



Language Teaching- Costa Rica, Esparza



GENERAL INFORMATION

Give back to the local rural community by teaching children in government schools and by giving them exposure to other cultures and languages.

Teach in one of the many rural schools around Esparza and get an inside track on the Costa Rican educational system. Teach English (or French, German or Mandarin if qualified) to the children in a fun and practical way. Create real-life situations, games, and other activities. There is a lot of freedom for your own creativity and ideas in the classroom!

Program Description

The local government and Educational Supervisor are fully behind our project, giving us access to many schools in the area. This program consists of working with students aged between 5 and 19, teaching language classes, usually English, although we can cater for French, German or Mandarin Chinese.

Some of the larger schools have English teachers, but the teachers themselves often struggle.

Participants will be free to choose their own way of teaching and may bring their own ideas into class. It is important to understand that the methods of teaching are less

important than the attitude of the participant towards the students. In addition, the subjects to be taught can alter, depending on current activities in the schools which might include, for example, environmental issues or current festivals.

The teaching program serves a dual purpose; of course, it is meant to help children in rural Costa Rica to have a chance to learn another language with a mother tongue speaker, but it also benefits you, giving you an insight into the Costa Rican education system as well as an excellent opportunity to become good friends with students, teachers and even parents, and so take a full role in the community.

Aims & Objectives

Costa Rica relies heavily on tourism, and tourism relies on locals speaking popular tourist languages. Private schools are often bilingual, but expensive, and children in government schools are left behind. This program gives you the chance to improve the prospects of children in government schools by broadening their cultural horizons and giving them the confidence to use and practice a foreign language. They will learn to converse with you, and it will benefit them for life.

Therefore, the main aim is to continue to improve the children's prospects by teaching them a world language. You will gain teaching experience, an invaluable life skill, and experience deep cultural immersion.

Schedule

Monday to Friday

You will be organizing, and balancing arrange of classes for your duration at the school. With some schools your schedule can be flexible and you may also have some say in what classes you prefer to teach, but you should be prepared to teach 3-6 hours a day. You will have lunch at the school and can expect to remain there from 08:00 until just after 16:30, depending on your schedule, giving you plenty of time to immerse yourself in the school and its activities, and to get to know its students and staff.

Additional Equipment

- Casual dress is appropriate during your time at the school. However, 'beachwear' or any other outfit that is too revealing is not allowed at all.
- Please bring rough clothes if you will be here during holidays, as you will be able to take part in school renovation work and other community work.

About the Accommodation

Your new home will be one of two newly built eco houses in our Centre in Esparza: Jaguar House and Toucan House.

The two houses sleep up to 22 people. Most rooms have bunk beds and are shared on a single gender. One room in each house has a bunk bed with a double bed below, single above, suitable for couples or small families, if needed. (Private rooms can be obtained at additional cost; this must be arranged before arriving for your program).

All doors are lockable, but as rooms are shared, and we carry out regular cleaning, we recommend that you don't lock your rooms. There is also a large dining hall/games room/communal area shared by both houses, with free WIFI, and table tennis, and a large garden of tropical plants, including coconut palm, papaya, banana, and citrus

Food Arrangements

Three meals a day on weekdays (two on weekends) are included during your stay. The meals will mainly be a mix of traditional and modern Costa Rican food, so you may experience the Costa Rican take on foods you will be familiar with. Most meals will include either fish, chicken, pork or beef, but vegetarian can be catered for.

What is NOT included?

- Flights
- Personal expenses
- Hot shower
- Towels
- Air conditioning
- Private room

What is included?

- All meals included during the week
- On weekends brunch instead of breakfast and lunch
- Free beverages
- Wifi in public areas
- Laundry facilities
- Western toilet