



**ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL**

# COSTA RICA

## SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY

PROTECT SEA TURTLES | EXPLORE A BIRDING PARADISE | HIKE THROUGH A TROPICAL FOREST



### IN SEARCH OF LEATHERBACKS

Imagine studying tropical ecology at a research facility deep in the rainforest, full of colorful birds, unusual mammals, and threatened keystone species—like the leatherback sea turtle. On this program, you'll be at the center of leatherback conservation efforts while learning about Costa Rica's immense diversity.



### YOUR FIELD WORK

By joining EPI's program, you'll have a remarkable opportunity to explore Costa Rica's abundant biodiversity. At Pacuare Reserve, you'll be accompanied by research assistants as you conduct beach monitoring. Your collection of data on the quantity and size of nesting sea turtles will serve as a foundation for developing a research project.



### COSTA RICA ADVENTURES

While this fieldwork-centered course may require considerable effort, it also provides ample opportunities for fun! When you're not actively contributing to research, you can meet local students, embark on a guided walk beneath the rainforest canopy, or experience the thrill of whitewater rafting along the Pacuare River.

• INSPIRING STUDENTS WITH NATURE & EMPOWERING THEM WITH SCIENCE •



# COSTA RICA SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY

## DAY 1: ARRIVE IN COSTA RICA

- Get acquainted with your instructor team
- Prepare for your adventure at a cozy hotel outside of San Jose

## DAYS 2-5: MONITOR LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLES

- Learn about sea turtle biology, rainforest ecology, and conservation issues that impact Costa Rica
- 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

- If schedules permit, you'll meet local students to gain insight into their culture, and practice your Spanish language skills
- During your tropical forest hikes, you can spot some of Costa Rica's stunning bird species
- Explore fascinating nocturnal species on a night hike

## DAY 8: EMBARK 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



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