

KIRKWOOD STUDY ABROAD

COSTA RICA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ETHICS



May 28 to June 7, 2019
6 Credits

The Courses: Environmental Ethics and Field Experiences in Environmental and Natural Sciences

Students enroll in two academic courses at Kirkwood that can apply to general education requirements. These courses consist of online assignments and scheduled group meetings with instructors, before, during and after the in-country experience.

• **PHI-160 Environmental Ethics:** Through field experiences, topical readings and philosophical theories, this course explores ethical and political questions about endangered species and biodiversity, farming and sustainability, water quality, climate change, and environmental justice.

• **SCI-136: Field Experiences in Environmental and Natural Sciences:** This section will emphasize the integration of field experiences in Costa Rica with major environmental topics, including ecosystems and biodiversity, conservation and sustainability, water quality, and our impact on the environment. You will learn how to prepare for fieldwork, capture and use field notes, analyze data, and prepare summary reports.

The Country:

Beautiful Costa Rica provides a stunning location for studying science and ethics. This tropical country with microregions, from coastal wetlands to high cloud forests, is home to a gentle and gracious people as well as one of the most biologically intact and extensive rainforests in the world. Together we will discover the natural wonders, rich cultural history, and complex moral and geopolitical relations between the Costa Ricans and those to whom they supply fruits, coffee and microchips. Our home base, Selva Bananito Lodge, sits on the edge of Costa Rica's 2.5-million-acre rainforest. This lodge, outfitted with 15 cottages, was named one of the top 10 ecotourism operations in the world by *Outside Magazine*.

Estimated Program Fee: \$3,600
\$1,000 Global Advantage Scholarship Available

Includes:

Airfare
Housing
Some Meals
Health Insurance
Many Cultural Excursions
Most In-Country Transit

Does not include:

Tuition: 6 Summer Credits
Passport Fee
Personal Expenses

Program Note: Students must be able to walk 4 to 5 miles daily.

International Programs • 1154 Linn Hall • 319-398-5579

www.kirkwood.edu/studyabroad

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Predeparture Meetings:

Wednesday, March 27: 6–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24: 6–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21: 9 a.m.–noon

Wednesday, April 10: 6–8:30 p.m.

Monday, May 20: 9 a.m.–noon

Thursday, May 23: 9 a.m.–noon

Tentative Itinerary: May 28 to June 7, 2019

- May 28:** Depart Cedar Rapids for San Jose; overnight stay at hotel near the university
- May 29:** Travel to Caribbean lowlands and Pacuare Nature Reserve, lecture on leatherback turtle conservation, first beach patrol overnight
- May 30:** Activities at Pacuare: two nights of beach patrols for turtle conservation, canal boat tour for birdwatching, nature hike in rainforest (may visit rare Agami Heron rookery)
- May 31:** Visit city of Limón, interactive tours of water treatment facility and banana plantation in Bananito River valley, arrive at Selva Bananito Lodge
- June 1:** Activities at Selva Bananito Lodge (full board): bird watching, tree planting (carbon offsetting), horseback tour, tree climbing (group will be split in half for activities)
- June 2:** Activities at Selva Bananito Lodge (full board): bird watching, tree planting (carbon offsetting), canopy zip lining, horseback riding, tree climbing (group will be split in half for activities)
- June 3:** Selva Bananito Lodge (full board): full-day waterfall hike with rappel
- June 4:** Visit Bananito Sur High School: cultural exchange, games, interviews and social work. High school supplies welcome for donation
- June 5:** After breakfast, drive to Cahuita National Park, snorkel tour and/or hike through the national park; have lunch in Cahuita, stay overnight in Suizo Loco Lodge, enjoy a musical evening with Calypso group and dinner
- June 6:** After breakfast, depart for San Jose; Sibú Organic Chocolate Tour, National Cacao Museum, farewell dinner, stay overnight at Hotel Ave del Paraiso
- June 7:** Transfer to international airport, return home

Program Contacts:

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