
Missions Trip Info

Costa Rica 2/22/19

River of Life Church

Costa Rica at a glance

It's hard to imagine that a country that is similar in size to the State of Vermont and New Hampshire can be full of such diversity and natural beauty. Among the smallest Latin American countries, and unlike its neighbors, Costa Rica is known throughout the world for its peacefulness and political stability. They have no standing army and most Ticos as they are known, are very patriotic and have a great sense of national pride.

With a handful of active volcanoes, gorgeous beaches, rain forests that stretch for miles on end, and some of the world's most exotic species, Costa Rica attracts over 1 million foreigners each year. It is part of a narrow isthmus that connects North and South America. Flanked to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and to the west the Pacific Ocean, this tiny country sums up its entire lifestyle in a single phrase "Pura Vida" which literally means PURE LIFE!

However, life really isn't pure without Jesus Christ and what this country needs is an army of believers. With over 75% claiming to be Catholic (25% don't practice it) Costa Rica has a dark side that many are unaware of.

-Humanism is taught to all incoming Freshman on the University campuses

-Consumption of drugs has risen sharply in the past years among teens

-Human and Sex Trafficking is the highest among Central America

This beautiful but dark nation needs to see the love of Christ. Without Him, we will never experience that "pure life."



General Trip Info

Where

Central Bible School in San Jose, Costa Rica

When

Friday, February 22nd – Saturday, March 2nd

Who

Anyone over the age of sixteen is welcome.

How much

Total approximate cost of the trip is \$1,700

What

The most important thing to remember is that we are there to serve the missionary and the local church. We need to be flexible in case a serving opportunity arises or changes.

The construction we will be doing will be in the National Youth & Children's Ministry Auditorium at Central Bible School.

- Sheet rocking
- Pouring concrete
- Painting

We will also be going to local churches and ministries to experience the culture and religious practices of the area.

Practical Questions

Where will I sleep?

- We will be staying at the Bible School in San José, which provides bedding and pillows, but it is best if we bring a bath towel.
- We will have internet access at the Bible School, but it may not always be reliable.
- Electrical outlets are the same as in the US – 110 volts.

What will I eat?

The Costa Rican diet is based around rice and black beans.

- Breakfast will often be “gallo pinto”: a dish of rice and black beans, served with fresh tropical fruit, eggs, sour cream, bread, juice, coffee or tea.
- Lunch will often be “casado”: rice, beans, meat, salad, plantains, and a vegetable.
- If we eat at any schools or churches and you cannot eat it all do not feed it to a dog, or scrape it off in the garbage unless directed to do so. If you want the cooks to love you, ask for seconds.
- We will also eat out at a few restaurants throughout the week.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of a mission trip is trying new foods. Please be willing to eat what is served.

What shots should I get?

- Recommended: Routine vaccines – MMR, DTAP, Polio, Chicken Pox
- Hepatitis A & Typhoid if you're really paranoid

What's the weather going to be like?

- Warm: 70's & 80's
- Rainy season – on and off rain ever day

Timeline

September 9 – Missions Trip Info Meeting

- Between the two Sunday services to give info, answer questions, and figure out interest.

September – Application

- All applications & other documents must be filled out and turned in before the end of September so we can do background checks and confirm the team that is going.
- \$100 will be due at this time to hold your spot as well.

October – Finalize Team

- At this point our team will be set, no refunds will be given, and no applications will be taken.

November – Book Flights

- We get the best deal with the least amount of worry if we book our flights 4 months out.
- \$1,000 is due at this time because our tickets will be nonrefundable and nontransferable.

January – Complete Payment Due

- We need to send our on-location expense money to the missionary one month before we go there so he can use it to set up transportation and lodging

Team Meetings

- We will be meeting together every other month once our team is set to do the following:
 - o Pray for our trip
 - o Team building
 - o Trip updates
- Meetings will be set once our group members are confirmed, but will occur in these months:
 - o **October**
 - o **December**
 - o **February**

February – GO!

- This is going to be awesome!!!

How Do I Raise Money?

Ask

- Ask or send letters to your family, friends, and coworkers to support you.
- Please don't ask everyone from church. If they are family or close friends, that is fine.

Sell

- Have a garage sale
- Sell stuff
- Make or bake something and sell it
- Again...please don't promote these things in church

Save

- Sacrifice something: eating out, cable tv, drink water instead of pop
- Put a portion of your income into a separate savings account