



- ❖ Did you know that Costa Rica, roughly the size of Lake Michigan, has 800 miles of pristine coastline along the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, takes up just .03% of planet's surface, but holds 5% of its biodiversity?!
- ❖ Did you know Costa Rica has over 130 species of fish, 220 kinds of reptiles, 1,000 different kinds of butterflies (10% of the world's butterflies are in Costa Rica!), 9,000 different plants, 20,000 species of spiders and 34,000 species of insects!
- ❖ Have you ever wanted to zip line through a rain forest?
- ❖ Are you interested in visiting a working organic farm?

Come learn and explore in the longest-standing democracy in Central America.

Compass Points Solutions, an experiential learning company started in 2011 and led by Laura Stager, in conjunction with Brightspark Travel, is hosting an educational experience to the spectacular beaches and rain forests of Costa Rica June 8-12, 2015. This excursion will be filled with fun and learning! The itinerary (below) features some of the exciting educational activities in which your student will participate.

Day 1:

Depart DFW and Arrive at Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO). Meet bilingual guide at Airport upon arrival with private transportation waiting. Experience and learn the Culture of Costa Rica from your guide throughout the tour. Your first lunch is North of San Jose at local restaurant in Arenal. Learn about and experience the natural hot-water springs in this area. Dinner and Overnight in Arenal

The hot springs are a river of water heated by the Arenal Volcano. There are pools for soaking and little water falls for getting a nice hot water pounding. All around the pools is a lush garden of native plants and natural looking landscaping. There is also a slide. The water is fantastic and the atmosphere of cool, low clouds is very relaxing.



Day 2:

Morning visit to La Fortuna Waterfall. Whitewater Rafting Class II-III will follow this on Balsa River. Learn about and experience the exquisite nature along the River. Lunch included on the tour. Afternoon visit to Don Juan's Eco Farm. You will learn from this local farmer about tropical farming, native and introduced plants, including their medicinal uses. You will also learn about a bio-digester methane gas production system that uses cow manure as a fuel source to produce methane gas for cooking



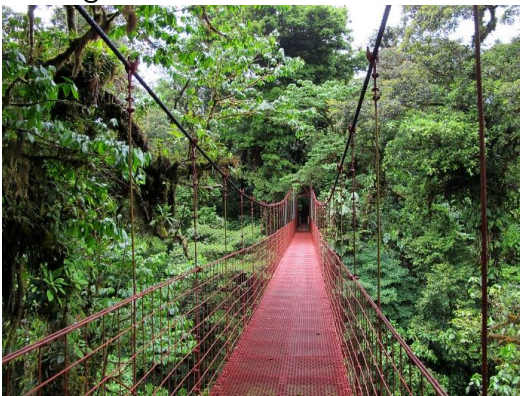
along with other conservation and sustainable practices. Dinner is included at a local restaurant. Overnight in Arenal. Set at a short distance from the town of [La Fortuna](#), the La Fortuna waterfall emerges from dense jungle greenery before plummeting some 200 feet (65 m) into an emerald pool below.

Don Juan's Eco- Farm is located about 5 km outside of the town of La Fortuna near the Arenal Volcano. The best part about his farm is that the family runs it. It is used by local schools to give kids the education on how an organic farm works. The students get a chance to pick the same fruits and vegetables they will eat for lunch. The highlight of the trip is always the sugar cane. With a set of volunteers, the kids get to make their own agua dulce (sugar cane juice).



Day 3:

This morning you will take a boat transfer across Arenal Lake to Rio Chiquito and then up the bumpy dirt road. Once in Monteverde experience the Hanging Bridges in the Cloud Forest and the famous zip-line canopy Tour. Lunch in Monteverde. Tours induce an understanding of and appreciation for, the environmental and cultural forces that have shaped Monteverde. Guided hikes of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve provide visitors with a hands-on introduction to the area's varied plant and animal species. Then, continue driving down to Abangaritos along the coast. Overnight in Abangaritos.



Day 4:

This morning you will learn and experience the eco-system of the Mangroves on the Abangares River. After lunch, transportation takes us from Abangaritos to San Jose via Sarchi, an artisan community where you can experience Costa Rican culture and art. Farewell dinner. Overnight in San Jose.





Sarchí is Costa Rica's most famous crafts center. The town offers more than 200 stores and small family-operated woodworking factories producing wooden bowls and other tableware, fold-up rocking chairs of wood and leather, and a wide variety of kitschy items. The most popular items on sale are "carretas," elaborately painted oxcarts that traditionally carried coffee from the highlands down to the port on the Pacific coast

Day 5: Depart to Juan Santamaría Int. Airport. Adiós Costa Rica!

We hope you join us! **Space is limited.** To reserve your spot, students must return **two** completed teacher recommendation forms to Mrs. Stager as soon as possible. We will begin booking flights soon. Completed forms can be dropped off in room B228, mailed to 1222 Elder, Carrollton, TX 75007, or emailed to stagerl@compasspointssolutions.com.

Want more information? Email Mrs. Stager at stagerl@compasspointssolutions.com to request the informational PowerPoint. Upon receipt of the teacher recommendation forms, students will be notified of acceptance along with directions for registration.

Please Note: This trip sponsored by CPDestinations, a branch of Compass Points Solutions. It is not affiliated with HPISD. Visit our website at www.compasspointssolutions.com to learn more about Compass Points Solutions. Please direct all questions and/or communications through my Compass Points Solutions email account. Additionally, **appropriate behavior, respect for others, personal accountability and responsibility are paramount to student safety. I reserve the right to remove any student from the trip roster if behavior issues become a problem at any time.**

Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education.
- David Polis

Compass Points Destinations Costa Rica Tour 2014



Teacher Recommendation Form

Student's Name _____ Grade entering Fall 2015 _____

Student email address: _____

Parent email address: _____

Please indicate how long you have known this student _____

Please check in the appropriate column the factors for which you have adequate information for appraisal.

	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
1. Ability to follow instructions			
2. Social skills (gets along well/respect for others)			
3. Demonstrates dependability			
4. Self-motivated			
5. Demonstrates responsibility (directs energies toward tasks)			
6. Demonstrates enthusiasm when asked to help			
7. Strives for excellence			
8. Punctual			
9. Mentally alert (organization skills/problem-solving skills)			
10. Demonstrates proper etiquette and manners			
11. Personal appearance/grooming			
12. Demonstrates integrity/honesty			
13. Demonstrates optimism and self-respect			
14. Cooperates with others			
15. Communication skills			
16. Demonstrates attention to detail			
17. Turns in assignments on time			

Do you recommend this student for the Compass Points Destinations Costa Rica Tour 2015?

☐ Yes ☐ Yes, with reservations ☐ No

Supplementary Comments:

Teacher Signature

Date

Print Name

Subject Area