



Costa Rica 2024 Itinerary

Travel Dates: Saturday, December 7, 2024, to Sunday December 15th

Overview:

In this meticulously crafted 9-day Business Immersion Program, tailored for students of St. Petersburg College (SPC), participants will delve into a comprehensive exploration of Costa Rica's dynamic business landscape. Through a blend of corporate visits, engaging lectures, and awe-inspiring excursions, this program promises to deliver a transformative educational experience.

Program Highlights:

Corporate Visits: SPC students will have the exclusive opportunity to visit local companies of different sizes, gaining invaluable insights into their operations, strategies, and contributions to Costa Rica's thriving business environment.

Lectures and Workshops: Engage in stimulating lectures conducted by industry experts. Topics will encompass international business, sustainable practices, and entrepreneurial endeavors, providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Natural Wonders Expedition: The program includes visits to destinations such as Poas Volcano and Arenal Volcano, allowing participants to immerse themselves in Costa Rica's unparalleled natural beauty and rich biodiversity.

Learning Outcomes:

Global Business Acumen: Participants will develop an understanding of Costa Rica's economic ecosystem, its global market participation, and the influential factors shaping international business practices.

Innovative Thinking and Entrepreneurship: Through exposure to innovative business models and strategies, students will cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset, equipping them with the skills to thrive in a competitive global business landscape.

Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship: Gain insights into sustainability initiatives and corporate social responsibility efforts within Costa Rican businesses. This knowledge will foster a sense of ethical and responsible global citizenship.

Cross-Cultural Proficiency: Interactions with local professionals will enhance cross-cultural communication skills, promoting effective collaboration in diverse global business settings.

Environmental and Social Awareness: Recognize the interdependence of business, environment, and society. Appreciate the significance of balancing corporate success with environmental conservation and societal well-being.

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Day 1: Saturday, December 7th, Fly to San Jose, Costa Rica

About San Jose

With rainforests and volcanic peaks in the background and a timeline dating back centuries, starting your adventure in the Costa Rican capital city is a fabulous introduction to the country before venturing to other towns and regions.

- San Jose is the capital of Costa Rica (since 1823). The city is centrally located in San Jose province
- The population of San Jose is approximately 335,000
- San Jose is the largest city in Costa Rica
- San Jose is considered to be one of the safest cities in Latin America
- The elevation of San Jose is 3840 feet above sea level.
- San Jose Costa Rica weather is tropical.

Meet your tour director at the airport or at the Wyndham Escazu hotel. See Wyndham Escazu location [here](#).

Meals:

- No breakfast provided
- No lunch provided
- No dinner provided

There are a variety of delicious and affordable restaurants and cafés near the Wyndham Escazu hotel.



Day 2, December 8th -Full day excursion to Doka Coffee plantation, Poas Volcano and La Paz Waterfall Gardens

7:30 AM Departure: The group sets off promptly from the hotel, accompanied by a bilingual guide, embarking on an exciting full-day adventure.

Explore Doka Coffee Plantation and Poas Volcano:

- Engage in an informative tour at Doka Coffee Plantation, witnessing the intricate process of coffee production.
- Proceed to the impressive Poas Volcano, where the group will be mesmerized by the active crater and lush cloud forest surroundings.

La Paz Waterfall Gardens and Zoo

- Enjoy a scenic 60-minute hike through La Paz Waterfall Gardens, reveling in the natural beauty of the cascading waterfalls.
- Visit the on-site zoo, providing an opportunity to connect with Costa Rica's diverse wildlife.
- Enjoy lunch amidst the picturesque surroundings (included)
- As the day concludes, the group returns to the hotel around 5.30 PM, enriched with unforgettable memories of Costa Rica's natural wonders.

Course Activities

- International Business Discussion – Globalization & Doing Business in Latin America
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion – The Case for Cultural Diversity
- Principles of Management -Discussion – Roles of Managers in Organizations - management efficiency versus management effectiveness

Meals:

- Breakfast provided at the hotel
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 3, December 9th Visits to Mermeladas Ujarrás and to PROCOMER

8:30 AM: Visit to Mermeladas Ujarrás The day kicks off with an educative visit the manufacturing facility to acquire meaningful knowledge about the production and distribution process of Costa Rican jam.

2:00 PM: Visit to PROCOMER: In the afternoon, the group will have the opportunity to visit the PROCOMER Costa Rican Promotion Agency, a vital institution in the country's economic landscape. With the guidance of the bilingual guide, participants will gain valuable insights into Costa Rica's international trade and business endeavors. <https://www.procomer.com/>

Course Activities

- International Business Discussion – Free Trade & International Trade Agreements
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion – Negotiating Across Cultures
- Principles of Management -Discussion – Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Meals:

- Breakfast provided at the hotel
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 4, December 10th

Visit to LAICA (Liga Agrícola Industrial de la Caña de Azúcar) and Dos Pinos Dairy Company.

