



IN SEARCH OF LEATHERBACKS:

You're walking along a dark sand beach at midnight. With a sky full of stars, all is silent as you look towards the rolling ocean. You're in search of the elusive, gigantic leatherback sea turtle and its hatchlings. And when you spot them, you'll help increase our understanding of and our ability to conserve this keystone species.

YOUR FIELD WORK:

EPI's program offers you an amazing opportunity to engage with Costa Rica's immense biodiversity. While at our field station, you'll monitor the beach, guided by trained research assistants. The collected data on turtle numbers, size, and location will help you develop a field-based research project.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE:

After completing your field work, you may visit a local high school, play soccer, or try local cuisine with Costa Rican students. It's a great opportunity to practice your Spanish and learn about local culture.

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE:

You'll explore the rainforest, home of howler monkeys, sloths, toucans, iguanas, leaf cutter ants, dart frogs, and a host of other species to learn about their natural history.

COSTA RICA SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY

HIGHLIGHTS



PROTECT LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLES



ENJOY A BIRDING PARADISE



HIKE THROUGH BIODIVERSITY
HOTSPOTS



COSTA RICA SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: ARRIVE IN COSTA RICA

- Meet your instructor team
- Prepare for your adventure at the EPI campus or in a cozy hotel outside of San Jose

Days 2-5: LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE RESERVE

- Learn about sea turtle biology, rainforest ecology, and conservation issues
- Explore the amazing wildlife of lowland tropical ecosystems
- Collect data on nesting sea turtles during a nightly census
- Restore turtle nesting habitat on the beach

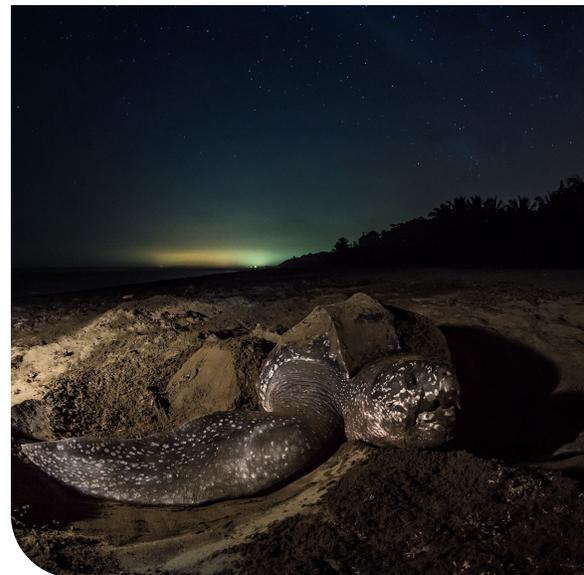
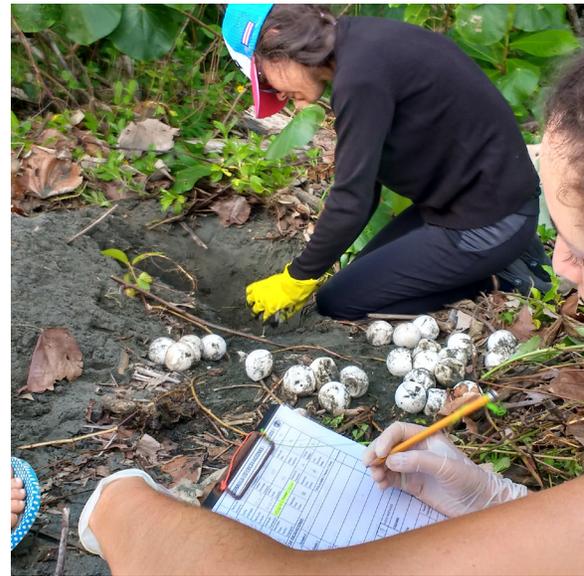
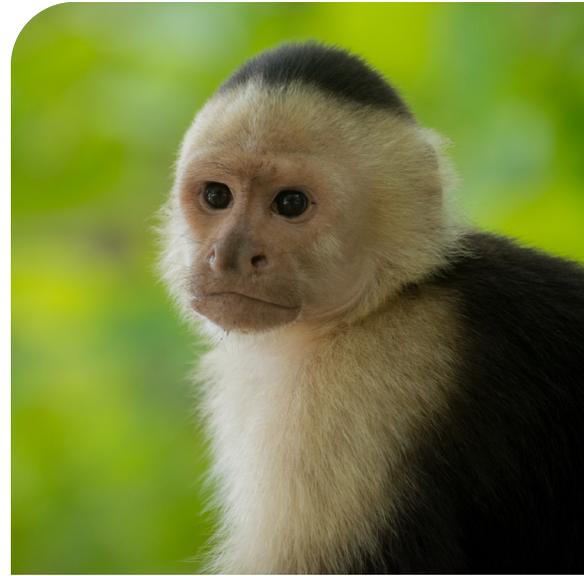
Days 6-7: EXPLORE THE RAINFOREST

- On the way to your rainforest reserve, meet local students, learn about each other's cultures, and practice your Spanish
- Bird-watch, hike through the rainforest, and enjoy another facet of Costa Rica
- Observe nocturnal species while on a night hike

Days 8: OFF ON AN ADVENTURE

- Raft through rainforest rapids or zip line through the rainforest canopy (depending on season & weather)

Day 9: DEPART FROM SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



| Length | Research & Service Hours | Coursework Hours | Focus |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| 9 Days | 14 | 30 | sea turtle biology, rainforest ecology, conservation |