



explore **COSTA RICA**

VOLCANOS, RIVERS AND RAINFORESTS



November 9–15, 2025



Plunge into the lush, tropical rainforest of Tortuguero National Park, to experience first-hand how conservation and sustainability impact the natural world. This stunning region is one of the of the largest remaining areas of tropical rainforest in Central America. Enjoy endless vistas of the stunning Caribbean Sea on the expanse of protected beach. Live the moment and celebrate simplicity that is Pura vida - the simple life, Costa Rican style.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica
- 1 night in Sarapiquí, La Quinta de Sarapiquí
- 4 nights in Tortuguero National Park, Evergreen Lodge
- 1 night in San Jose, D Sabana Hotel
- Departures

Register by May 16, 2025 to receive a FREE Costa Rica water bottle – water bottles will be sent to each student upon registration.



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - November 9 DEPART THE USA TO SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA / DRIVE TO SARAPIQUI Depart DFW on AA 1053* at 10:00 a.m. Arrive in San José, Costa Rica at 2:15 p.m. Upon arrival, meet our local guides and depart for Sarapiquí. *La Quinta Sarapiquí Hotel (D)*

Day 2 - November 10 LA SELVA / TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK Depart early this morning for La Selva Biological Station for a birding walk along the trails. Operated by the Organization for Tropical Studies, La Selva protects an intact forest that hosts more than 450 bird species and 70 species of bats. The world-renowned facility welcomes hundreds of scientists and university courses each year.

After our visit, depart for the Caribbean coast and Tortuguero National Park, a region of Caribbean beaches, swamp forest, lowland rainforest, and a network of picturesque natural waterways. The park is home to an incredible diversity of plant and animal life, including more than 100 reptile species, 60 mammal species, and hundreds of bird species. The final leg of our journey is by boat through Tortuguero's scenic canals.

Arrive at our hotel by lunchtime. This afternoon, explore the village of Tortuguero, a car-free town with a population of just 500 inhabitants, located on a narrow strip of land between the beach and a canal. Stroll through the colorful village, discover its unique way of life, and meet locals. *Evergreen Lodge. (B,L,D)*

Day 3 - November 11 DISCOVERING TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK The area now protected by Tortuguero ("turtle catcher") National Park was once an archipelago of volcanic islands. Over time, alluvial sediments from the interior mountains filled in the region, creating a vast



network of marshlands. Along the coast, sand deposits formed beaches that serve as nesting grounds for seven species of sea turtles. This diverse ecosystem—shaped by heavy rainfall, beaches, canals, lagoons, and wetlands—supports extraordinary biodiversity.

This morning, explore Tortuguero's flooded forests by boat, gliding through tranquil waterways lined with towering trees. Keep an eye out for keel-billed toucans, vibrant parrots, and the iconic basilisk lizard. As we navigate the park's canals, we may spot all six species of New World kingfishers, as many as eight species of parrots, toucans, and oropendolas. Look for the raphia palm, which boasts the largest leaves of any plant. Capuchin and spider monkeys might make daring leaps across the river, offering incredible photography opportunities.

After the boat tour, take a guided walk along the lodge's private trails with a naturalist.

This afternoon, enjoy free time to relax and take advantage of the lodge's facilities. *Evergreen Lodge (B,L,D)*

Day 4 - November 12 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK This morning, take a boat transfer from the lodge to the starting point of our hike at Cerro Tortuguero, an inactive volcano that formed approximately 1.8 billion years ago. A well-marked trail leads to the summit at 390 feet (119 meters), offering a rewarding climb through lush tropical surroundings.

The hike begins on an elevated platform before transitioning to a series of steps that ascend to the top. While the trail is not particularly strenuous, climbing several hundred steps in the Caribbean heat and humidity can be challenging—be sure to bring water.

At the summit, an observation deck offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes. Scan from left to right to





take in the Caribbean Sea, Barra del Tortuguero, Tortuguero town, Tortuguero Lagoon, San Francisco town, Penitencia Lagoon, and the distant Sierpe Hills. The expansive forest canopies of Tortuguero National Park stretch endlessly toward the horizon, completing this breathtaking vista. *Evergreen Lodge (B,L,D)*

Day 5 - November 13 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Early this morning, witness one of nature's most remarkable spectacles—the hatching of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). While their nesting season typically runs from July to September, in Tortuguero, it often extends into October, allowing for hatchlings to emerge in early November.

Born beneath the sand, the tiny turtles break free from

their shells and instinctively race toward the sea, facing immense challenges along the way. Once in the water, they embark on long migrations across the ocean, returning years later to the very beach where they were born to nest once again.

(Please note that wildlife sightings, while planned, are at the discretion of nature and cannot be guaranteed.)

Return to the lodge for breakfast. Later, travel by boat to the small town of San Francisco to visit the local school and engage with the children.

