



Site visit to ICLC campus in Alajuela, Costa Rica

Goal of the experience:

To learn about services offered / To have a sense of living outside one's own culture.

Participants will have a better idea of ICLC logistics, services and procedures. Detailed information about the Spanish Course Syllabus will be provided, including methodology, Student regulation evaluation, placements and other important aspects of ICLC Academic Program. ICLC Academic Department can include or exclude contents, if necessary to fulfill College or University requirements. If at the end of the site visit participants have suggestions, ICLC Administration will surely take them into consideration.

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2012
SUNDAY August 5, 2012		<p>Airport pick-up and transfer to homestay.</p> <p><u>Each family will be at Juan Santamaría International Airport with a sign with the name of the participant on it if arrival is before 10:00 p.m.</u></p> <p>We suggest that participants bring a small present for the family and pictures to show them.</p> <p>The participant will gain an idea of what participants in a Study Abroad Program will experience at arrival in Costa Rica.</p> <p>Note: Not knowing the Spanish language will not interfere in the communication process. Even though families will not use any English, they are used to receiving participants with very low levels of Spanish.</p>
MONDAY August 6, 2012	7:30 A.M.	After a typical breakfast with the Costa Rican host family, a family member will show the participant the way to the bus stop. The public bus will drop you off at the front door of ICLC campus. In Costa Rica, there are no names or numbers on streets and avenues so students must learn directions in a different way.
	8:00 A.M.	Time to use internet service.
	8:30 A.M.	Tour of ICLC facilities
	9:30 A.M.	Round-table #1: The role of Program Coordinator to make the pre-departure experience as smooth as possible for both, students and faculty. Orientation documents will be provided.
	10:30 A.M.	Break
	11:00 A.M.	Round-table #2: Adaptability and adjustment to new cultural environments. Behaving, dressing and communicating appropriately with the Costa Rican host family and with the Costa Rican community.
	12:30 P.M.	Cultural site visit # 1: WALKING TOUR around downtown Grecia. Typical lunch. Visit to the central market, post office, bank (opportunity to exchange dollars or go to an ATM).
	3:30 P.M.	Return to the host family.

TUESDAY August 7, 2012	7:30 A.M.	Public bus to ICLC Campus.
	8:00 A.M.	Round-table # 3: ICLC Academic Program. Methodology, initial diagnostic assessment, evaluation process, regulations and grading.
	10:00 A.M.	Break
	10:30 A.M.	Round-table # 4: Important issues about field trips and educational activities for the groups. Home campus policies when traveling abroad.
	11:30 P.M.	Optional: time available to make a reservation for an excursion on Friday if desired.
	12:00 P.M.	Lunch
	1:30 P.M.	Cultural site visit # 2: Public High School Includes explanations about the Education System in Costa Rica - Students often participate on ICLC Volunteer program, service learning and internship programs at public institutions in CR.

WEDNESDAY August 8, 2012	8:30 A.M.	Cultural site visit # 3: Panoramic visit around the city of Alajuela where you will see the famous Mango Park, the Agriculture Monument, Sr y Sra. Wood Factory and Juan Santamaria's Monument. Juan Santamaria was born in Alajuela (August 29, 1831 - April 11, 1856) and is officially recognized as the national hero of the Republic of Costa Rica. A national holiday in Costa Rica is held every April 11 to commemorate his death. The main International Airport in Costa Rica is named after him.
	11:30 A.M.	Lunch
	1:00 P.M.	Cultural site activity # 4: Visit to INBIO Park (The National Biodiversity Institute). Private research and biodiversity management center, with 6 hectares of land, established in 1989 to support efforts to gather knowledge on the country's biological diversity and promote its sustainable use. The institute works under the premise that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to study it, value it, and utilize the opportunities it offers to improve the quality of life for human beings. The "INBIO parque" is an amazing park where you will experience the sounds and sights of Costa Rican nature while walking along interpretative trails. You will see butterflies, orchids, heliconias and bromeliads; you will learn how poison dart frogs got their name; find out why it is better to avoid bullet ants, the largest in Central America; and witness a lagoon through an underwater glass window. There are also exhibition halls with multimedia and audiovisuals.

THURSDAY August 9, 2012	8:30 A.M.	Cultural site activity # 5: EB AIS local clinic, public hospital and private Hospital (Hospital Clínica Bíblica). Explanations about the Health System in Costa Rica: Procedures and actions in case of health problems.
	12:00 P.M.	Farewell lunch / Final comments
	2:30 P.M.	Return to the host family.

FRIDAY 10		FREE DAY
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SATURDAY 11		DEPARTURE DATE. A member of the host family will take you to the airport or taxi service will be provided. Airport tax: \$28 (participant responsibility)
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