



ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL



△ see leatherback sea turtles up close

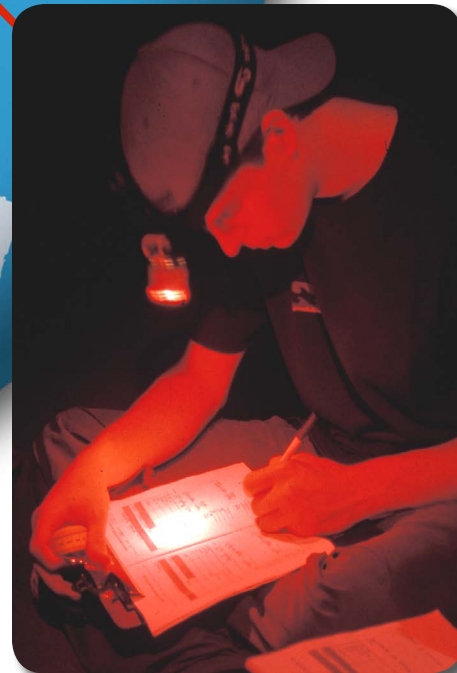
Costa Rica Sea Turtle Ecology Program · 9 Days

This is an amazing opportunity to assist with a sea turtle monitoring project and be an active collaborator in international sea turtle conservation efforts.

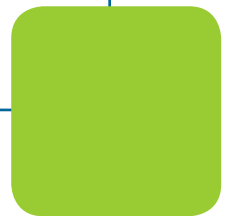
Costa Rica's Pacuare Nature Reserve, with four miles of beach and a 2,500 acre rainforest, is a protected sea turtle reserve. The beach at Pacuare is of critical importance in terms of worldwide sea turtle nesting activity. Costa Rica's tropical lowland forests are home to howler monkeys, three-toed sloths, toucans, iguanas, tree frogs, and other wonders of the natural world. You'll have a chance to see all these creatures and more!

Students collect data on nesting sea turtles including carapace width and length, and number of eggs laid. Using that information they develop a field-based research project. On-course, students complete at least 20 hours of research while patrolling the remote beach at the Pacuare Reserve in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. This 9-day program also includes over 30 hours coursework and instruction in subjects like sea turtle biology, rainforest ecology, and research methodology.

After completing their field work, students meet their Costa Rican peers when they visit a school attended by local program participants. Students spend time together giving joint presentations, sharing research data, engaging in the powerful exchange of ideas, and realizing their collaborative strength.



△ conduct nightly beach patrols



h i g h l i g h t s

- Protect leatherback sea turtles
- Raft through lowland rainforest
- Restore threatened tropical habitat

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Sample itinerary subject to change

www.ecologyproject.org

Day 1: Arrival in San Jose

- Meet your instructor team
- Get to know Costa Rica
- Prepare for your adventure in a cozy downtown hotel in San José

Days 2-4: Leatherback sea turtles at the Pacuare Nature Reserve

- Learn about sea turtle biology, ecology, and conservation issues
- Explore the amazing wildlife of the lowland tropical ecosystems
- Collect data on nesting sea turtles during nightly patrols
- Restore turtle nesting habitat on the beach

Days 5-6: From the turtle reserve to the rainforest

- Travel northwest to a private rainforest reserve
- Learn about the banana and pineapple plantations in the area
- Observe amazing creatures on night hikes
- Play sports with local teens

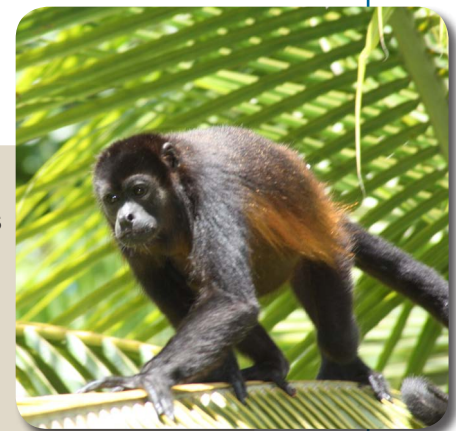
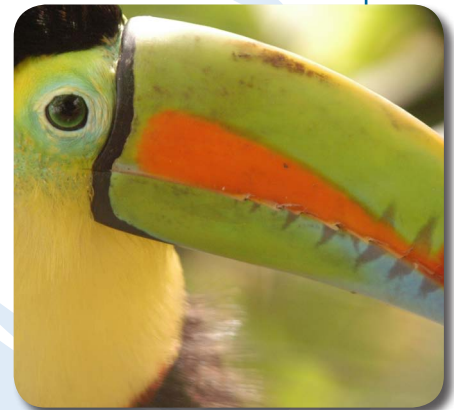
Day 7: Intercultural exchange day and mountain lodge

- Present the results of student-led research projects
- Meet local students and learn about each other's cultures
- Practice your Spanish
- Spend the evening in a mountain lodge with a volcano view

Day 8: Rafting the Pacuare River

- Raft the spectacular rapids of the Pacuare River
- Float through vibrant jungle canyons and past waterfalls

Day 9: Departure from San Jose International Airport



Details:

- **Accommodations:** 3 nights in beach cabins, 2 nights in rainforest bungalows & 3 nights in hotels
- **Course dates:** March-July
- **Price:** \$2,870 (all-inclusive)
- **Group size:** Minimum 10; Maximum 20
- **How to Apply:** Contact John Kamman at EPI :
john@ecologyproject.org * 406.721.8784

Send in an EPI application and \$250 deposit; applications online at: www.ecologyproject.org

academic & cultural exchange field programs

Guided by local scientists, EPI introduces students to authentic scientific study, raises cultural and ecological awareness, and promotes international cooperation. EPI empowers students to learn about, and help solve, critical conservation issues.

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