

Field Trip for Dr. Winking's Spring 2014 Anthropology 489 Course

A Collaborative Program of Dr. Jeff Winking of Texas A&M University
Department of Anthropology and Miles Phillips of Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Department of Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences

COSTA RICA

Spring Break March 8 – 15th, 2014

Lodging

1st night San Jose at Hotel Europa

2nd 3rd and 4th nights on the coast in Puerto Viejo at Hotel Costa de Papito

5th and 6th nights at Selva Verde Lodge on the Caribbean slope in the mountains.

7th night in San Jose at Hotel Aeropuerto

Itinerary at a Glance

- 1. Day 1 Saturday March 8: Fly to San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO) Overnight at Hotel Europa in Museum District.**
- 2. Day 2 Sunday March 9: Morning visit to the National History Museum, leave for the coast and on the way visit Guayabo National Archeological Park. Continue to Puerto Viejo near Cahuita National Park on the Caribbean coast. Explore community and beach. Overnight at Costa de Papito**
- 3. Day 3 Monday March 10 Visit the Bri-Bri Indian community of Yorquin for full day experience led by Bri-Bri**
- 4. Day 4 Tuesday March 11 Visit Cahuita National Park/Beach and the Jaguar Rescue Center**
- 5. Day 5 Wednesday March 12 Travel to Selva Verde Lodge, on the way visit pineapple farm.**
- 6. Day 6 Thursday March 13 Guided hiking tour of tropical rainforest. Lecture/Personal learning & & exploration time**
- 7. Day 7 Friday March 14 Open AM / optional whitewater rafting. Group travels to visit with local community for lunch the travel to San Jose – Hotel Aeropuerto and group dinner/discussion.**
- 8. Day 8 Saturday March 15 Return flight back home.**

Price \$1, 519/person, Price does not include airfare and miscellaneous personal spending.

Expanded Itinerary with Descriptions

**Sat 8 Arrive in San Jose. You will be met at the airport by
Lloyd**

Martinez . Your private bilingual guide.

Lloyd Martinez

Naturalist guide Lloyd Martinez has taken courses at the National University of Costa Rica in marine biology and tropical biology. He also has taken courses at Lankester Gardens on dendrology, birds of Costa Rica, and Costa Rica's trees.

He received his official permit as a tour guide after training at the National Institute of Learning, where he completed courses about the serpents of Costa Rica, natural history, geography and hotel management.

His other training includes Costa Rican literature, general tourism, touristic legislation and RPC. He completed Tam Travel Agency's training to work with cruise tourism.

A self-learner, from an early age, Lloyd paid close attention to the wildlife on at his grandfather's farm, from the birds and their songs to the large iguanas sunbathing on rocks. Today, he enjoys studying not only natural history and biology but also other

subjects, including current political, cultural and socioeconomic matters that affect Costa Rica.

Lloyds feels very fortunate to share the beauty of his country with all visitors. Our tourists are very pleased to have Lloyd as their guide -- not only because his excellent knowledge, but also because of his wonderful humor.

Check in at hotel. Lunch in San Jose.

Afternoon visit to the National History Museum.

The fortress was built in 1917 and was originally a military barracks: the exterior walls still have many bullets lodged in them from the country's 1948 civil war. It became the site of the museum in 1950.

The entrance on the east side leads to a courtyard displaying pre-Columbian artifacts and cannons from the colonial period. The museum is organized thematically in a counter clockwise direction from the entrance with artifacts related to Costa Rica's geological, colonial, archaeological, religious and modern history. The museum had a notable collection of pre-Columbian stone tables (metates), ceramics and a gold room "Sala de Oro" in the northeast tower. The colonial room has a notable collection of furniture and is designed to emulate that of an actual quarters in the 18th century. The museum also has an exhibit of the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Óscar Arias, and a bust of José Figueres and butterfly garden in the outside "Plaza de la Democracia"

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museo_Nacional_de_Costa_Rica

Overnight at Europa Hotel in San Jose.

<http://www.hoteleuropacr.com/>

Sun 9

Departure to the beach.

Morning departure to the beach stopping at Guayabo National Monument

Guayabo National Monument

“This is the largest archaeological site yet found in Costa Rica. Largely unexplored, the area contains ancient trails, bridges, water tanks and homesites, as well as petroglyphs estimated to be about 3,000 years old.

Guayabo is an ancient of the Pre-Columbian era, situated in the midst of the cloud forests and rain forests of Costa Rica. A stroll through the Guayabo area reveals raised stone foundations, and stone paved roads of unknown length leading off into the surrounding dense foliage.”