This afternoon, enjoy leisure time at the lodge. *Evergreen Lodge (B,L,D)*

Day 6 - November 14 RETURN TO SAN JOSÉ Mid-morning, depart by boat back to the main dock, then begin the return drive to San José, stopping in Guápiles for lunch.

Upon arrival in San José, check in to our hotel and enjoy free time to explore local shops, where you can pick up souvenirs and handcrafted goods as a memento of your journey.

This evening, gather for a farewell dinner with your guides, reflecting on the incredible experiences of the trip. *D Sabana Hotel (B,L,D)*

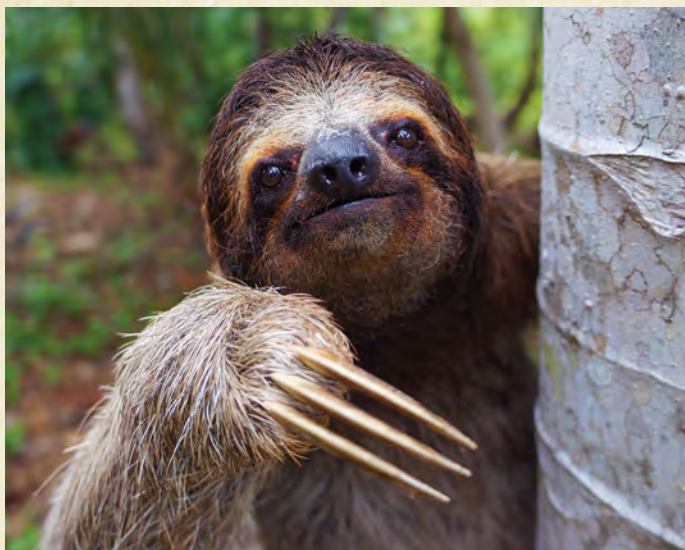
Day 7 - November 15 RETURN HOME

Morning at leisure. Group transfer to Juan Santamaría International Airport for departure on AA1080 at 3:00 p.m., arriving DFW at 7:20 p.m. *(B)*









NOVEMBER 9-15, 2025

Trip Price, Land Only

12-14 students: \$3,297 per student if registered by July 15. (Early Booking Credit)
\$3,397 after July 15

15-23 students: a \$75 pp credit will be applied to student rates, prior to final payment due date.

Parents/ Chaperones

\$3,489 per person in a double room
\$3,518 single rate

Airfare

Roundtrip Airfare from Dallas, selected at the time of registration: \$768 per person

Payment

\$350 deposit on or before May 16, 2025 and receive a 2025 Edition Owala Free Sip 24oz water bottle.

Additional Payment due dates:
\$700 July 2, 2025
\$1,400 August 2, 2025

Registrations after subsequent payment dates will be charged the full amount of all payments due. Payments are charged automatically to the credit card on file on the due date, or may be made by check if received in the business office at least 10 days in advance of the due date.

Deadline to Register and Full payment due by September 3, 2025

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Private transportation throughout; shared boat transfers in Tortuguero
- ✓ Bilingual naturalist guide Trip Leader
- ✓ Accommodations for six nights on a share basis
- ✓ Meals mentioned in the itinerary 6 B: Breakfast, 5 L: Lunch, 6 D: Dinner
- ✓ Birding tour at Selva Biological Station
- ✓ Excursions in Tortuguero: Village tour, canal boat tour, trail hike, turtle hatching tour, Cerro Tortuguero hike, San Francisco village & school visit
- ✓ Tortuguero National Park entrance fee
- ✓ Visit the La Selva Biological Station
- ✓ Potable water to refill your water bottle
- ✓ Soft drinks, water, juice, coffee, tea with included meals
- ✓ Gratuities for included meals, hotel staff, boat crew, driver and local guide
- ✓ Custom Owala Free Sip 24oz water bottle, if registered by May 16, 2025
- ✓ \$100 per person Early Booking Credit, if registered by July 15, 2025

PRICED SEPARATELY OR EXCLUDED:

- International Airfare (offered at a supplement)
- Baggage fees
- Passport Fees
- Airport or departure taxes assessed separately from airline ticket inclusions
- Items of a personal nature, equipment rental, laundry, phone calls, internet access, beverages not included with meals or on the bus, camera fees, required vaccinations, etc.
- Transfers for non-group arrivals and departures
- Travel insurance, recommended by Nolan High School
- Specific items described as Not Included on each tour

CANCELLATION FEES

Cancellation Fees are applied to the trip fee. Airline penalties, if applicable, are assessed separately.

On or Before September 5, 2025: \$50

(September 6 - October 1) 64-40 days prior: 50% of payments
(October 2-Nov 9) 39-0 days prior: 100% of payments



For more information:

Contact **Rick Garnett** with Nolan Catholic High School

or **John Key** with Conservancy Travel

Email: john.key@conservancytravel.org Phone 334 372 3132

Register online at

[www.conservancytravel.org/ NOLAN_2025CR](http://www.conservancytravel.org/NOLAN_2025CR)



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