

# COSTA RICA

## Flamingo Beach

Costa Rica is a beautiful tropical country, with an incredibly wide variety of landscapes, climates, animals and vegetation. The untouched mountain rain forests, palm-fringed Pacific and Caribbean beaches, reefs, volcanoes, and jungles make this a paradise for nature lovers.

**Flamingo Beach**, with its **ivory-white sands** and **crystal clear waters**, is one of the most spectacular beaches in Guanacaste, a province famous for its **unspoilt coastline**, turtles, reefs, volcanoes, **snorkelling and surfing**. The climate is **hot and sunny** throughout most of the year, and drier than most of Costa Rica, with occasional rainy days limited to September-October. The area is completely **untouched by mass tourism, unspoilt**, waiting to be discovered.



The school - Flamingo Beach



Sailing trip

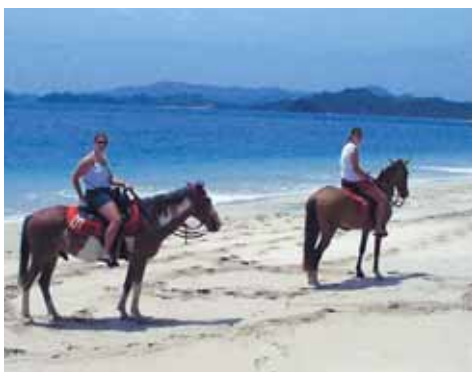


The beach

**Our school** is just **5 minutes walk from the beach**. There are 16 **air-conditioned** classrooms, study/Internet room, cafeteria + **on-site swimming pool**. Students are accommodated in **host families** in the nearby villages of Potrero + Brasillito, or in studio apartments, or in hotel (with pool) if preferred. A free shuttle bus operates between accommodation + school in the morning/ afternoon. The school organises a wide range of **optional extra activities** - **Salsa** dancing lessons, beach barbecues, **horse-back riding**, cookery lessons, sailing trips, surfing trips, **rain forest excursions**, to mention but a few! **Volunteer work** is also available during or after the course.



On-site pool at the school, Flamingo Beach



Horse-back riding along the beach



### Courses

- Intensive (20 lessons/wk)
- Super-Intensive, except Flamingo, (27 lessons/wk)
- **Volunteer work**
- Combined (20 + 5 private lessons)

### Accommodation

- Host families • Studio apartments
- Hotels • Basic bed + breakfast

### How to get there

Fly to San José Airport. Coach to Flamingo. **Airport collection** also available.

### Class Details

Min. age: 16 years (younger, if accompanied)  
Max. in class: 4 Lessons: 55 mins

### Star Points

- ★ First-rate Spanish course in **beautiful surroundings**
- ★ **Excellent facilities** in school
- ★ On-site **swimming pool**
- ★ **Superb activities/visits/excursions** - Arenal volcano trip, scuba-diving, beach horseback riding, Salsa/Merengue classes, sunset island cruise, National Park visits, mountain rain forest trips, mangrove safari, beach bar-b-que, turtle watching, cookery lessons
- ★ **Small group size** (max. 4 students)
- ★ **Volunteer programmes** available (see page 41)



# COSTA RICA

## The Monteverde Mountain Rain Forest

The Monteverde Mountain Rain Forest ('Cloud Forest') Reserve is one of the most **outstanding wildlife sanctuaries** in the tropics. This location is **ideal** for students who wish to combine the wonders of the rain forest with a **first-rate Spanish course**. In this **unspoilt reserve** there are over 100 species of mammals, more than 400 species of birds, 120 species of amphibians and reptiles, an estimated 2,500 plant species, with insect species numbering in tens of thousands. At 5,600 feet the climate is generally cooler than in the Central Valley, and at times wet, with temperatures averaging 18°C - 21°C.

**Our school** in Monteverde has 17 classrooms, video room, cafeteria, computer room and gardens. A wide range of visits and excursions are offered, from **forest canopy 'sky walks'** to Arenal volcano trips. **Courses can be combined with Flamingo Beach and San Joaquín de Flores.**



The school - Monteverde



School gardens



Through the forest canopy



Forest canopy 'Sky-walk'

**San Joaquín de Flores** is a prosperous, friendly, middle-class town of around 5,000 people, 17km from **San José**. Here in a small town, it is easy to meet 'Ticos' (Costa Ricans).

**Our school** in San Joaquín has magnificent views over coffee and banana plantations, towards the **Barva volcano**. There are 17 classrooms, a student cafeteria, as well as a student room with e-mail access.

This is an **excellent base** from which to explore the capital, or the **mountain rain forests** to the West, as well as the **beaches of Guanacaste**. Students should consider combining San Joaquín with a stay in **Flamingo Beach and/or Monteverde.**



### Courses

As Flamingo Beach

### Accommodation

- Host families
- Studio apartments

### How to get there

Fly to San José. **Airport collection** available.

### Class Details

Min. age: 16 (younger if accompanied)

Max. in class: 4 Lessons: 55 minutes

### Star Points

- ★ First-rate Spanish course in Mountain Rain Forest location
- ★ **Maximum 4 students per class**
- ★ Excellent visits/activities/excursions - San Luis waterfalls, guided rain forest hike, **night hike**, Arenal Volcano (still active), ecological farm visit, **white-water rafting**, canopy '**sky-walk**', mountain hike, full-day horse riding to Lake Arenal, **Salsa/Merengue classes**, Costa Rican cookery classes

## San Joaquín de Flores



Salsa lesson



School buildings - San Joaquín

### Courses

As Flamingo Beach

### Accommodation

- Host families
- Studio apartments

### How to get there

Fly to San José Airport. **Airport collection** available.

### Class Details

Min. age: 16 (younger if accompanied)

Max. in class: 4 Lessons: 55 minutes

### Star Points

- ★ High-quality Spanish course in well located school
- ★ **Max. 4 students per class**
- ★ **Ideal base** from which to explore the rest of Costa Rica
- ★ Excellent visits/activities/excursions - rain **forest canopy trip**, white-water rafting, butterfly farm, **Irazú volcano** trip, river safari along Rio Sarapiquí, banana/coffee plantation, **Salsa/Merengue dancing**