<http://www.costarica-nationalparks.com/guayabonationalmonument.html>

Lunch to be determined depending on visits

If leaving San Jose around 8 a.m. the group should arrive at the beach around 4 to 5 p.m

Free afternoon to enjoy the beach.

Open night to visit local restaurants.

Overnight at Costa de Papito

<http://www.lacostadepapito.com/>

Mon 10 Visit to the Indian Community of Yorkin.

“The Yorkin tour will lead us to the indigene Bribri territory located in the tropical rainforest of Talamanca. This is an incomparable opportunity to experience this culture.

The tour starts in Bambu, next to the convenience store and the police station. The local guide will be waiting for you to get on an indigene canoe sailed by local experts who will take you on the Yorkin river, natural border between Costa Rica and Panama, while admiring the lush vegetation around.

After about one hour, when we get to Yorkin, we will walk around the village and see organic plantains and cocoa plantations, on our way to the Stibrawpa Rural Lodge. When we get there, we will have a delicious snack and visit the Skui river and the suspension bridge where it is possible to swim in natural pools.

Then, we will have a bribri style lunch, followed by a chat about the organization's history. For dessert, you will be taught to produce chocolate and have organic plantains dipped into freshly made chocolate sauce.

After this unique experience, we will go back to Bambu by canoe”

<http://actuarcostarica.com/from-southern-caribbean/cahuita-puerto-viejo/limon/one-day-tour-to-yorkin-%C2%A1mishka-yorkin-87/details/costa-rica-3241.html>

Overnight at costa de Papito

***Explore town and experience choosing and buying dinner on your own**

Tue 11 Visit to Cahuita National Park

Cahuita National Park Attractions

Cahuita National Park is best known for the coral reefs close to shore. In the dry season, there is good snorkeling from the beach, and you are likely to see light yellow brain, elkhorn, and blue staghorn corals, sea fans, and gorgonians as a back drop to the more than 500 species of fish endemic to the reefs.

The hiking trail from the Kelly Creek station at Cahuita village, around the point to the Puerto Vargas is an excellent route to spot green ibis, yellow-crowned night herons, Northern boat-billed herons, Swainson toucans, keel-billed toucans, rufous kingfishers, and the Central American curassow. These feathered friends will most likely appear while you are in the middle of wading the tannin stained waters of the Perozoso (Sloth) River, and trying to extract your camera from your fanny pack to capture a photo of the tamandua, paca, coati, raccoon, or agouti that you've spotted at the edge of the trees.

The villages of Cahuita and Puerto Viejo are not in the National Park, but their Caribbean attitude mixed with the multicultural community of locals and expatriates from North America and Europe are definitely a local attraction. Excellent French and Italian Cuisine compliment the local spicy seafood fare and the music plays long into the night.

***Lunch in Cahuita. Purchase on your own**

Visit to the Jaguar Rescue Center

“A unique experience to interact with Costa Rica’s Wild animals and help a worldwide cause.

The Jaguar Rescue Center in Playa Chiquita is a non-profit foundation to rehabilitate mistreated, injured and/or confiscated animals, which are then reintroduced to their natural habitat in protected areas.”

<http://www.jaguarrescue.com/>

Overnight at Costa de Papito

Wed 12 Departure to Selva Verde

Leave the beach in the morning arriving in Selva Verde for lunch

Afternoon Pineapple tour.

A trip through an operating pineapple farm in the comfort of a unique trailer. Visitors will receive a historic pineapple briefing summary and an explanation of this fruit morphology and development.

A visit to the pineapple packing plant is included, as well as to the production site.

You will observe the extensive protected areas of the farm and our operation in harmony with nature.

Overnight at Selva Verde

Thu 13 Rain Forest Tour at Selva Verde.

Experience first hand the wonder of exploring a tropical rainforest. Enjoy a personalized and leisurely ramble through Selva Verde's 500 acre private reserve with your private knowledgeable naturalist. Learn more than just the names of rainforest plants and animals - discover their secret lives and fascinating natural histories. Be on the look out for monkeys, mot-mots, toucans, and poison dart frogs.

Lunch at Selva Verde.

Open afternoon to take an optional tour

Overnight at Selva Verde

Fri 14 Open morning to take a optional Canopy Tour or White Water Rafting Tour (additional \$55 per person)

Depart the Hotel around 11 a.m. stopping at a family farm to enjoy Local Costa Rican culture and food

Arrive at hotel around 5 p.m.

Overnight at Hotel aeropuerto

<http://www.airporthotelcostarica.com/>

Sat 15 Flight back home

Price Includes:

All lodging.

Double occupancy in San Jose.

Triple occupancy at the beach and Selva Verde (except for professors)

All transfers

Accompanied by bilingual professional guide.

All tours as described in the itinerary

All meals except for one lunch and one dinner as described.