

2023 Sample Schedule: Rescue Center Costa Rica*

DAY ONE: ARRIVAL IN HOUSTON

Registration at a hotel nearby the George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)

Group introductions and welcome dinner

DAY TWO: JOURNEY TO COSTA RICA

Group flight with chaperone from IAH to Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO)

Provided transport to Rescue Center Costa Rica (RCCR)

Introduction to RCCR & Tour of Facilities

Orientation and Welcome Dinner

» DAY THREE: LEARNING ROTATION I

Lecture: Wildlife Capture and Restraint

Learning Rotations^

- Animal Care Team

- Sloth Team

- Veterinary Team

- Enrichment Team

Group Lab Work: Physical Exams, Behavior, and Enrichment

Salsa Night

^Students will be split into four groups and spend one day exploring each rotation topic

DAY FOUR: LEARNING ROTATION II

Learning Rotations

Lecture: Zoonotic Diseases

Animal Hospital Rounds

Trivia Night

» Learning Rotations

Animal Care Team – prepare and deliver food and help with enclosure care

Sloth Team – feeding, providing enrichments, and cleaning enclosures for large sloth population

Veterinary Team – shadow veterinarians and clinical staff to weigh and provide physical examinations for animals in the nursery

Enrichment Team – perform ethograms and behavioral observations and create animal enrichment activities



- » Manuel Antonio National Park is a Costa Rican national treasure. Home to sloths, iguanas, monkeys, crabs, and over 180 species of birds, students will have the chance to explore one of the most biodiverse areas in all of Costa Rica.

» **DAY FIVE: MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK TOUR**

Provided transport to Manuel Antonio National Park

Nature Hike: Animal Identification Practice

Beach Time

Return to RCCR

Game Night

DAY SIX: LEARNING ROTATION III

Veterinarian Shadowing and Procedure

Learning Rotations

Lecture: Ethics and Animal Welfare

Animal Hospital Rounds

Movie Night

DAY SEVEN: LEARNING ROTATION IV

Learning Rotations

Lecture: Veterinary Diagnostics and Therapy

Group Lab Work: Suturing, Clinical Skills, Hematology

Karaoke Night

DAY EIGHT: CLOSEOUT AND DEPARTURE

Closing Session and Address: Program Debrief

Departure

Provided transport to the airport for return flight to IAH or extend your time in Costa Rica on the optional *San Jose Extension Program*

**This sample schedule is provided as an example of the overall quality and scope of a typical program experience and is not intended to represent a specific 2023 schedule. The schedules and details vary between sessions.*

2023 Sample Schedule:

City Adventure: San Jose (Optional Extension)*

JUNE 17 - 20

DAY ONE: INTRODUCTION TO SAN JOSE

Provided transport from Rescue Center Costa Rica to San Jose
Guided walking tour of San Jose and group tour of Teatro Nacional de Costa Rica
Visit the Gold Museum
El Torito dance lessons

DAY TWO: A TASTE OF SAN JOSE

Visit the Hacienda La Chimba Coffee Plantation
Explore the Central Market
Tour the Jade Museum and National Museum of Costa Rica
Discover and design traditional oxcart crafts with a local artisan
Sample Local Desserts

DAY THREE: THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF SAN JOSE

Visit the Butterfly and Botanical Garden
Tour La Sabana Park
Browse the Municipal Crafts Market
Comida Rica Cooking Lesson and Feast

DAY FOUR: EXTENSION DEPARTURE

Program Extension Farewell
Provided transport to airport for return flight to George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)

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The oxcart, or carreta, is one of Costa Rica's most iconic crafts. Used in the 19th century to transport coffee beans, oxcarts often served as a family's sole means of transportation and as a signifier of their social status. Many families painted their oxcarts and a new crafting tradition was born. Today, carretas are a national symbol of Costa Rica's colorful past.