

## **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING:** Costa Rica

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his year's Experiential Education trip to Costa Rica was an unforgettable experience led by two amazing tour guides from Rustic Pathways. This included ten influential days of laughing, learning and seeing life through a different lens. Being fully immersed in Costa Rica's culture was an incredible learning journey and one that everyone should experience. Costa Rica has nearly half a million species, representing 4 percent of the planet's biodiversity. We saw macaws, toucans, packs of wild monkeys, sloths sleeping on the tree limbs, the Brazilian wandering spider, and an eyelash viper snake, just to name a few.

This trip was a journey of courage and included ziplining over the rain forest in Jaco, white water rafting the Pacuare River, surfing at Dominical beach, hiking to see a beautiful sunset above the waterfalls and amongst nightcrawlers, sleeping in the Diamante cave and rappelling waterfalls. We also explored Costa Rica's famous Whale's Tail which is one of the most special and unique characteristics of all the national parks in Costa Rica, a beach shaped like a whale's tail, formed by the union of two separate beaches!

During this trip, we also dedicated time to serve



the community by helping with repairs in the Nacional Parque Marino Ballena (Marino Ballena National Park) in Uvita. This was an incredible experience, and we were honored to give back to the community in a way where it will be helpful for years to come. After community service, we would go back to the hotel and have lunch with some downtime either to swim in the pool or relax. After hours of working hard and working together, it was a nice break to relax in or by the pool.

By the end of this incredible trip, we learned about each other and people, sharing, community and Costa Rica. We enjoyed lovely tropical beaches,



grand adventures, the wonders of nature and the vast diversity of wildlife. As problem solvers, organizers, leaders, and unifiers - we gained invaluable understandings and friendships from this Experiential Education trip. We have grown in knowledge about Costa Rica and will continue to learn about different cultures. Pura Vida! •

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## Aún Aprendo "I am still learning."

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