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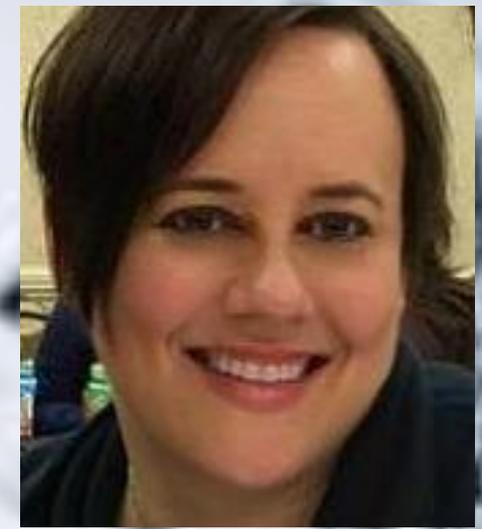
LHS Spanish Club Trip 2019

“Volcanes”

Meeting Agenda

- Introduction
- Trip Itinerary
- Who can/should go, and who should maybe not...
- Money & other important things
- Questions & Answers

**Trip Leader:
Ms. Ferguson**



20 years teaching (15 at LHS)
8 trips with students (7 with LHS: Spain x 2,
Costa Rica x 3, Guatemala, Dominican
Republic)
Personal travel also to Mexico, Spain,
Guatemala



INTERACT

Student Tours & Homestays

Interact Travel

Founded in 1983

Former Spanish Teacher—they “get” what schools (teachers, students, and parents) want in a trip.

Family business—the owner, his wife, his daughter, his daughter-in-law, his son-in-law, etc. all work there...and someone from the team has personally been on every itinerary!

Their office is in Green Bay, WI

Strict “NO ALCOHOL!” policy, and high behavioral expectations

Costa Rica & The Canal

Costa Rica & Panama

9 Days

The itinerary: we won't know exact travel dates until sometime in February 2019. We will leave after graduation.

Due to the change in itineraries, we're waiting for the new price. Interact says it will be comparable to the \$2495 of our original trip.

Day 1: Fly to Costa Rica

Take a bus to Chicago

Fly, possibly with layover, to Costa Rica



Day 1

Arrive in Costa Rica.
Head to Rancho
Lodge in Alajuela
(outside of San
José), and meet
homestay families.





Day 2

Café Doka

Tour the coffee estate on the slope of the Poas volcano, see how coffee is grown, harvested, roasted, and tasted!



Day 2

Sr. and Sra. Ese

Visit the craft center and shop for jewelry and Costa Rican souvenirs, many of which are made of tropical woods.



Day 3

Drive through the highlands to Arenal volcano. Optional zip line excursion (\$95). Open-air gondola ride to observation deck & zipline down.



Then visit hot springs recreational area, with water heated by the underground lava.



Day 4

Cultural interaction & humanitarian interactions: Visit a local store to purchase supplies for a project. Complete the experience while interacting with local children, painting, or gardening.

Then later, a salsa lesson at Rancho de Español.





Day 5: Fly to Panama

Meet our homestay director from the ILERI Spanish Language School at the airport. Drive to our neighborhood, have lunch there.

Drive to the Miraflores Locks at the Panama Canal



Day 6

Visit Casco Viejo, a walled city with 16th and 17th century Spanish Colonial architecture.

Walk by cafes, shops, and plazas. Have lunch and then shop for Panamanian souvenirs and browse upscale boutiques.



Day 7: Jungleland

Spend a day in Lake Gatun and the Canal.

As we explore in fast boats we'll see ships transiting the canal and see the canal expansion work.

See the lush rainforest as we go to a quiet region of the lake where we can see monkeys, birds, and crocodiles. Have lunch on a double decker houseboat, and do some kayaking or fishing. (Not near the crocodiles)



Day 8

Pacific Playa—drive over the Bridge of the Americas and along the Pan America Highway (which runs Alaska to Argentina) to San Carlos. Our beach access includes access to all facilities, lunch, snacks, and unlimited non-alcoholic drinks.

