

## Costa Rica: Beachside Service Adventure

---



## **Costa Rica: Beachside Service Adventure**

---

Join us in Costa Rica on the shores of the Pacific Ocean where you'll volunteer at schools in impoverished communities helping to improve the education of the local children. Along the way, you'll learn more about Costa Rican culture and experience exciting excursions along beaches, volcanoes, forests and waterfalls.

### **Highlights**

- Live steps from an untouched beach
- Hike up to the crater of a volcano
- Zip line through the forest
- Volunteer at an impoverished primary school
- Ride inner tubes down a jungle river

### **Community Service**

We're living and working in an impoverished community where most people are farmers or fisherman. We'll be working at the school where the local children study. We will teach English, sports or arts & crafts. In addition, we will assist in projects to improve the school's infrastructure, such as building a playground or an outdoor basketball court. In addition, we'll occasionally provide after-school activities for the children at a nearby beach.

### **Learning**

Living in an authentic community is a great way to learn about Costa Rican culture. You'll spend the afternoon with a local family, learn to dance *salsa* and *cumbia*, try exotic fruits and learn about current social issues in Costa Rica.

### **Excursions**

Costa Rica offers many exciting excursions in a natural setting. We'll ride inner tubes down a roaring river, zip line through a forest and soak in a natural hot springs. You'll also hike up an active volcano, play volleyball on a pristine beach, as well as ride horses through a jungle paradise.

### **Lodging**

The GLA Home Base is just a stone's throw away from the beach. We are located in a rural authentic Costa Rican community that most travelers never see. Our Home Base is a small lodge surrounded by farmland on one side and a practically private beach on the other. Each room in the GLA Home Base has two bunk beds, a private bathroom and wireless internet connectivity. There is an eating area that looks out over the ocean where we'll have meals and meetings. To cool off, students can take a dip in the large swimming pool or in the ocean.

### **Tuition**

Tuition includes all in-country expenses such as: lodging, meals, transportation, all activities and entrance fees, community service materials, all excursions, wi-fi internet access, backup medical insurance, experienced program leaders.

Tuition does not include the following: international airfare, snorkel gear, souvenirs, snacks, laundry, phone calls, or medical expenses.

### **Quick Facts**

---

- Duration: 10 days
- Tuition: \$1995
- Community service hours: 20
- Max. group size: 20 students
- Location: La Cruz, Costa Rica
- Airport: Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR)

### **2011 Dates**

- 23-June to 2-July
- 5-July to 14-July
- 17-July to 26-Jul
- 29-July to 7-August
- 10-August to 19-August





## **Program Schedule**

---

*Disclaimer: Actual order of activities may vary from this schedule.*

**Day 1:** Students arrive to Liberia airport on the first day of the program and are taken to the GLA Home Base on the shores of the Pacific coast. Students will engage in icebreakers on the beach with staff while awaiting the arrival of the rest of the group.

**Day 2:** After a hearty breakfast, we'll have a morning of orientation to GLA, Costa Rica and the Code of Conduct. We'll head out to the community service site and meet with the community members and learn more about the socio-economic situation of the community.

**Day 3:** We'll dive deep into the community service project at the school. After school, we'll take the children a down to the beach to engage in recreational activities with them such as beach volleyball and soccer. After dinner back at the GLA Home Base, we'll start to learn Latin dance moves.

**Day 4:** After a morning of community service, we'll drive up to the border with Nicaragua and learn more about the situation of Nicaraguan immigrants who come to Costa Rica and discuss questions of immigration, identity and culture.

**Day 5:** We'll start the day with a morning of community service at the school. After lunch we'll have a tasty class on exotic fruits of Costa Rica. Students will have a chance to use the internet to check in with friends and family.

**Day 6:** Today we will challenge ourselves by hiking up to the top of the Rincon de la Vieja volcano. At the top, we'll look into the crater of the volcano and enjoy breathtaking views of the Costa Rican countryside. After we hike down, we'll relax our tired muscles in a natural hot springs known for their healing properties.

**Day 7:** We'll take advantage of the weekend to see a totally different side of Costa Rica. We'll visit one of the most touristy areas and see the massive development happening. We'll discuss the issues related to tourism and sustainability and the impact on the local economy. You'll have a chance to shop, enjoy the beach, stop at an internet café and check out the local handicrafts. In the evening, we'll continue to practice our Latin dance moves.

**Day 8:** After a fun and relaxing weekend, we return to our community service project. Since it's the last day, we'll hand-make piñatas with the local children. That evening, we'll have our farewell party with the local families, we'll break open our piñatas as we say goodbye to the community.

**Day 9:** Our last full day in Costa Rica will be packed full of adventure. We'll start by zip lining through the treetops of a forest, then we'll ride inner tubes down a roaring river, followed by a horseback ride around the base of a volcano and end it with fun in a gorgeous waterfall and hot springs. At night, we'll have our farewell banquet and party.

**Day 10:** We'll enjoy our last breakfast together as a full group. Most students will depart around mid-day for the airport.

## About Global Leadership Adventures

---

Global Leadership Adventures, established in 2004, is the premier international community service-learning program for high school students. Students come back transformed.

GLA is unique because of its focus on leadership development and first-hand learning about global issues. Students learn first hand from social pioneers around the world who are creating positive social change in their communities.

Students are taught to use their heart, as well as their head, to become agents of positive change across borders.

GLA has been featured in...

**The New York Times**

**The Boston Globe**

*seventeen*



**BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE**