

## **Title: Costa Rican Scientific and Cultural Expedition:**

**Instructor:** John Heil

**Eligibility:** level 3 and above

**Capacity:** 20 students

**Dates:** May 18-28, 2012

**Location:** Costa Rica

**Cost:** Total cost = \$2661. Cost is \$1725 land + \$936 air ( all meals are included)

**Immediate Deposit:** Students who select this option as their first choice should include a deposit check of \$150.00, made out to EcoTeach to hold their place, if selected in the lottery. Those who are not selected will have their check returned to them.

**Program Description:** Students will: participate in Marine turtle research on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, study Neo-tropical forest ecology, visit and study a remote neo-tropical Cloud Forest at both forest floor and canopy levels with experts in cloud forest ecology, visit a population of indigenous peoples, the Bri-Bri, in the Talamanca region of southern Costa Rica, apply their knowledge of the Spanish language and experience the foods and cultural adaptations of a tropical society.

**Itinerary:** go to [www.ecoteach.com/2012/ics](http://www.ecoteach.com/2012/ics) for more details

### **ATENAS & THE CENTRAL VALLEY (1 night)**

This area boasts fantastic vistas and a perfect climate. You will spend your first night in a comfortable country setting and have a chance to get acquainted with your guides.

### **SEA TURTLE PROJECT (2 nights)**

The turtle projects are located on the Caribbean coast. At the turtle project, the real work begins at night. Patrol the beach at night in search of nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.

You may also conduct population studies, tag turtles, transplant eggs to a protected area or release hatchlings into the ocean. During the day, explore the local canals for wildlife, hike in the surrounding rain forest or have a chance to participate in volunteer activities such as building a hatchery or cleaning the beach of debris to make it easier for sea turtles to nest or return to the ocean.

### **VERAGUA RAINFOREST RESEARCH (2 nights)**

Visit a school enroute to Veragua Park, a private reserve set on 4000 acres showcasing many aspects of life in the rainforest. It also houses research facilities for INBIO, the National Biodiversity Institute. During your time here you will explore the park, go on a night insect walk, work with researchers on a frog habitat project and see the forest canopy from above on a zipline!

### **CAHUITA (2 nights)**

Cahuita is home to beautiful beaches, rainforest, and a rich cultural heritage with Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous influences. Spend a day in an indigenous BriBri community and participate in their stove project building environmentally friendly, carbon neutral stoves.

### **FARM STAYS (2 nights)**

Learn about rural farm life firsthand as you become a member of a local farm family. Try your hand at milking cows and other daily chores, take a swim in the river, or play soccer with local youth. You will also visit a nearby butterfly farm.

### **ATENAS & THE CENTRAL VALLEY (1 night)**

After a rafting trip enroute, you will end the trip right back where you started--in the Central Valley.