

Costa Rica Trip 2017 The Geography Trip of a Lifetime!

Miss Batten and Mr Lobo

Where is Costa Rica?



Why Travel to Central America?

- Costa Rica is one of the most amazing geographically rich countries in the world
- It is a Developing country (LEDC) and contrasts the world we live in
- Its biggest growth industry and major source of income is from Eco-Tourism
- It is one of the most friendly and safest places in the world
- Take part in a cultural exchange with another school and most importantly, experience Geography as it should be... outside the classroom!

There are four main themes in the GCSE Geography Course

- Year 11s (Current Year 10s)
- Natural Hazards
- Population and Settlement
- Rivers and Coasts
- Economic Development

There are four main themes in the GCSE Geography Course

- Year 10s (Current Year 9)
- Natural Hazards
- Changing Climate
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Sustaining Ecosystems
- Urban Futures
- Dynamic Development
- Resource Reliance

What are the educational benefits for students?

The Geography GCSE Course

- The Tropical Rainforest and Equatorial Climate (Rivers/Natural Hazards)
- Plate Tectonics and Volcanoes/Earthquakes (Natural Hazards)
- Spectacular Waterfalls and River Features / Coastal Features (Rivers and Coasts)
- Contrasts within a Developing World City (Rich and Poor) / Shanty Towns – LEDC Countries (Population and Settlement)
- Eco-tourism (Economic Development)
- Coastal features and processes (Coastal Environments)
- Sustainable Aid Projects (Economic Development)

What are the educational benefits for students?

The Wider Life Experience

- Encounter People/Children of a different culture
- Learn the value of fundraising and the difference that we can make to individuals

New Activities and Experiences

- This is a full on trip with lots of new and exciting opportunities. You should really embrace the opportunities and take part – it's a once in a life time trip!

Costa Rica 2017 Personnel

- Trip Party – 40 pupils and 4 members of staff
- **Miss Batten** (Trip Leader, Geography Teacher, Year 7 Leader)
- **Mr Lobo** (Assistant Headteacher and Geography Teacher)
- **To be confirmed**
- **To be confirmed**

The Journey There...

- Day 1 (Saturday 11th Feb)
- Coach from school
- Arrive at Gatwick South Terminal
- Flight Departs on British Airways (10.15am)
- Arrive in Costa Rica in the afternoon (approx. 4pm)



An Evening Tour of San Jose City...

- Day 1 (Saturday 11th Feb)
- San Jose City Tour – Spanish Practice
- Students will get to visit all the famous landmarks – inc. San Pedro, National Museum, National Theatre, Congress and other special sites of the city
- Tour of High Class Residential Areas



Costa Rica – The Highlights Day

- **Day 2 (Sun 12th Feb)**
- **Visit the crater of Poas Volcano – a 2,708-metre stratovolcano in central Costa Rica. It has erupted 39 times since 1828.**



Costa Rica – The Highlights Day

- Day 2 (Sun 12th Feb)
- La Paz Waterfall Gardens
- Walk around the La Paz Waterfalls – beautiful scenery and learn about waterfall formation and features.
- Visit the largest Butterfly Observatory in the world. The enclosed structure allows butterflies to soar freely whilst visitors walk amid them in their natural habitat.
- You will also see the usually skittish hummingbirds as they play and fight with one another. You can watch them feeding within a few feet of you.
- Plus many other animals and birds found in Costa Rica!



Costa Rica – The Highlights Day

- **Day 2 (Sun 12th Feb)**
- **Drive to Selva Verde Lodge**
- A beautiful eco lodge accessed via a rope bridge.
- Free time and dinner in the hotel
- (Time to work on diaries – more info later!)



Costa Rica Cultural Exchange Day

- **Day 3 (Mon 13th Feb)**
- Rare opportunity to visit local people in their school and jobs. Listen to them speak about their life, their family, their history, their community and their work.
- First stop: **Calle La Lucha** – our link school that we have visited in previous trips



Costa Rica Cultural Exchange Day

- Day 3 (Mon 13th Feb)
- School Visit to Calle La Lucha
- One of the most rewarding days of the trip.
- Visiting a small public school where you will interact with the children and find out about their lives. Playing games and sports
- Fundraising recipients



Before and After...

