

Free time activity program



All students are welcome to participate in free or very affordable optional weekly activities. The main purpose is to stimulate conversation in Spanish. This program is made of at least 3 social and cultural activities per week. Some of the activities are: Latin dance, cooking class, tropical fruit class. Other optional activities are: visits to Irazu or Poas volcanoes, organic farm or coffee plantation.

New: Optional classes at the Pacific beach every second and fourth Thursday of each month

Every second and fourth Thursday of the month Academia Tica offers facultatively an exciting day at the Pacific coast. For a reasonable fee of USD 28 (approximately € 22) the school arranges transportation, lunch, use of hotel facilities and 2 rooms at a nice beach side hotel. The vacation hotels visited are located in the warm Pacific coast region (Jacó area), just 2 hrs coach ride away. The hotel(s) chosen for this trip are located either directly on the beach or a short walk away. Usually they have a pool, jacuzzi, outside showers and a restaurant or bar. Further restaurants are nearby. Along the way to this sunny paradise students talk with their teachers about tropical flora, fauna and national parks. After their lessons at the hotel students enjoy the beauty of these tropical corners of the Pacific beach.

Please note: This is an **optional** offer and students who wish to stay in Coronado will have regular classes at school premises in Coronado.

Tourism services platform

Located in the main school lobby this platform offers services like: hotel and budget hotel reservations, tours, car rental, phone cards, post cards, faxes, airport transfers, bike and locker rental, etc.

Tuition & Accommodation Fees Enrolment procedures

Please see insert or consult our representative / agent in your country.



Useful information before you depart

CHECK-IN TIME AT THE SCHOOL Students should come to school at 8:00 a.m. on the first day for a placement exam.

COSTA RICA GENERAL INFORMATION You can get a basic packet of information on Costa Rica by contacting the Costa Rica Tourist Board (ICT or Instituto Costarricense de Turismo) at 800/343-6332.

www.tourism-costarica.com

CREDIT CARDS Credit Cards are becoming widely accepted in Costa Rica (Visa, American Express and Master Card, in that order).

DRESSING COSTA RICAN STYLE Bring and use wear lightweight clothing. Have a wind-breaker and an umbrella handy but also be ready to take your light sweater off. Jeans and Cotton short sleeve shirts are common among men and jeans or skirts and small tops for women. At night a light jacket or sweater is a good idea, too. For special occasions such as parties, weddings men could wear a tie and women a formal dress. Toiletries and Drugstore items can be found in most pharmacies.



Useful pre-departure information



DRIVER LICENSE USE Costa Rican transit law allows you to drive for 3 months with a valid driver's license issued in your own country.

GIFT FOR THE HOST FAMILY It is not necessary to bring presents to the host family, however if you prefer to do so a little souvenir like a bottle of wine, or chocolates would be fine.

HEALTH AND WATER Water is safe to drink in most areas of this country. No shots are necessary to visit Costa Rica. Medical facilities are numerous and dependable. There are many private doctors available. Many Doctors with practices in San José speak English.

HOST FAMILY ADDRESSES & TRANFERS The school will provide the addresses and telephone numbers of the host family in advance so that students know where he/she is going. A staff member will pick up students at the airport, just look for the Academia Tica sign.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION There is a wide bus network that operates all over the country. The service is not first class but fares are low and are dependable. Taxis are also everywhere. They can be found near the main bus stops. Taxi fares are around \$1.5 per mile. Travel by air within the country is adequate and inexpensive.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

Light clothing like blue jeans, a jacket, windbreaker and sweater (temperatures may fall to 16 C°, after 6 p.m. in the Great Metropolitan Area), sunglasses, hiking shoes, swimming suit, towel. At least one formal shirt for man or blouse for women for an occasional formal activity. Notebooks, a pen, a pencil, an eraser, a pencil sharpener, a Spanish/your language dictionary.

VISA Citizens from the USA and most Western European countries and Japan get an automatic 90-day permit to stay in Costa Rica, extensions are possible too. Citizens from other countries please check visa regulations with the Costa Rican consulate or embassy for your area. For a complete list of Costa Rican consulates or embassies in your area please visit.

<http://www.intnet.co.cr/costarica/gobierno/embajadas/embajadas.html>

VOLTAGE Costa Rica uses the same type of electrical voltage that is used in the US. 110 AC (60 cycles) volts for residential, schools, etc and 220 volts for heavy industrial use. However, three-pronged outlets can be scarce, so it's helpful to bring along an adapter.

