

Costa Rica as a Student Travel Destination

October 25, 2017
1:00 PM EDT

Katie Dunn, Educational Travel Services, Inc.
Steve Maehl, Global Travel Alliance
Terry Twitchell, WorldStrides

Tami Rogers, Bob Rogers Travel Education Committee Chair



Today's Speakers



**Katie
Dunn**



**Steve
Maehl**



**Terry
Twitchell**



Top International Student Destinations for 2017

According to Teach & Travel Magazine's Annual Survey

North America

Toronto
Montreal
Niagara Falls
Ottawa
Quebec
Vancouver
Whistler
Banff
Nassau
Riviera Maya

International

London
Paris
Rome
Madrid
Dublin
Barcelona
China
Costa Rica
Australia
Florence

What Needs Does Costa Rica Fill for Student Groups?

- Language (Study Spanish)
- Voluntourism (Service Project)
- International (Opportunity to Travel Internationally)
- Ecotourism (Science Trips)



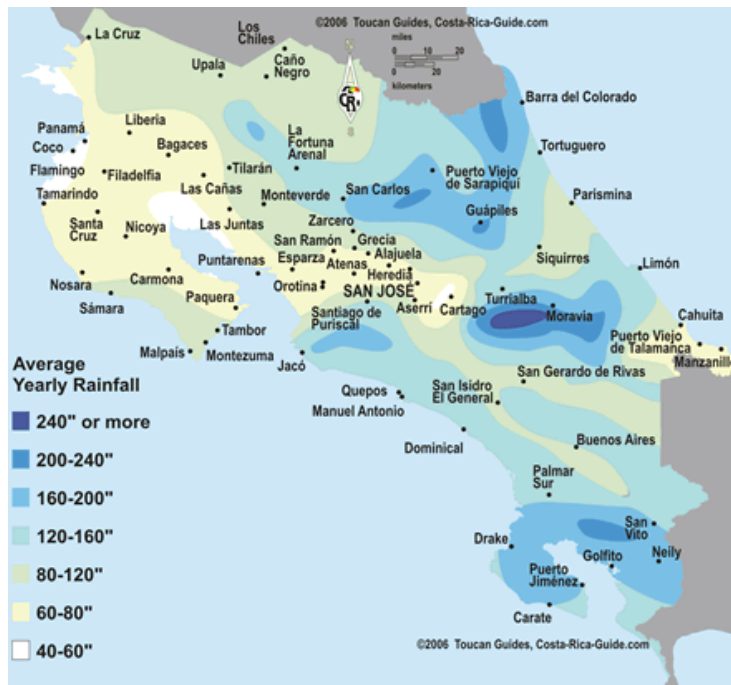
White Water Rafting

Time of Year to Visit

Dry/High Season—December through April

Rainy/Low Season—May through November

While summer travel should expect more rainfall, it can still be a great time to travel. Most rain storms are short and occur later in the day.





Culture of Costa Rica

Costa Rican People

Educated

Religious

Community centered

Peaceful

Welcoming of visitors



Pura Vida Life Style

“Pure Life”

Happiest people

Very strong social system





Pura Vida Lifestyle

- Típico =beans & rice, a Costa Rican staple
- Vegetarian's happy place
- Community “Sodas”
- Locally raised fruits, vegetables and meat

Sample Itineraries

- Costa Rican itineraries are usually 6-10 days.
- Most itineraries start and end in San Jose and incorporate many of the following:
 - *Rainforest tour*
 - *Outdoor activities such as whitewater rafting or canopy zipline*
 - *A visit to the Arenal Volcano and/or Monteverde Cloud Forest*
 - *Time at the beach*
 - *A cultural exchange such as a school visit or other local interaction.*

Sample Itineraries

Language Focus:

Visit a Spanish language school or incorporate additional cross-cultural experiences.

Service Focus:

Service projects can be added to any trip.

Science Focus:

Additional time at the National Parks can be added. As well as hands-on science projects and workshops.

Adventure Focus: Incorporate activities for groups seeking adventure

How to Prepare

- Check the US State Dept. website for travel security warnings
- It is required that all travelers to Costa Rica have an official government-issued passport
- Passports should be valid for 6 months from your date of departure
- U.S. Dollars are widely accepted in Costa Rica and can be used for most purchases. If paying with cash you will usually receive change in local currency (Colones). Credit cards are also widely accepted.

How to Prepare

- Unless traveling to remote areas in Costa Rica, special immunizations are generally not necessary. Please check with your doctor and/or travel clinic for any needed immunizations.
- Many Costa Rican hotels now have Wifi or internet access computers in the lobby. It is often easier for students to communicate by email versus by phone, which can incur expensive roaming charges.

