

High School in Costa Rica

2010 Dates & Prices

Dates: Feb—June/July, 2010
July – Dec, 2010

Price: \$5,100
Airfare not included



Explore Costa Rica!

Become part of a carefully selected Costa Rican family and community and share in their daily life and activities while making new friends among the *ticos!* Program fees include: school tuition including uniforms and books, homestay placement with meals, transportation between the airport and your homestay, comprehensive travel insurance; pre-departure orientation materials, an on-site orientation and ongoing, bilingual counseling and support during your stay in Costa Rica.

Is this program for you?

Apply for this program if you are ready to accept and adapt to the culturally different lifestyle of your host family, community and school. You must maintain acceptable academic standards at school and participate actively in school and family life. In addition you should:

- be between 15 and 17 years of age (students can not turn 18 during the program)
- have a B average in school
- have studied at least three years of high school level Spanish
- be a non-smoker
- be in good physical and mental health

What is the Costa Rican high school system like?

Many high schools in Costa Rica are public and co-educational, though there are also a number of private schools. The schools are generally more formal than the average American school and a uniform is usually required.

The first semester of the Costa Rican academic year begins in early February and the second semester begins in mid-July. Summer vacation is during December and January, and there is a two week break in early July.

Most high school students in Costa Rica study Spanish, English, French, mathematics, biology, social studies, chemistry, physics, and art/music. Students in the last two years of school can choose between English or French, chemistry or physics and advanced math or social studies.

See the FAQs →

Frequently Asked Questions

Where will I stay in Costa Rica? You will be placed with a family in or near San José and near the school where you will study.

How are the families chosen? Your host family will be carefully screened and selected by our partner organization in Costa Rica. The family will receive comprehensive preparation prior to your arrival.

Are Costa Rican families paid to host? Yes, host families receive a small amount to cover hosting costs. Their biggest compensation is enjoying the company of a friendly American teen who is interested in sharing their daily life, language and culture.

What if I have a problem with my family? You'll have an experienced support network there to help. Your local homestay coordinator will contact you regularly about your school and homestay. The coordinator will also be in touch with your host family, and is always available to help with counseling and problem-solving.

Will my host family meet me in San Jose? You will be met on arrival at the airport in San Jose by a local coordinator. You will attend an orientation program in San José before meeting your host family. Our partner in Costa Rica will arrange for your travel to your host family.

Can I participate in any clubs or sports? Yes, there are several different activities offered depending on the school and the season. You may also be able to participate in community activities.

What if I get sick? All students are covered by a comprehensive medical insurance policy. You will receive an insurance booklet and claim form before departure. If you need to see a doctor or visit a hospital, take these along.

When is the application deadline? The application deadline is February 15th for programs beginning in July, and September 15th for programs beginning in February. Please note that space in the Costa Rica program is limited. We recommend applying as soon as possible to secure a space on the program.

How do I apply? Complete the initial application and return it to Andeo with a \$500 deposit. We will then send you a detailed application packet, including recommendation forms for your teachers. Once we have received the completed application and all of your references we will schedule a personal interview with you. Following that, your application will be forwarded to Costa Rica and you will be notified about acceptance within a few weeks.

Who should not apply for this program? In order to assure a successful experience for students and for the host families, students who are currently experiencing excessive behavior problems, drug or alcohol abuse, or eating disorders; or students who have experienced these issues within the past year should not apply. Students who develop these problems prior to departure will not be allowed to participate.

When are payments due? The first payment of \$500 is due with the initial application. An additional \$2,000 is due with your completed application. You will receive a detailed schedule of the remaining payments in the application packet. The balance of fees will be due two months before departure. If you are not accepted into the program, all fees you have paid will be refunded.

Are there additional costs? Yes. Participants are responsible for their own passport and travel document fees, round-trip airfare to Costa Rica (average cost is \$750), school activities fees and supplies, and spending money.

How much spending money should I bring? We recommend that you budget about \$100/month for your stay, in addition to school activity fees and supplies. You will be responsible for buying any clothing and personal care items you may need, and of course you may want to buy some souvenirs.

Do I need a visa? Yes. You must apply for a student visa before entering Costa Rica. Andeo and its partner organization in Costa Rica will provide you with the necessary documentation after you are accepted into the program. Students are responsible for submitting this documentation to the correct Costa Rican Consulate. Students may be required to apply in person at their designated consulate.

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