Relax, swim, play beach volleyball or soccer.

Day 9: Fly Home

Expectations /
Eligibility

Student Eligibility

- Complete Spanish 3 or equivalent (minimum).
- No serious behavioral code violations/Athletic code violations (such as alcohol or drug-related violations).
- Good decision-making skills
- Independent & Responsible

This isn't the right trip for you if...

- You can't make good decisions while unsupervised.
- You don't feel ready to spend 9 days away from home.
- You are not willing to leave your comfort zone & room with another student & stay in a family home.

Travel safety

- Focus on safer behaviors (there are ways to make yourself less likely to be a target)
- NO use of alcohol or other drugs. Students WILL be sent home at parent expense for violating this policy. (see p. 12, #1, the stuff in ALL CAPS at the end of that item)

Money & Practicalities



Total student fee: \$2485(approx)

- Flights
- In-country coach bus
- Luggage (1 checked, 1 carry-on)
- Hotels & Home stays
- Daily breakfast and 1-2 meals
- Admission to all pre-planned activities
- Bilingual guide & homestay director
- Tips to guides, drivers, etc. (We can throw in a bit more if they're great)

Not included in fees:

- Group bus to Chicago for departure (should be <\$100, depends on # of people & fund-raising Ms. F does)
- Personal purchases (souvenirs, phone charges, special food, trip insurance, etc)
- Beach rentals (like snorkeling)
- Overweight baggage charges (often \$50 per leg of flight)
- Passport fees (currently \$110 for passport book. YOU NEED THE BOOK, not the card.)

What do you need to travel to these countries?



You must have a passport!!



No vaccines or immunizations are required. Doctors may recommend some, such as malaria, yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis, tetanus, flu, etc. See your doctor to make the decision on what you will do.



We will do a decent amount of walking. You'll want a good, sturdy pair of shoes. You don't need hiking boots, but solid, athletic tennis shoes (as opposed to "fashion" sneakers) are helpful.

Rooming

- Homestay: mostly groups of 2, unless an odd number forces a group of 3. Number of families that can host 3 are limited. No students will be left alone...even if that is what you want at the time. We will keep the same pairings at both homestays.
- All rooming groups must be same gender. Any students whose gender identity could be an issue (as far as rooming OR matching your passport) should speak to Ms. Ferguson privately.

Homestay



– Middle-class families

– Same area

– Speak Spanish

(We won't have contact
info ahead of time)



Sancocho – a type of stew



Ropa vieja – shredded meat served with rice

How's the food?



Tostones – fried savory plantains

The most typical ingredients include chicken & pork, plantains, coconuts, other tropical fruits, root vegetables like yucca, and staples like corn, rice, or beans.

The food will be well-seasoned and flavorful, but doesn't tend to be spicy.

What's Next?

Decide if this is the right trip at the right time

Early Bird Registration

- Turn in enrollment form (back of booklet) by 4/26
- Turn in \$350 payable to Interact Travel by 4/26
- Locks in your spot, reduces amounts due at payments in fall.
- Cancellation allowed until fall with refund

Regular Registration

- Turn in enrollment form (back of booklet) by 4/26 if possible.
- Turn in \$350 deposit PLUS additional payment in September (date TBA)
- Locks in your spot, but you will have to “catch up” on payment with those who paid deposit in spring.
- Cancellation will have non-refundable portions of student fee.

Timeline

(amounts and dates are estimates, more precise numbers given asap)

- Sept. – Final registration forms & \$350 deposits due for new enrollments

- Sept. --\$500 installment payment due
- Oct/Nov –Wreath Fund-Raiser
- Dec—Installment payment of \$500 due (By this time a MINIMUM of \$850 total must have been paid to avoid late fees or possible cancellation)
- Jan/Feb – Passport copies & rooming lists due
- Jan/Feb—Installment of \$500 due
- March—Butter Braid Fund-Raiser
- April – FINAL balance due (approx \$635)

Your Questions

