



**We are delighted that you've chosen to join one of our Costa Rica Expeditions!**

EcoTeach is a small company devoted to conservation and education and our participants take part in real conservation projects while being exposed to the wonders of Costa Rica, including its varied cultures, major ecological zones and animal life.

EcoTeach works actively with local organizations and communities, making it easy for us to offer authentic experiences and special tours. We believe our programs provide the very best Costa Rica has to offer. As you begin planning for your trip, here are a couple of pieces of information you should have.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TRIP:**

Our trips are an exceptional value because they include nearly everything! Review the itinerary on your customized group webpage – the last page clearly outlines what is, and is not, included in the trip cost.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

We stay at a variety of lodgings ranging from dormitory-like cabins to comfortable hotels to home stays with rural families. There will not be internet access on your trip and limited phone access. Some of the places you will be staying are rough and rustic; without electricity or hot water. All of this makes your trip the adventure it is!

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION:**

A passport is required to enter Costa Rica. For US citizens, no visa is needed but the passport must be valid for 90 days after the day you arrive. If your itinerary includes Panama or Nicaragua, passports must be valid for 6 months upon arrival. Citizens of other countries should check with the Costa Rican/Panamanian/Nicaraguan Embassies to determine entry requirements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

Unless otherwise specified, a travel insurance policy with post departure coverage is included in the trip price. This covers things such as trip interruption, trip delay, lost or delayed baggage, emergency medical expenses, and emergency evacuation and repatriation expenses. You can find a description of coverage of the policy on your group webpage or by request from EcoTeach.

Cancellation insurance is not included in the trip price, but can be purchased at an additional cost. This generally covers cancellations due to sickness, accidental injuries, etc. The description of coverage of this policy can also be found on the group webpage or by request from EcoTeach.

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As EcoTeach is not the provider of these policies, we make no warranty as to the terms of the coverage. We strongly encourage you to review the terms and conditions and determine if these policies meet your concerns and needs. If you have specific questions regarding the coverage, EcoTeach can provide you with the contact information for the insurance company that provides these policies.

### **REQUIRED PAPERWORK:**

There are a few pieces of required paperwork. All can be found on your custom group webpage.

1. **Registration Form:** This must be filled out and signed and returned to your trip leader along with a \$150 nonrefundable deposit in order to sign up for the trip.
2. **Personal Information Form:** This form covers information such as health and diet concerns, emergency contact, and more. Once we receive your registration form, we will set up an online account and email information on how to access your record. You can either go online and fill out the information, or fill out the paper form and email, mail or fax to EcoTeach.
3. **Code of Conduct (required for travelers under 18):** Please fill this out, sign, and return to EcoTeach.
4. **Affidavit for Permission to Travel (for travelers under 18):** If you are under 18, the airlines may want to make sure that you have BOTH your parents' or guardians' permission to travel abroad. When you check in for your flight, if they ask to see the permission form and you can't produce it, they will not let you on the flight.  
**GIVE THIS TO AN ADULT ON THE TRIP – DO NOT RETURN TO ECOTEACH.**

### **IMMUNIZATIONS:**

No immunizations are required to enter Costa Rica, however, the Center for Disease Control does give recommendations on their website. We encourage you to consult your doctor or a travel clinic about travel medicine, as EcoTeach does not provide medical advice.

### **A NOTE ON FLIGHTS:**

For groups booking flights through EcoTeach, please be aware that taxes and fees (fuel surcharges, security costs, etc) imposed by the airlines can change until tickets are issued approximately 2-3 months prior to your departure date. When tickets are issued, any additional fees will be added to your account and are due with the final payment. Thanks for your understanding of this matter.

We anticipate that as you prepare for the trip, questions will arise. Please let us know how we can help and don't hesitate to contact us in the weeks and months to come!

Sincerely,

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Deb Smucker, Director, 800-626-8992 x12, [deb@ecoteach.com](mailto:deb@ecoteach.com)

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