



WHITE-FACED CAPUCHIN MONKEY

# COSTA RICA

STEM in the Tropics!  
with Orlando Science Elementary School  
March 18-22, 2019

## EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Biology  
Ecology  
Service Learning  
Research & Investigation

*Costa Rica becomes a living classroom and field site on this 5-day educational expedition into the tropics! Focusing on STEM topics through hands-on community engagement, students will have the opportunity to explore geology and rainforest ecology up close. This is a unique opportunity to examine critical conservation issues and a real-life application for scientific problem-solving and research.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about the use of hydroelectric energy at Lake Arenal.
- Work with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center and on a conservation-based service project.
- See rainforest ecology come alive on guided hikes through Tirimbina Reserve.
- Embark on a boat ride down the Río Sarapiquí, home to diverse wildlife.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guide
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Travel Protection



STEM SESSIONS IN THE RAINFOREST CLASSROOM  
Photo by Kristen Buckley

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



NATURE RAINFOREST HIKE, Photo by Kristen Buckley

## MARCH 18 - ARENAL

Upon arrival in San José, after clearing immigration and customs, journey to Arenal with a stop en route at Ecocentro Danaus Reserva Ecológica for a hike through the trails, which include both rainforest and wetland ecosystems. Visit their botanical garden, which features medicinal plants. Then tour the butterfly garden, home to 40 species of butterflies. Continue on to the picturesque town of La Fortuna, situated in the shadow of Arenal Volcano. Upon arrival, check into the hotel and receive an orientation to the program. Afterwards attend a STEM discussion on the thermal waters from the volcano. This evening enjoy a dip in the warm waters of the hot springs pool at the hotel. The Arenal area is famous for its many hot springs, which are a direct benefit of the Arenal Volcano. *Overnight at Arenal Paraíso. (LD)*

## MARCH 19 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning take a guided hike in Arenal National Park. During the hike explore around the base of the volcano, which includes old lava flows and volcanic boulders. As you explore, learn about the geology of the volcano as well as local flora and fauna that inhabit the area. Afterwards stop at Lake Arenal to visit the hydroelectric dam and learn about how it works. In 1970 the lake was enlarged to 33 square miles to create the hydroelectric dam, which produces about 12% of Costa Rica's total electricity. Next, meet a local family and have lunch with them before traveling to Sarapiquí. After checking in at the hotel attend a STEM session on rainforest ecology, structure, and function in the classroom facility. After dinner enjoy a guided walk around the lodge in search of nocturnal creatures including frogs, bats, kinkajous and hundreds of species of insects. *Overnight at Ara Ambigua. (BLD)*

## MARCH 20 - SARAPIQUÍ

This morning explore the primary forest of Tirimbina Reserve to get hands-on experience with ecological concepts up-close and in person. This large tract of primary and secondary premontane wet forest is teeming with species such as the Great Tinamou, Gartered Trogon, Keel-billed Toucan, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Red-lored Parrot. Be sure to bring binoculars! Life in a rainforest is stratified in three distinct horizontal layers. The upper canopy is a little-known world of beauty and biological diversity. The middle tier is filled with small trees, lianas, and epiphytes. The ground surface layer is littered with branches, twigs, and undergrowth. Study the forest as the guide discusses the complex details of the ecosystem and how life in the rainforest thrives. Head back to the lodge for lunch then visit a local school. This evening return to Tirimbina for a presentation on bats. Learn about the natural history of bats, their classification, diversity adaptations, reproduction and threats. Afterwards there will be a safe opportunity to observe some of the bats that were captured during research projects. *Overnight at Ara Ambigua. (BLD)*

## MARCH 21 - SARAPIQUÍ

After breakfast embark on a boat ride down the Río Sarapiquí. While winding down the river bordered with forests and cultivated fields observe aquatic animals, birds, and reptiles, abundant in their natural habitat. Also view residents going about their daily lives and witness the impact local banana plantations have on this watershed. After lunch participate in a reforestation project with the Sarapiquí Conservation Learning Center (SCLC). The SCLC's mission is to support conservation through educational programming and community development. The ESL (English as a Second Language) program, the after school program, and the scholarship program have wide participation locally and are mostly funded by international guests via their participation in programs like this one. Their reforestation projects play an important role in the area by helping local farmers cement biological corridors. Planting native trees helps preserve the rainforest and a multitude of endangered animals. Tonight attend a trip download session to discuss what you've learned during your time in Costa Rica and how you can use it to help with conservation at home. Farewell dinner celebration, followed by a final nocturnal hike. *Overnight at Ara Ambigua. (BLD)*

## MARCH 22 - FAREWELL!

This morning after breakfast depart for San José for the flight home. *(B)*

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$1,050** (based on a minimum of 14 students)

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide for duration of program, tips/gratuities for guide and driver, stipend for group and bottled water on the bus.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, not mentioned or items of a personal nature.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/ Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Price is based on double occupancy with individual beds. For a single room throughout the trip, add \$215 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until December 13, 2018, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### OR TO ENROLL:

Visit [holbrook.travel/orlandosci-cr19](http://holbrook.travel/orlandosci-cr19) or contact Kirsten Dyer at [kirsten.dyer@orlandoscience.org](mailto:kirsten.dyer@orlandoscience.org)