



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL

# Costa Rica Sea Turtle Ecology Program



△ monitor leatherback sea turtle nesting behavior

This is an amazing opportunity to assist with a sea turtle monitoring project and be an active collaborator in international sea turtle conservation efforts.

Costa Rica's Pacuare Nature Reserve, with four miles of beach and a 2,000 acre lowland tropical forest, is a protected sea turtle reserve. The beach at Pacuare is of critical importance in terms of worldwide sea turtle nesting activity. Costa Rica's tropical lowland forests are home to howler monkeys, three-toed sloths, toucans, reptiles, and other wonders of the natural world. You'll have a chance to see all these creatures and more!

Students collect data with nesting sea turtles including carapace width and length, and number of eggs laid, and using that information they develop a field-based research project. On-course, students complete at least 20 hours of research while patrolling the remote beach at the Pacuare Reserve in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. This 12-day program also includes over 50 hours coursework and instruction in subjects like sea turtle biology, rainforest ecology, and research methodology.

After completing their field work, students meet their Costa Rican peers when they visit a local school attended by local program participants. Students spend time together giving joint presentations, sharing research data, engaging in the powerful exchange of ideas and realizing their collaborative strength.

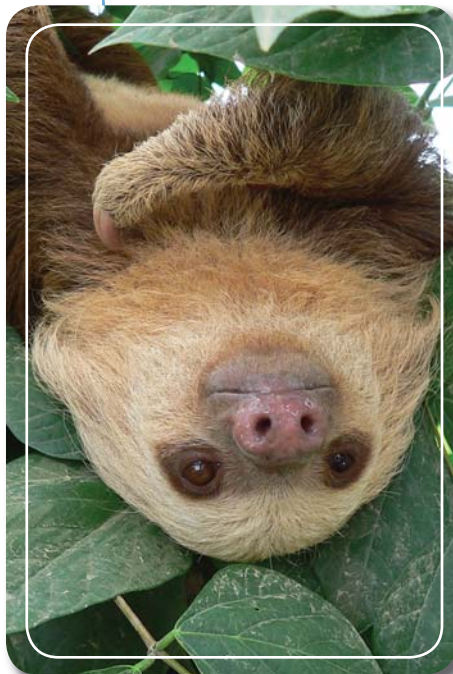
[www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org)

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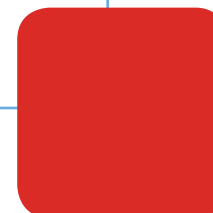
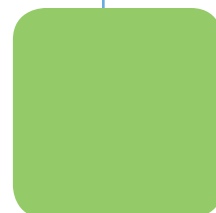
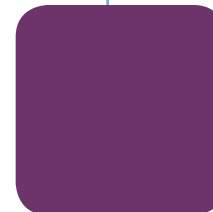
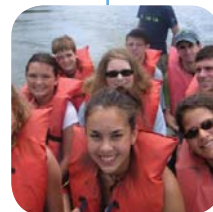
- Protect leatherback sea turtles
- Raft through lowland rainforest
- Restore threatened tropical habitat



△ witness a turtle nest hatch



△ study rainforest ecology



academic & cultural exchange field programs

# Costa Rica Sea Turtle Ecology Program Itinerary



Sample itinerary subject to change

## Day 1: Arrival in San Jose

- Get to know your instructor team
- Preview sea turtle biology

## Day 2-6: Leatherback sea turtles at the Pacuare Nature Reserve

- Collect data about nesting sea turtles during nightly patrols
- Explore and investigate the rainforest ecosystems
- Restore turtle nesting habitat on the beach

## Day 7: From the turtle reserve to the rainforest

- Travel northwest to a private rainforest reserve
- Meet the friendly staff working on biodiversity projects

## Day 8-9: Rainforest Reserve

- Visit a heliconia garden and collect seeds for planting
- Travel northwest to a private rainforest reserve
- Plant saplings as part of a reforestation project

## Day 10: Rafting the Pacuare River

- Raft the spectacular rapids of the Pacuare River
- Float through vibrant jungle canyons and past waterfalls

## Day 11: Intercultural Exchange Day

- Meet local students and learn about each other's cultures
- Present the results of student-led research projects
- Play soccer or volleyball and practice Spanish with the locals

## Day 12: Departure from San Jose International Airport



## Details:

- **Accommodations:** 5 nights in beach cabins, 3 nights in rainforest bungalows & 3 nights in hotels
- **Course dates:** March- July
- **Price:** \$2,995 (all-inclusive)
- **Group size:** Minimum 10; Maximum 20
- **How to Apply:** Contact Joshua Klaus at EPI : [josh@ecologyproject.org](mailto:josh@ecologyproject.org) \* 406.721.8784

Send in an EPI application and \$250 deposit; applications online at: [www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org)

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