

# COSTA RICA

Costa Rica, or “rich coast,” boasts a warm climate, pristine beaches on the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, active volcanoes, and contrasting landscapes.

With such eco-diversity it is easy to see why Costa Rica is the best-travelled nation in the Central Americas with almost 2.5 million visitors in 2022. Often called the land of peace, it has the oldest democracy in Latin America and has been political stable for over 100 years. It is one of the most people - and environmentally - conscious nations in the world, ranked number 1 in the Americas on the Human Development Index and No. 5 in the world on the Environmental Performance Index.

Poverty levels had been a constant 20% of the population for around 20 years. Despite improved tourism, agriculture and electronic exports the recent financial challenges have had an impact with poverty levels increasing to 24.8% in recent years. Major progress has been made in water supply, education and life expectancy but the work must continue.

## Life outside of the project

Costa Rica is one of the most popular countries in the region for travel, and for very good reasons. Though Costa Rica has only about 0.1% of the world’s land mass, it contains 5% of the World’s biodiversity, so nature lovers will find this beautiful country a paradise. There are a multitude of opportunities for mountain and water sports, as well as many other forms of outdoor recreation, so if you love adventure, Costa Rica is a place you’ll never want to leave! Due to their contact through the tourism industry many Costa Ricans have a basic knowledge of English. Volunteers who also have beginner Spanish skills will not have much difficulty travelling here.

Kaya’s projects are based either in or around the bustling capital of San Jose, and in the communities of Atenas and Esparza.



## Weather

**Average temperature:** 25°C

**Wet season:** May - November

**Dry season:** December - April

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## **Environmental and Community Gap Year Program Adventure in Costa Rica**

Join this incredible 7 or 10 year gap year program, focusing on community, environmental and leadership initiatives. Available to volunteers between the ages of 17-24.

## **Turtle and Marine Conservation in Costa Rica**

Assist in stopping the decline of sea turtles and work for the recovery of these marine creatures. Give an extra pair of hands to secure environments important to their survival.

## **Sports Volunteering in Costa Rica**

Get involved with children in the local community and teach physical education in some local schools around Esparza. Get a chance to experience the Costa Rican educational system first-hand.

## **Teen Community Volunteering in Costa Rica**

Contribute to the local community farming and construction initiatives and support communities while developing your own language skills and immersing yourself in a new culture to further your own horizons.

## **Volunteering for Teenagers in Costa Rica**

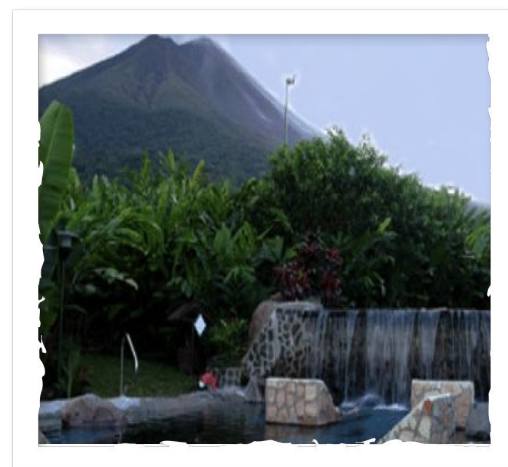
Share your enthusiasm and energy to support the local children of Atenas. Extra pairs of hands are always needed in the schools and education centres, which are often understaffed and lacking in sufficient resources.

## **Sea Turtle Conservation Volunteering in Costa Rica**

Participate in turtle beach patrolling at night, collecting eggs, trail and camp maintenance or research and data collection.

## **Volunteer at a Childcare Centre in San Jose, Costa Rica**

Volunteers play a key role in supporting local staff to ensure the children feel safe, nurtured and receive high quality learning and development opportunities.



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## **Mother and Child Nutrition Volunteering in Costa Rica**

Volunteer at a nutrition centre where your focus will be on preparing and serving meals. You'll help support workshops for residents to enable them to become self sufficient with their nutritional needs.

## **Learn Spanish in Costa Rica**

Learn Spanish and at the same time experience Costa Rican culture. Experience a new classroom methodology, constructed so students can communicate, comprehend and use accurate pronunciation in Spanish quickly via different approaches, whilst staying with a local host family.

## **Community Empowerment Volunteering in Costa Rica**

Participate fully in the orchid growing and compost making business and also at a coffee cooperative.

## **Animal Rescue Volunteer Project in Costa Rica**

Volunteer at sanctuaries, providing information to visitors, as well as helping with food prep for animals, cleaning cages, repairing habitats and caring for the animals.



Don't see anything that interests you? Our Placement Advisors are here to help. **Inquire here** and let our Placement Advisors know what you're looking for so we can help find the best placement for you!

### **What are the benefits of Kaya Placements?**

- International work experience
- Meaningful placements
- Global perspectives
- Cultural Immersion
- Structured and supported