Broward College Trip

Faculty Lead Trip: Spanish for Traveling and Comparative Governments

Beyond Study Abroad
Day 1
 Upon arrival at Juan Santamaria International Airport, Broward College will be welcomed by Beyond Staff and shuttled to your accommodations at Hotel Aranjuez. After everyone is settled in, we will hold a welcome dinner providing your group with its first taste of typical Costa Rican cuisine! We’ll cover important safety information during our orientation session and outline the exciting events to come!

Day 2
 After a world-class breakfast buffet of fresh tropical fruit, huevos, and Costa Rica’s famous Gallo Pinto (seasoned rice and bean dish) we’ll visit Guarderia Los Angeles, a local school, for our service project. We have a long list of school improvement projects including classroom painting, and facility cleanup. In the afternoon, we’ll tour downtown San Jose with visits to the Avenida Central, Mercado Central, the National Church, and the National Theatre. We’ll also visit the famous La Basilica in Cartago. Every year, nearly 1 Million Costa Ricans travel from every province in the country, sometimes hundreds of miles on foot, for La Romeria Pilgrimage.

Day 3
 We’ll wake up early in the morning to travel to Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean Coast of Costa Rica’s Limon province. Tortuguero offers some of Costa Rica’s most dense rainforest that can only be accessed by a canal tour on river boats. Our canal tour will leave us in a small isolated town home to little more than conservationists monitoring and protecting sea turtle hatching sites. We’ll visit the Sea Turtle Conservancy Museum before traveling to La Fortuna for the night.
Day 4
Volcano Arenal, located in the small picturesque town of La Fortuna, is one of the region’s most active volcanoes having spewed lava just a few years ago! We’ll spend our morning at our favorite canopy tour in all of Costa Rica where we’ll zip line over waterfalls and gain a truly unique perspective flying through the expansive rainforest canopy. At the end of the zip line tour, we’ll meet representatives from a local indigenous tribe in a traditional grass hut to learn about their unique language and culture. Just remember, Kapi Kapi! In the evening we’ll visit Baldi, the world’s largest naturally heated hot springs at the base of the volcano!

Day 5, 6, 7
Our next stop is Monteverde Cloud Forest just a couple hours from La Fortuna. Winding through switchbacks on the side of a mountain, we’ll slowly ascend through clouded dairy farms that appear stuck in another, simpler time. If lucky, we’ll catch glimpses through the clouds of spectacular views extending hundreds of kilometers out to the Pacific Coast! More likely, we’ll have trouble seeing 20 feet in front of us through the dense clouds. You may never see more lush vegetation and natural vibrant colors than here in Monteverde. The air is cool, crisp and moist, a far cry from the hot, humid beaches of Costa Rica. Over three days, we’ll visit a butterfly garden, Indiana Jones style rainforest walking bridges, the Cloud Forest Reserve, and a Coffee Tour.
Day 8, 9
A full week in Costa Rica and we have yet to see the beach? Playa Tamarindo in the hot, dry, northwestern province of Guanacaste is the perfect solution! Over the last 20 years, Tamarindo’s beautiful white sand and spectacular sunsets have attracted considerable foreign investment resulting in one of Costa Rica’s most developed beach towns. We’ll stay a stone’s throw from the Pacific Ocean at Hotel Zully Mar. Excellent restaurants are abundant in this surfer’s dreamland. To do our best fitting in with the locals, we’ll have a private surf lesson in the quite beginner waves of the marina before moving north along the beach where perfect waves attract surfers from all over the world. Relax on the beach, explore the area with long walks north or south, or put your new surf skills to the test!

Day 10, 11, 12
Next up is Manuel Antonio Beach and National Park on the Pacific Coast. Manuel Antonio is one of Costa Rica’s most unique beaches offering all the amenities of a tourist destination as well as completely protected, palm tree-lined beaches inside the conservatory. After an afternoon at the beach, we’ll have dinner at the famous Airplane Restaurant overlooking the ocean. It is best to explore the park early in the morning when wildlife is most active. The park opens at 8AM and requires a couple hours of casual hiking to enjoy breathtaking lookout spots, monkeys, sloths, toucans, and iguanas. The afternoon will be left open to explore the area and enjoy the beach.
Day 13
The trip is sadly coming to an end! In the morning, we’ll make our way back to San José stopping halfway at the famous crocodile bridge where 12-15 foot crocs can be seen feeding and basking in the sun below. In the afternoon, we’ll visit Costa Rica’s Gold Museum which is home to a substantial collection of over 1,600 artifacts of Pre-Columbian gold dating back to 500AD. We’ll stay the night at the same hotel where we started and share one last meal recounting our favorite memories from the trip!

Day 14 – Your group will be shuttled to SJO for your return flight to the US