How to Prepare

Sample Packing List:

- Weather can be very unpredictable, so be prepared for a variety of conditions. Pack comfortable, light clothes.
- Hiking boots or tennis shoes with a good grip (for horseback riding, hiking, and other outdoor activities).
- Sandals with heel straps for the beach, hot springs, and white-water rafting.
- Sweatshirt or light jacket for cool nights
- Rain parka or jacket
- Swimsuit & towel
- Hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, mosquito repellant
- Plastic bag for dirty and/or wet clothes
- Toiletries and necessary medications



Service Projects

Something for Everyone:

- Intercultural interaction projects
- Home building projects
- Social volunteer projects
- Animal and environment projects

Sample Service Project



Receptive Operators and DMC's

SYTA Members:

Costa Rica Travel Excellence
www.travelexcellence.com

Green World Adventures
www.greenworldadventures.com

Swiss Travel
www.swisstravelcr.com/tourismcostarica

Tips for Choosing Receptive Operators and DMC's

- Experienced in the student group travel market
- Obtain References
- Covered by the most comprehensive insurance policies available
- Represents your vision and business interests

Working with Receptive Operators and DMC's

- Send reservation requests at least 9 months in advance
- Discuss flexibility and emergency plans
- Payment methods

Horseback Riding





SYTA SUMMIT

JANUARY 17-21, 2018
COSTA RICA

Teach&Travel
The Official Publication of SYTA

 **SYTA**
The Voice of Student & Youth Travel®

 **syta youth foundation**
Travel Changes Young Lives for Good

SYTA Summit 2018

- The SYTA Summit provides a unique business and networking experience for tour operators and key partners. Since 2012, over 620 attendees have participated in the Summit with 85% returning the next year.

www.sytaevents.org/summit2018

Why Attend 2018 SYTA Summit

- Learn about Costa Rica as a student destination.
- Experience Costa Rica, fly into airport, stay at a local property
- Network with tour operators who have booked groups
- Education

Tour Operators Attending Summit

- Adventure Student Travel
- CCIS, Inc.
- CETA Tours
- Educational Experiences
- Educational Tours, Inc.
- Educational Travel Adventures
- Educational Travel Services, Inc.
- EF Explore America
- EXP Trips
- Global Travel Alliance
- Green Light Group Tours
- Group Travel Network, Inc.
- Hemisphere Educational Travel
- Kaleidoscope Adventures, Inc.
- Maple Leaf Tours
- Masterpiece Tours
- Music Travel Consultants
- Peak Performance Tours
- Red Line Group Travel
- Rein Teen Tours
- School Tours of America
- Super Holiday Tours
- Temple and Temple Tours TNT, Inc.
- Unique Travels & Tours, Inc.
- WorldStrides

Thank you to our 2018 Sponsors



2018 SYTA Pre-Summit Events

Pre-FAM – Visit Tortuguero

Sunday, January 14 – Wednesday, January 17

Pre-Summit Tour - Corso Lecheria (Farming Culture)

Wednesday, January 14 (1:00 pm – 6:00 pm)

* Please note separate fee for these events

Summit All Attendee Group Excursion

Doka Estate Coffee Plantation, Poas Volcano National Park, and La Paz Waterfall Gardens & Rescue Center.

Saturday, January 20 (8:00 am – 8:00 pm)

*No additional cost for this event

2018 SYTA Post-Summit Events

- Post Summit Service Projects – Helping Hands
Sunday, January 21, 7:30 am – 7:00 pm
 - Post-FAM – Visit Arenal
Sunday, January 21 – Monday, January 22
- * Please note separate fee for these events

Questions?

Contact Us!

Katie Dunn
Vice President
Educational Travel Services, Inc.
800-752-1296
katie@etsi.ws

Terry Twitchell
Director of Science Operations
WorldStrides
615-291-6746
terryt@worldstrides.org

Steve Maehl
Vice President
Global Travel Alliance
404-733-4958
smaehl@globaltravelalliance.com

Tami Rogers
Vice President of Business Management
Bob Rogers Travel
800-373-1423 X 201
tami@bobrogerstravel.com



Link to Costa Rica Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kn6qgfTmsyA&feature=youtu.be>

SYTA Resources

Please visit newly redesigned SYTA website-
www.syta.org

Additional Resources on my.syta.org

Member Directory

SYTA Logo

SYTA Research Digest

Safety Resource Guide

Recorded Webinars and PowerPoints

Upcoming Webinars

- Understanding Electronic Driver Logs
November 1, 2017, 12:00 PM EDT
- New Member Orientation Webinar
November 2, 2017, 12:00 PM EDT
- Essential Planning Tools for Music Performance Tour Providers, December 6, 2017, 1:00 PM EST

SYTA



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
AUGUST 24-28, 2018

SYTA Strategic Partners

strategic PARTNERS



SYTA Staff

Carylann Assante, CAE
Executive Director
703-245-8089
cassante@syta.org

Emily Milligan
Associate Director
703-610-1266
emilligan@syta.org

Lisa Berretta
Senior Manager, Member Relations
703-610-9034
lberretta@syta.org

Becky Armely
Manager, Operations and Projects
703-610-9028
barmely@syta.org

Hazel Mejia
Membership and Development Coordinator
703-610-0241
hmejia@syta.org

Hannah Degn
Membership and Administration Coordinator
703-610-0250
hdegm@syta.org