2007



2009



Before and After...

2015



Donating Football Tops...



Costa Rica Cultural Exchange Day

- **Day 3 (Mon 13th Feb)**
- **Local Cooperative Visit**
- Learn about different projects such as reforestation, recycling, handcrafts, community support and more.



The Adventure Day

- Day 4 (Tuesday 14th Feb)
- Canopy Zip Lines through the different layers of the rainforest
- White Water Rafting on the Saripiqui River
- Arrive at Hotel Las Cabinitas



White Water Rafting

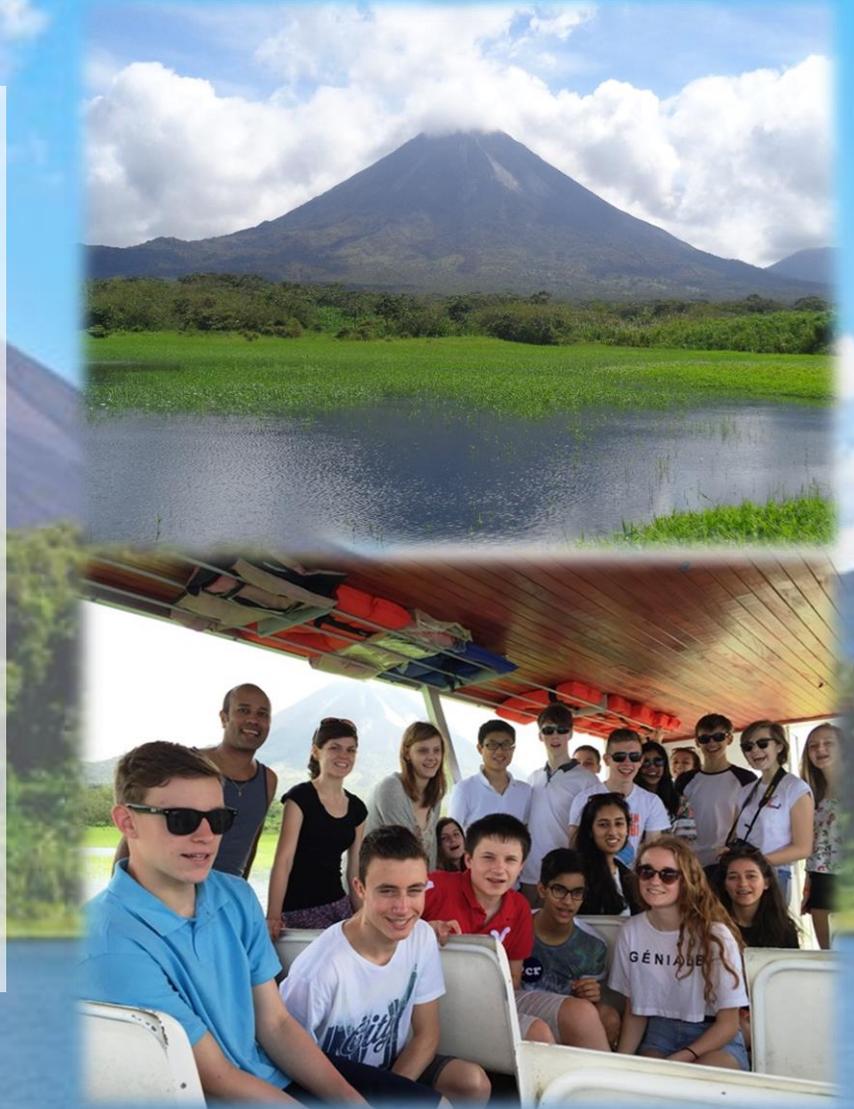


Zip-Wiring



The Erupting Volcano Arenal

- **Day 5 (Wed 15th Feb)**
- Boat tour in Arenal's lake (largest lake in Costa Rica) to admire the impressive volcano, wildlife and nature.
- Great views of the volcano to enjoy the beauty of this magnificent lake.
- Treasure Trail in La Fortuna





Volcano Arenal Erupting by night



The Erupting Volcano Arenal

- **Day 5 (Wed 15th Feb)**
- **Baldi Hot Springs**
- Horseback ride to the volcano or La Fortuna
- The largest thermal waters in the world with 25 thermal pools amongst the tropical rainforest.
- For those in less need of relaxation, you can enjoy sliding and bumping through water slides
- Huge Buffet for dinner in this beautiful spot



The relaxing part...

