

## **COSTA RICA: Jewel of Central America**

This 12-day service adventure features opportunities to traverse rainforests, work with local community organizations, and participate in conservation and environmental studies while discovering the magnificent natural beauty of Costa Rica.

### **PROGRAM LEADERS**

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### **COURSES**

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REC 482 (3 credits): Ecotourism, Service Learning, and Outdoor Recreation

REC 482 (G) (3 credits): Ecotourism, Service Learning, and Outdoor Recreation

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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Hotels, Hostels

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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This 12-day adventure features opportunities to traverse rainforests, work with local community members, and participate in conservation and environmental studies all the while discovering the magnificent natural beauty of Costa Rica. Special emphasis will be placed on developing a cross-cultural awareness and service ethic within an environmental worldview. In addition to being exposed to the best practices of ecotourism, students will pay it forward through participation in a service project.

The courses, REC 482 and REC 482G, are being offered through a joint effort between the School of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport and the Intramural/Recreational Sports Department.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the historical, sociological, and ecological character of Costa Rica;
- Have a firm understanding, through immersion in the local economy, of the cultural similarities and differences of a global society;
- Develop and build an appreciation for and an understanding of the diverse geographical character of Costa Rica;
- Discuss the influence of the diversity of natural wonders of Costa Rica and ensuing influence on ecotourism and community development;
- Explain and discuss the various natural resource management challenges facing private recreation operators and government planners in highly traveled areas such as Manuel Antonio National Park;
- Demonstrate group and personal leadership skills that include effective communication, judgment, decision-making, tolerance, inclusion, and risk management;
- Develop an appreciation for the strong contribution of service projects to local people, communities, and the environment;
- Recognize the various methods of instruction for learning;
- Have a basic understanding of conversational Spanish; and
- Discuss and articulate your role in a global society through community and environmental service in the host county.

### **PROGRAM DETAILS**

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**LOCATION:** Costa Rica: San Jose, La Fortuna, Tenorio, Santa Elena, and Quepos

**ACADEMIC TERM:** Summer 2015: May 18 – 29, 2015

**ITINERARY** (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Spring	Pre-trip: Overview, introduction, planning		
Spring	Pre-trip - Expectations, forms, course assignments		forms; CR brief
Spring	Pre- trip - Ecotourism, recreation; special projects		
Spring	Pre-trip - Spanish 101, packing, service learning		Goals and objectives
18-May	Trip - Arrive San Jose, Costa Rica; travel to La Fortuna	Ecotourism	
19-May	Trip - La Fortuna		CR Brief; debrief
20-May	Trip - La Fortuna; Mt. Arenal; Arenal Lake		CR Brief; debrief
21-May	Trip - Tenorio - service learning		CR Brief; debrief
22-May	Trip - Tenorio - service learning		CR Brief; debrief
23-May	Trip - Tenorio - service learning		CR Brief; debrief
24-May	Trip - Tenorio - service learning		CR Brief; debrief
25-May	Trip - Santa Elena - Mount Verda Cloud Forest		CR Brief; debrief
26-May	Trip - Santa Elena - depart for Quepos		CR Brief; debrief
27-May	Trip - Quepos - Manuel Antonio NP		CR Brief; debrief
28-May	Trip - Quepos - to Alajuela		CR Brief; debrief
29-May	Trip - Return trip to BNA		
	Post-trip activities		Portfolio; journal

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Undergraduate or graduate students in good standing.
- Permission of instructor(s) is required.
- Current WKU students eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure (parent/guardian permission for anyone under 18 at time of departure).
- Students must possess passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date.
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by Judicial Affairs.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment prior to departure is required.
- Students must complete the [Study Abroad & Global Learning application process](#) prior to being registered in this course. We suggest you start this application process immediately and respond to all emails promptly.

**BASE PACKAGE**

**Cost: \$2,495**

**Included in Base Package**

- Undergraduate tuition for 3 credit hours (\$1,090 value)
- Eleven nights of accommodations in Costa Rica
- Approximately ½ of meals while in Costa Rica
- Transportation from Bowling Green to Nashville International Airport
- Round-trip flight between Nashville and San Jose
- All in-country transportation
- One (1) checked bag on airline
- International medical insurance

**Excluded from Base Package**

- Independent travel (non-program travel).
- Meals, services, and beverages not included during course-related field programs.
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access.
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity.
- Travel cancellation/interruption insurance. *Highly recommended.*
- Possible visa/immigration fees or Airport taxes (payable only in cash locally).

**Study Abroad courses are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts. Final program fee subject to change due to travel arrangements.**

**Green Sheet subject to change due to adjustment in program or pricing.**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

<p><b>Your TopNet Account will be billed according to the following Payment Schedule:</b></p> <p>December 1, 2014 – Program Fee will be charged to student’s TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit). Balance must be paid prior to program departure. Students applying after this date will be billed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit card – NOT billed to student account.</p>	<p><b>Maximum Penalty for Withdrawal or Non-payment:</b></p> <p>Before March 1: 25% of program cost          After March 1: 50% of program cost          After April 1: 75% of program cost          After May 1: 100% of program cost (No refund)</p> <p><b>If a balance remains after the payment due date, the participant may be dropped from the program. A student may remain in the program by providing an award notification from WKU’s Student Financial Assistance that verifies ability to pay the program fee immediately after aid is received.</b></p>
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The total amount due in your semester invoice may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. Refer to your Faculty-Led Study Abroad program’s Green Sheet for final payment due dates and billing information. If you have any questions, please email [facultyled.abroad@wku.edu](mailto:facultyled.abroad@wku.edu).

**LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- This program requires significant participation in outdoor activities. Students should consult with the program instructors on the proper attire to pack.
- **Passport Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date, which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. The expiration must be beyond July 20, 2014.

**LIABILITY DISCLAIMER**

*Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.*