Discover Costa Rica

World View Study Visit for Educators

World View: An International Program for Educators
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
About World View

World View helps schools and colleges prepare students to succeed in an interconnected, diverse, and multicultural world. World View accomplishes this mission by helping educators:

- Develop a greater understanding of world regions, cultures, and global issues through professional learning opportunities and international travel.
- Integrate a global perspective into every subject area of the curriculum and at every grade level.
- Respond to rapid cultural and demographic changes in our classrooms and communities.

World View offers year round professional development opportunities including seminars, workshops, symposiums, online courses, and international study visits. Professional development programs provide content and best practices for integrating global education in all areas of the curriculum. Programs are for educators of all content areas and all grade levels.

WORLD VIEW STUDY VISIT GOALS

The goal of the study visit is to help educators become leaders for global education by looking beyond the borders of North Carolina and experiencing a culture, country, and people different from their own. Educators will learn about Costa Rica’s education system, the Spanish language, and environmental issues. Educators also will explore significant cultural and historical sites and interact with Costa Rican families. The study visit is intended to be a unique and challenging professional development opportunity—**not a typical tourist trip**!

To prepare for the study visit, participants are required to attend a 1 1/2 day seminar on Latin America and North Carolina in Chapel Hill in March. Following the Study Visit, a follow-up workshop is held in August. Knowledge, strategies, and experiences learned from the seminar, study visit, and workshop give participants the ability to add global content to their teaching and help their schools and colleges become more global.

STUDY VISIT ELIGIBILITY

The ideal candidate is an educator who is committed to global education and to increasing the opportunities for adding global content and activity to their school or college. World View considers international travel to be an essential aspect of being well-educated in the 21st century and seeks candidates who have not yet had an opportunity to travel abroad. World View’s Study Visits to Costa Rica are open to all educators, yet priority will be given to educators who are part of one of World View’s partner school systems, schools, or colleges.

NOTE TO WORLD VIEW PARTNERS

World View has formal partnerships with over 100 school systems, schools, and colleges. For a list of World View partners, please see worldview.unc.edu. One of the benefits of World View partnership is a guaranteed spot on one of our summer study visits abroad, but partners must submit a $500 deposit by December 1 to keep your guaranteed spaces.

Contact World View

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Meet our Costa Rican Counterparts

SPANISH IMMERSION COSTA RICA

Spanish Immersion Costa Rica (SICR) is a community-based program in which participants learn the Spanish language by being fully immersed in the culture of Costa Rica. SICR is located in the small town of Atenas. Strong relationships within the community enable them to expose participants to cross-cultural experiences such as living with a host family, conducting community service projects related to social services, and celebrating special holidays and traditions. Becoming fully immersed in the daily rhythms and routines of a community like Atenas accelerates cultural understanding for participants.

SICR runs an immersion program specifically designed to enrich the educational experience of educators to become more aware of the customs, traditions, infrastructure, natural environment, and language in Costa Rica. Educator trips involve school visits, lectures, and more.

What Educators Are Saying about the Study Visit

I cannot stop raving about what a wonderful trip this was. To be able to go to all these different places and be involved in the so-efficiently-planned activities was amazing. The leaders, both from Spanish Immersion and World View, were always warm and helpful and went above and beyond all expectations. -- Sixth Grade Language Arts Teacher, Union County Public Schools

World View did an excellent job of preparing us for our trip with the Costa Rica booklet they gave us beforehand that contained all the cultural information we needed to know, plus much more. -- Spanish Instructor, Isothermal Community College

There are so many things I learned, it is hard to pinpoint just a few. The trip was an amazing and unforgettable experience! -- Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

The experience was more than I could have ever asked for or expected. Staying in a small town and with a family really made me understand the culture and feel part of it. I learned so many things I can now apply to my own life and classroom. -- Fifth Grade Teacher, Johnston County Schools

The elements and knowledge from this trip will be incorporated daily into my lessons...I will also be more sensitive to English Language Learners as I see some of the barriers that they face. -- High School Spanish Teacher, Craven County Schools

I would like to share the culture and language I have learned with my class. I would then like my students to write about theirs and create a book to send to the school we visited. -- Third Grade Teacher, Davie County Schools

My overall goal is to fully immerse my students in Spanish language and culture during class. I want to spread my enthusiasm to them and encourage them to travel and appreciate others, their culture, and working together. -- Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Orange County Schools
Costa Rica Study Visit - Sample Itinerary

**Day 1:**
Arrive at Spanish Immersion Costa Rica in Atenas.

Group introductions and meeting with host families.

**Day 2:**
Visit local **farmer’s market** and identify new tropical fruits and vegetables.

Program overview and review of guidebooks.

**Spanish class** for educators (divided by proficiency level) - Part I.

Lunch at various “sodas” in Atenas’ central market.

Explore the town of Atenas with a map and scavenger hunt to become familiar with the community.

Lecture on Costa Rican education system.

**Day 3:**
Visit **Poás Volcano**, one of the world’s largest craters, where volcanologists and geologists test equipment. Hike to nearby Lagoon Botos and observe hummingbirds and flora that have adapted to the acidic conditions.

Discussion of eco-tourism and sustainability initiatives.

Cook traditional Costa Rican cuisine while discussing Latin diet, health, and food traditions.

**Day 4:**
Visit a local **organic coffee farm** cooperative of 10 families and learn about coffee, one of the most important exports of Costa Rica. Discuss their unique environmental and sustainable techniques and take part in identifying the various species of shade trees on this organic farm.

Free time to explore downtown Atenas or spend time with your host family.

Optional local church service at town Catholic church.

**Day 5:**
Participate in a **community service** project such as: work on family housing structural needs, visit a teenage pregnancy center, or paint at a center providing services for poor families.

**Spanish class** - Part II.

**Day 6:**
Tour a **butterfly farm** to observe thousands of free-flying butterflies and learn about their metamorphosis, mating, and eating habits. Costa Rica’s varied ecosystems and habitats are home to an estimated 10% of the earth’s butterfly species.

**Spanish class** - Part III.

Latin dance class, where you will learn salsa, merengue, and cumbia.

**Day 7:**
Divide into small groups and visit **rural public schools** in the hilltown barrios of Atenas. Participate in activities with the students and have a discussion with teachers and administrators.

Visit **Instituto National de Aprendizaje (National Institute of Learning)** language exchange program and conduct a lesson with Costa Rican students, ages 18-25, who are enrolled in a local INA program to learn English.

**Day 8:**
**Spanish class** - Part IV.

Spend the day in Costa Rica’s capital city of **San José** and visit the Metropolitan Cathedral, Central Market, National Museum of Culture, and National Theater. Time for shopping at traditional artisan market.

**Day 9:**
Spend the day at a pacific coastal town near **Jaco Beach** and swim, walk on the beach, collect shells, and observe the natural habitat of scarlet macaws. Optional surfing and zip-line through the coastal tree canopy available.

See live crocodiles from a bridge at the Tarcoles River.

Take part in the final celebration, including Spanish Immersion certificates and closing discussion.

**Day 10:**
Departure from San José airport.

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**GENERAL PROGRAM NOTES:**

Trip cost includes round trip airfare from a North Carolina international airport to Costa Rica, land transport within Costa Rica per the itinerary, homestay accommodations, language instruction, entrance fees to cultural and historical sites, gratuities, supplemental health insurance, and all briefing materials.

Breakfast and dinner are provided by host families. Most lunches are included in trip cost.

All accommodations are single occupancy homestays (unless otherwise requested) with Costa Rican families living in Atenas, Costa Rica.

10/2011