



ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

Sea Turtles and Rainforests in Costa Rica



△ monitor leatherback sea turtle nesting behavior

Spend a week in Costa Rica this spring protecting endangered sea turtles while enjoying the natural highlights of this friendly country.

Experience the wonder of a the largest sea turtle on Earth as she comes ashore to lay her eggs, a ritual her ancestors began millions of years ago. Gather data with our students on “turtle patrol” at night, stroll through the rainforest in the company of white-face monkeys and tree sloths, take in magnificent waterfalls, and sway to the tropical breeze in your hammock.

Since its first field season in 2000, EPI has worked to create an ecologically literate society in which the world’s youth are empowered to take an active role in conservation efforts. Driven by our belief that local communities must be involved and engaged in conservation efforts, EPI has hosted 3,500 students and teachers from Latin America in its field programs. This commitment makes EPI rare within the conservation movement.

On this trip, YOU will be the student, gathering data with global ramifications. You will also meet with local students and teachers who have been ignited by their experience with EPI and are working to protect the habitats they call home.

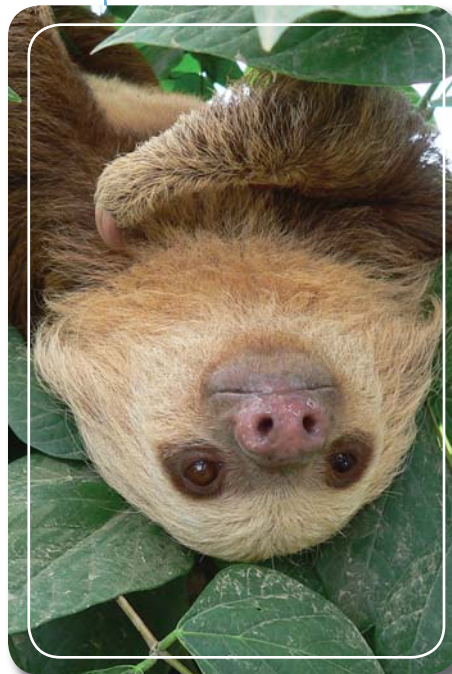
www.ecologyproject.org

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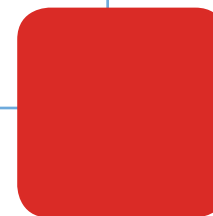
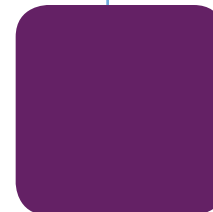
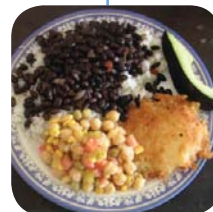
- Experience the wonder of a nesting sea turtle and explore tropical rainforests
- Discover concrete opportunities to protect this unique and fragile ecosystem



△ witness a turtle nest hatch



△ study rainforest ecology



academic & cultural exchange field programs

Sea Turtles and Rainforests in Costa Rica



Day 1: Arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica

- Get to know your fellow travelers, practice your Spanish or relax at the hotel
- Enjoy the cool air and volcano-rimmed views of the capitol city

Day 2: Experience sea turtles at the Pacuare Nature Reserve

- Travel through cloud forests and banana plantations to reach the coast
- Explore the deserted beach and enjoy the sunset colors over the Caribbean
- Be introduced to the sea turtles as they come ashore to nest at night

Days 3-5: Measure the backs of the leathery sea turtles

- Sea turtles are most active at night, so nightly patrols continue
- During the day, explore the forests for monkeys, birds and other wildlife
- Enjoy the quiet beach for yourself, from sunrise to sunset

Day 5-7: Getaway in the rainforest

- Head inland to Selva Bananito, an old-growth rainforest reserve and eco-lodge
- Take a hike to beautiful heliconia gardens or take a dip in the nearby river
- Retreat to spacious bungalows with solar-heated water and fabulous fresh food

Day 7-8: Visit Arenal Volcano and Tabacon hotsprings

- Leave the Caribbean to explore the town of La Fortuna, near Arenal Volcano
- Soak in the hotsprings and find the hidden waterfall
- After sleeping at the base of the volcano, head back to San Jose at sunset

Day 9: Fly Home to San Jose

"It was fantastic to see - from a distance of about 12 inches! - the giant Leatherback turtles lay their eggs in the sand at night...The entire trip was a wonderful experience." - **Adult trip Participant**



Details:

- **Accommodations:** 3 nights in beach cabins, 2 nights in rainforest bungalows & 3 nights in hotels
- **Course dates:** April or May 2010
- **Price:** \$1,500 per person without airfare
- **Group size:** Limited to 16 people
- **To Join us:** Send an application and \$500 deposit by January 31, 2009; applications online at: www.ecologyproject.org

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