- **Day 6 (Thurs 16th Feb)**
- Depart to Tamarindo Beach located in the northern region of Costa Rica where some of the most beautiful beaches are found.
- Afternoon to relax and enjoy the beach
- Turtle Nesting/Nature Tour by night!



The relaxing part...

- **Day 7 (Friday 17th Feb)**
- Final full day to enjoy Tamarindo Beach
- Activities available to include:
- Mangrove Boat Tour
- Surfing and Snorkelling options



The journey home begins

- **Day 8 (Saturday 18th Feb)**
- Departure to San Jose - the return journey home.
- Goodbye to Costa Rica (Flight departs at 17.20)
- Land in Gatwick South Terminal at 09.20am on **Sunday 19th February**
- Coach back to school to be picked up



Rooms and Other Info

- Rooms and prices are based on 4 people per room
- Following this draft itinerary, full final itinerary with times, dates and hotel contact details will be given in January 2017
- Packing List will be given out in due course too

Injections and Vaccinations

- No injections are required officially, may be useful for malaria tablets etc... (See your local GP)
- Zika Virus – there have been reports in Costa Rica but it is not widespread. It is very uncommon in areas above 6500 feet.
- Tips:
 - Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long trousers.
 - Use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET.
- Bring your own basic personal medical kit, but a full packing list will follow in due course



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Low to no risk
antimalarials not
usually advised

Surrounding
countries with
malaria risk

- Malaria risk throughout the year in the province of Limon, in the canton of Matina (we do not visit this part of Costa Rica). There is **low to no risk** in all other areas.
- Despite the low risk, malaria precautions are essential. Avoid mosquito bites by covering up with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers especially after sunset, using insect repellents on exposed skin and, when necessary, sleeping under a mosquito net.
- Antimalarials are not usually advised (at your own discretion).

Reflections – Follow up Work

- To produce a photo/diary souvenir album or video diary (edited)
- May want to bring Ipad or other tablet – Top 10 Photo Competition
- Each night, on return to the hotel, students will be asked to work on this. They are encouraged to take photos during the day and can take notes of their experiences on the long coach journeys.
- We will have excellent tour guides who will give lots of interesting information about Costa Rica and the sights that we will be seeing



Costa Rican Food...



Trip Places

- 40 student places with 4 members of staff
- First Come – First Served list was drawn up on Monday which filled the 40 places
- A reserve list has also been drawn up
- £250 deposit to be paid on squid from tomorrow (Friday 27th May) to secure place on the trip
- This will be open until Tuesday 7th June
- Any finance related queries please contact Carolyn Guildford in the finance department

Payment Plan

- May 2016 - £250 Deposit
- June – £350
- July – £350
- September – £350
- October – £350
- November - £345

Parent Email List and Google Form

- A parent email list will be set up so that I can communicate with you and send out information regarding the trip, itineraries, packing lists and fundraising opportunities
- This will be set up once your place is secured by paying the deposit.
- You will be asked to complete a Google form (link will be sent to you) so that we can collect student details, medical information, passport information etc.

Fundraising Ideas

- Collection of Football tops for school children in Costa Rica
- Cake Sales
- Yr 10/11 Sponsored event
- Christmas Wrapping/Bag packing in Sainsbury's
- Sponsorship from local businesses
- Team Challenge

Local School Video



Other Items

- Medical
- Passports
- This trip is all inclusive – all meals provided, may wish to buy snacks.
- Optional to bring spending money for souvenirs etc
- Currency is: US Dollars
- Non-British Passports – please check
- Communication and mobile use

