

Faculty-Led

# Nicolette

Costa Rica, 2013

**Majors:** Business

## Why did you choose Costa Rica?

I chose to go to Costa Rica because it was a change of pace. After studying abroad in Spain and France, I wanted something that was not Europe. None of the science courses matched with my schedule. So, I decided to take my science in Costa Rica; the biodiversity there is amazing. As a plus, I speak Spanish so I could understand even when people weren't speaking English.

**Housing:** San Jose was home base. We stayed with a Señora who would cook for us. The food was amazing. We ate really well on this trip. The temperature was not as hot and humid as you might think. The country is small enough to get from one end to the other in about five hours. Because of this, we got to explore the whole country. We took mini –trips to Tortuguero River, Monteverde Cloud Forest and Poas Volcano.

*“Everybody can learn from a trip to Costa Rica: Business, Dietetics, and Science majors ~ really anyone!”*



Standing by La Fortuna waterfall.

**Academics:** We toured coffee, cocoa and banana plantations.

I appreciate our coffee and chocolate so much more now that I know how much it takes to get these items. We were each given a topic to research, and I chose the tree sloth so I was able to share information when we explored Monteverde Cloud Forest. We even got to see a sloth in a tree during our hike. As for volunteering, we had the opportunity to clean the beach at a sea turtle nesting site.

**A Piece of Advice:** Costa Rica is cost effective because they have a better exchange rate. Your spending money goes further than it does in Europe. You get to see volcanoes, swim in waterfalls and hot springs and see monkeys in the trees. No one can take those experiences from you!

**Biggest Cultural Difference:** The people of Costa Rica know so much about their country. They are very caring and work hard to please the tourists that visit. The culture is so welcoming and the customer service is awesome. This trip was very therapeutic; you're more connected with nature, something that we tend to have a disconnect with here in the U.S.

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