



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Costa Rica Study Abroad

### 1. When is the trip?

*This trip is scheduled for COA's Spring Break 2024. The dates are March 30 - April 7, 2024. Priority Registration Deadline is June 22, 2023, to be locked in at the current price. \*Rolling registration will continue until November 30, 2023, while space is available. The price of the trip is subject to increase based on the date of registration.*

### 2. Who is eligible to participate?

*COA students have first priority. However, COA faculty and staff as well as community members may join. All participants must be at least 16 years of age at the time of the travel.*

### 3. How much does the trip cost?

*Students (travelers under the age of 23 with three or four participants per room): \$3,366*

*Adults (age 23 and over with two participants per room): \$3,851*

*Price includes required **Travel Protection Plan Plus (\$216.00)**, which allows a traveler to cancel for any reason and receive a majority refund. (Additional fee may apply.)*

*Automatic monthly payment plans available: Pay just \$50 upon enrollment and the balance will be divided into equal monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card or checking account. as of May 3, 2023, your monthly payment would be \$344.44.*

*(Manual plan also available; learn more on [explorica.com/paymentplans](https://explorica.com/paymentplans).)*

### 4. What is included?

*Cost includes van travel from COA to the Norfolk airport and back, round-trip airfare, in-country transportation, hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, most lunches, services of the professional tour director, guided tours/sightseeing, and visits to attractions not listed as optional.*

### 5. What is not included?

*The trip fee does not cover any costs associated with obtaining a passport, any airline fees for checked baggage, or some lunches when small groups may be allowed to go on their own (with chaperone) to choose their own lunch location. Participants are also responsible for their own meals on the air travel days.*

### 6. What are the current Covid-19 related requirements for entering Costa Rica?

*As of January 13, 2023, there are no special requirements related to Covid-19 with the exception of visitors from China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan who have been in those territories during the last 14 days.*

### 7. Are there additional requirements for entering Costa Rica?

*A return flight ticket is needed when entering Costa Rica. The immigration officer will ask for it upon your arrival. It is advisable to make a photocopy or take a picture of your passport with the entry stamp to carry at all times during your stay.*

- *Your country of origin determines the amount of days available to stay in Costa Rica as a tourist.*
- *In some cases, the Immigration official may request you show economic solvency for your stay in the country.*
- *Even with a 90-day tourist visa, the immigration official determines the duration of your stay as allowed by your passport.*

*Visitors to Costa Rica must have a valid passport as well as proof of their intent to exit the country before their visa or entry stamp expires, usually within 90 days.*

8. What if the trip does not occur because of closures, government regulations, or travel restrictions due to COVID-19?

*The college trip leader(s) can move the tour to a new location with no fees associated, or if you have to cancel, with the required Cancel for Any Reason Travel Protection coverage (see #3), your cancellation fee will be just \$75. Note: the cost of the Travel Protection Plan itself is non-refundable.*

9. Is there any financial assistance for students?

*Through the generosity of the COA Foundation, regional Rotary Clubs, and Study Abroad Program fundraising, we are able to offer support funds up to \$500 to current COA students who meet certain criteria. Priority Study Abroad Support Fund Applications Deadline is September 15, 2023.*

10. Does Explorica offer fundraising opportunities?

*Yes, Explorica offers fundraising opportunities through Personal Fundraising pages on their website. Every paying trip participant receives their very own fundraising page on explorica.com, and the page is generated automatically upon enrollment. Participants can personalize their page, or just use the provided default content, and begin accepting donations immediately. Here's a quick overview of how it works: As soon as a paying participant enrolls, they can access their personal fundraising page by logging in to their Tour Center and clicking on the "Go to my fundraising page" link in the "Tour Account" module. The page is ready to use as-is, but participants can personalize it by uploading a photo of themselves, writing a personal statement, and/or adjusting their fundraising goal.*

11. What is the North Carolina Scholar of Global Distinction Program

*North Carolina Scholar of Global Distinction Program participants who successfully complete the program receive "Graduated with Global Distinction" on their transcripts, an honors graduation stole, and a joint certificate from COA and World View at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill recognizing this accomplishment. This honor can be listed on resumes or university applications. To successfully complete the NCSGDP, students will meet the following requirements:*

- *Complete at least 15 credit hours of globally intensive courses*
- *Participate in eight international activities and dialogue*
- *Gain global experience (30 hours of participation in either study abroad, approved personal international travel, or a domestic intercultural experience)*
- *Give a capstone presentation related to their global learning participation*

12. How do I sign up for the Costa Rica 2024 trip?

*Contact Leslie Lippincott at [leslie\\_lippincott@albemarle.edu](mailto:leslie_lippincott@albemarle.edu) or Bradley Bosewell at [bradley\\_boswell22@albemarle.edu](mailto:bradley_boswell22@albemarle.edu) to receive a program participation application and a COA support fund application (students only). Upon approval, create an account on the trip website portal and pay the \$50 deposit.*