups are organized in a way that each will always consist of students possessing the same level of Spanish.

The method is based on the 4 language skills: listening, grammar, oral and written comprehension. No English will be used in class.

Classes are 50 minutes in length. Students may enroll for as many weeks as desired. In order to make sufficient progress and gain the maximum benefit from the course, the following program duration ranges are recommended: Beginner (4-12 weeks), Intermediate (2-12 weeks) and advanced (2-12 weeks).

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

After the minimum 1 week study program, students will be placed in a volunteering position in community for a minimum of 2 weeks. Volunteer work can be classified as environmental or social. Placement opportunities can include the following examples:

- Working in national parks
- Taking care of trails and beaches
- Recycling projects
- Orphanages
- Retirement centers
- Drug rehabilitation institutions
- Special education schools
- Hospitals
- Museums
- Teaching English

LODGING

HOMESTAY

Students staying in a homestay will be able to practice their Spanish and be exposed to local culture. The Institute will lodge the participant in a carefully selected Costa Rican home. He or she will be provided with a private room, breakfast and dinner, and laundry service. This arrangement will permit the student to continue practicing Spanish outside of the classroom while sharing the "Ticos' " every day life.

Participating families are chosen for their friendliness and helpfulness to the student. Most live within a 20 minute bus ride from the Institute, while a few are within walking distance. Homestays can be arranged to accommodate individual students, couples and families with children.

Students 18 years old and over are provided with front door keys. Students under 18 do not get keys and have to comply with a curfew unless accompanied by a host family member.

PRICE

Cost of minimum 1 week of classes, minimum of 2 weeks of volunteer placement, and minimum of 3 weeks total of housing is about:

\$993

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

U.S. citizens traveling on regular passports for tourism or business do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. Those planning a longer visit must obtain a visa in advance.

Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult. Intermediate Spanish skills required before volunteer placement. Volunteer positions on a space available basis. These are unpaid positions and there is a limited number of positions every month.

ACTIVITIES

Every week there are organized activities such as:

- Cooking Classes
- Dance Lessons
- Tropical Fruit Class
- Theater Visits
- Concerts
- Discos
- Coffee Plantations
- Nearby Volcanoes
- Botanical Gardens

**Some at an additional cost

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM in San Jose, either follow the link below or call 1-888-678-6211.

<http://www.nrcsa.com/reg/online/regform.html>

When you register, \$140 USD is due to secure your place in the program.