

WILDLIFE EXPEDITION IN COSTA RICA

Overview

This expedition is the essence of remote adventure. Live in the heart of the jungle surrounded by the natural beauty of Tortuguero's rainforest-lined Caribbean beaches. Hike the jungle trails conducting biodiversity surveys, walk along the beach looking for evidence of sea turtles during turtle nesting season, check camera traps for footage of jaguars, and explore the rainforest canals noting important aquatic bird species.

Not only does this program offer you the opportunity to get involved in ongoing conservation efforts, but you will also be provided with the training and experience to grow professionally by mastering both transferable and technical skills. These include teamwork, intercultural communication, and best practices for recording biodiversity data.

Due to the fact you will work in a national park, you will need a special scientific permit to approve you for conducting research. Further permits are required for turtle and jaguar research. The permit for turtle research takes about one month to process, while the permit for conducting jaguar research takes about 2 to 3 months to process.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Live and work at a research station in the middle of a Costa Rican national park.
- Observe Costa Rican wildlife species in their natural habitats, including sea turtles on the Caribbean beach, and monkeys, neo-tropical birds, and amphibians in the caponies above rainforest canals.
- Visit an incredibly jaguar-dense area and one of the only locations in the world where jaguars are known to prey on adult sea turtles.
- Explore the rainforest by canoe and walk the pristine Caribbean beaches.
- Learn biodiversity survey techniques and gain real field experience.
- Undertake turtle nesting surveys and monitor nesting sites during turtle nesting season.
- Contribute to jaguar research by setting up and checking camera traps in the rainforest.

Life On Base

Our base in Tortuguero National Park is the perfect way to unplug and get in touch with the natural environment. It is located in the heart of the jungle on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, an hour's boat ride from the nearest small town. Field work includes walking the the protected beaches looking for signs of turtles and jaguars, traveling on canoe through the foliage-draped canals spotting aquatic bird species, and, if you are lucky, a manatee in the water below, or trekking through the jungle spotting and noting everything from howler monkeys, sloths, tamanduas anteaters, and toucans. Don't forget to pack your camera. Some patrols are conducted in the morning or at night, which means you could experience spectacular sunsets and sunrises over the Caribbean sea. In your free time, relax at our small camping-style base, which is solar-powered and designed to have as minimal an impact on the

natural environment as possible. We are much like a big family on base, and share cooking and tidying duties. Get to know the staff and team members from all around the world who share the same interest in wildlife and passion for conservation as you



ACCOMMODATION

Sleeping areas are dorm-style and bathrooms are shared.

MEALS

Many of our ingredients are brought in from Tortuguero town, but are supplemented by fruit and vegetables grown in our own organic garden. Breakfast consist of fruits, porridge, and pancakes on Saturdays, and lunches and dinners features a variety of vegetarian cuisine from pastas to stir frys.

COMMUNICATION

Our research base is far from civilisation, which means that phone signal is limited. You might have the opportunity to visit the Tortuguero town two or three times during your visit, where you can make use of several internet cafes, as the WIFI on base is used strictly for research purposes by staff.

TRANSPORTATION

For project work you will only need your feet, a good pair of rubber boots, some thick socks, and dark-coloured, long-sleeve, lightweight clothing. Boats are available for canal bird surveys. Long weekend trips away from base will generally happen once a month from the park, so be sure to make your plans with this in mind.

CLIMATE

Costa Rica is a wonderfully tropical country, with a climate ranging from warm and rainy to hot and humid. The driest months are August to December when the temperature averages around 29°C or 84°F. It is cooler and more rainy from January to July when temperatures drop to about 20°C or 68°F.

What's included

- 24-hour emergency phone
- 24-hour in-country support
- Access to Alumni Services and Discounts
- Airport pick-up (unless otherwise stated)
- All necessary project equipment and materials
- All necessary project training by experienced staff
- Location orientation
- Long term experienced staff
- Meals while on project (except on work placements for long term internships)
- Safe and basic accommodations (usually shared)
- Welcome meeting

What's not included

- Additional drinks and gratuities
- Extra local excursions
- Flights
- International and domestic airport taxes
- Medical and travel insurance
- Personal items and toiletries
- Police or background check
- Visa costs (where necessary)

