

## PRESENTS: COSTA RICA



The College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) has initiated a requirement for students to participate in an international experience prior to graduation. The goal of CHHS's international experience requirement is to introduce students to international and intercultural perspectives in order to prepare them to live and work in an increasingly globalized world.

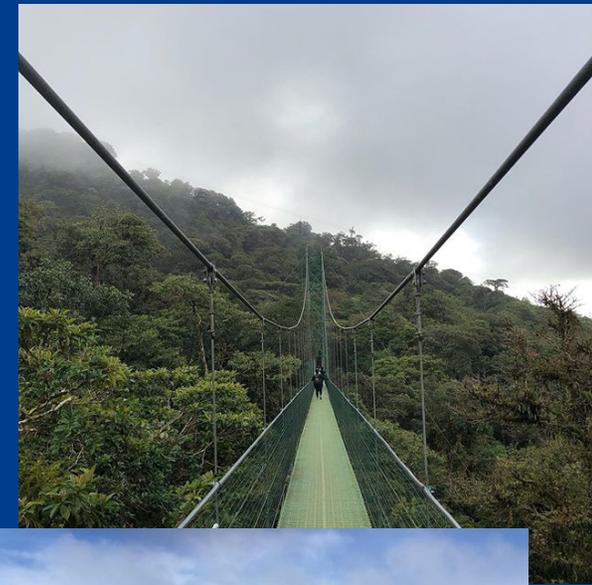
Studying abroad is a high-impact educational practice that has been shown to increase student success and employability after graduation. The CHHS International Experience is designed to provide high-quality global learning experiences that are flexible, affordable, and relevant to students' degree programs and professional goals.

**KEEP UP WITH US:**



Have any questions or concerns? Email us :

[CHHS-INTERNATIONALEXPERIENCE@SJSU.EDU](mailto:CHHS-INTERNATIONALEXPERIENCE@SJSU.EDU)



# COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a country of Central America. Its capital is San José. It has one of the highest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere and a solid educational system from primary grades through university level. Also known for its strong commitment to the environment and for protecting its numerous national parks. Along with an established ecotourism industry, have attracted foreign investment, which shifted the country's once agriculture-based economy to one dominated by services and technology by the late 20th century.  Britannica

## COSTA RICA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IS

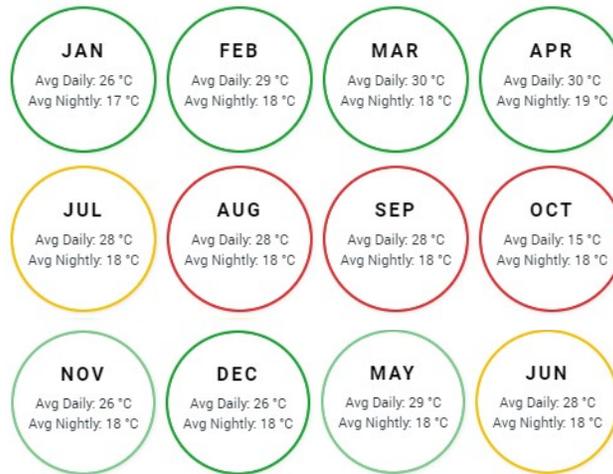
Spanish but a number of other languages are spoken including english, Limonese Creole, Bribí, Cabécar, Maléku Jaíka, Boruca, and Térraba.

## HOW TO GET AROUND

Best way to get around is the bus as it is reliable and inexpensive or for an even more convenient trip get a taxi (official taxis are orange)

\*Driving yourself can be tricky and NOT RECOMENDED

# WEATHER



Best Time to Visit Costa Rica

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

**Travel to Costa Rica:  
Things to know before traveling abroad**

## DRESS FOR COMFORT

Costa Rica doesn't have a dress code so feel free to dress comfortable and casual. At the beach, wear mostly shorts, tank tops and flip flops. In the city, try closed toed shoes or hiking sandals, long pants and a light jacket or sweater. If visiting from high elevation areas, then long pants and a jacket are a must.

# DINING ETIQUETTE

- Costa Ricans are famous for observing Tico time, known as "la hora tica." Costa Ricans arrive late, by around 30 minutes or more, to dinner, appointments, and other get-togethers. It's not seen as rude or disrespectful.
- Costa Rican culture is very courteous, and confrontation and accusations are usually considered impolite.
- Do not begin eating your meal until you hear the host say "Buen Provecho".
- The knife is held in the left hand, and the fork in the right.
- Utensils are laid parallel to each other on the plate once you finish eating.
- 10% service fee is normally charged and considered the tip. Although feel free to leave a few extra bucks as 15-20% is becoming more standard.

## TOP FOODS TO TRY

1. Gallo Pinto
2. Casado
3. Olla de Carne
4. Ceviche
5. Sopa Negra
6. Refrescos
7. Pastel de Tres Leches