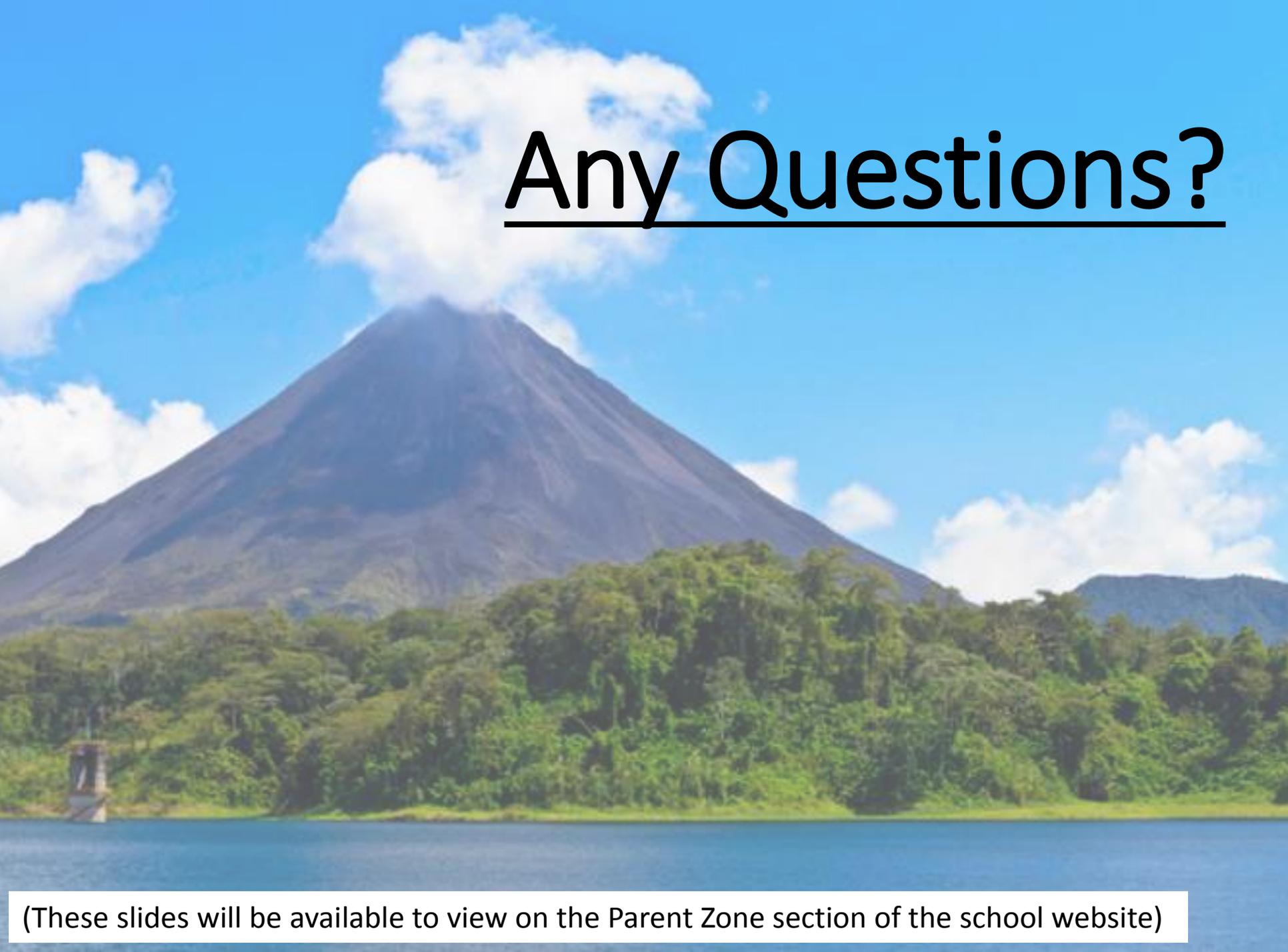
En Costa Rica hablan español.
¡Con objeto del viaje usted
aprenderá español!

In Costa Rica they speak Spanish
In preparation for the trip you will
learn some Spanish!



Parental Involvement

- We would like more parental involvement this year
- If you would like to be involved in any of the fundraising activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch!
- Eg. Business sponsors/donations?
- T-Shirt sponsors?



Any Questions?

(These slides will be available to view on the Parent Zone section of the school website)