8:30 AM: Visit to LAICA (Liga Agrícola Industrial de la Caña de Azúcar): Students will have the opportunity to visit LAICA, where they will learn about the fascinating process of sugar production and distribution in Costa Rica. They will gain insights into the significance of fair treatment and equitable distribution of profits across the various sectors of the sugar industry, as well as its vital role in the local economy, providing employment and supporting rural communities. This educational experience offers a comprehensive look into both the production and ethical aspects of the sugar trade. <https://laica.cr/>

1:30 PM: Visit to Dos Pinos Dairy Company: The group will take part in an informative tour of the renowned Dos Pinos Dairy Company, where they will witness the dairy production process firsthand and gain insights into the cooperative's commitment to quality and sustainability. <https://www.cooperativadospinos.com/company>

- International Business Discussion – Exports and Imports
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion – Women in Leadership
- Principles of Management -Discussion – The importance of strategic management

Meals:

- Breakfast provided at the hotel
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided



Day 5, December 11th: Visit to Swiss Tropical

7:00 AM: Visit to Swiss Tropical: The group will embark on a guided tour of the Swiss Tropical Pineapple Plantation in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, where they will learn about the cultivation and exportation of tropical fruits from Costa Rica to Europe and North America. Students will gain insights into the business and economic aspects of the pineapple industry, including the challenges and opportunities of global trade. The tour will provide a unique perspective on the international supply chain and sustainable agriculture. <https://swisstropical.ch/en/home/>

Lunch: Following the educational tour, the group will enjoy a delicious lunch near the pineapple groves. This culinary experience offers a taste of local cuisine, concluding the day with a delightful blend of knowledge and gastronomy.

Course Activities

- International Business Discussion – Global Marketing
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion - Cultural Diversity Competitive Advantages
- Principles of Management -Discussion – Three Skills Approach to Management

Meals:

- Breakfast provided at the hotel
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 6, December 12th Visit to Emerson

9:00 AM: Visit to Emerson: The group will visit Emerson Costa Rica, where they will explore how the company combines advanced technologies with industry-leading expertise to create sustainable solutions for its clients. Students will gain valuable insights into Emerson's innovative approach and its commitment to addressing global challenges through cutting-edge technology. This visit will provide a unique perspective on the role of sustainability in the business world. <https://www.emerson.com/es-cr>

2:00 PM San José City Tour: Students will enjoy an engaging city tour of San José, exploring the vibrant heart of Costa Rica's capital. They will visit the bustling Central Market and stroll along the iconic Central Avenue, learning fascinating facts about the city's history, culture, and architecture.

Course Activities

- International Business Discussion – Global Marketing
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion - Cultural Diversity Competitive Advantages
- Principles of Management -Discussion – Three Skills Approach to Management

Meals:

- Breakfast provided
- No Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 7, December 13th:

Visit to Natural Sins and the local Craft Market

7:30 AM Visit to Natural Sins: Students will visit Natural Sins, a leading company in Costa Rica specializing in the production of natural fruit snacks. During the visit, they will learn about the innovative process of creating healthy, sustainable snacks made from locally sourced fruits. They will gain insights into the company's commitment to quality, sustainability, and the importance of promoting eco-friendly practices in the food industry. This tour will offer valuable knowledge about the intersection of agriculture, business, and health in Costa Rica. <https://naturalsinsonline.com/>

2:00 PM Visit to the local Craft Market: Students will have the opportunity to explore the vibrant craft market, a perfect place to browse through a variety of locally made and artisanal crafts. It's an ideal spot to find unique souvenirs for family and friends or to treat yourself to something special. From handwoven textiles to handmade jewelry and pottery, the market showcases the rich cultural heritage and creativity of Costa Rican artisans.

Course Activities

- International Business- Discussion – Regional Agreements
- Managing Cultural Diversity Discussion – Global Business Ethics
- Principles of Management -Discussion – Differences between managers and leaders

Meals:

- Breakfast provided in the hotel
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 8, December 14th

Full day excursion to Arenal Volcano and Baldi Hot springs

7:00 AM Departure from Hotel: The group departs early at 7:00 AM from the hotel, heading out for an exciting day of exploration in La Fortuna.

Exploration of La Fortuna and Arenal Volcano Views: Participants will explore the charming town of La Fortuna and enjoy breathtaking views of the majestic Arenal Volcano. An expert guide will provide insights into the natural wonders of this iconic region.

Relaxation at Baldi Hot Springs with Lunch: After the tour, the group will relax at Baldi Hot Springs, nestled in the lush rainforest, and enjoy a delicious lunch while soaking in the therapeutic thermal waters.

Return to San Jose by 8:00 PM: The group will conclude their La Fortuna adventure and return to San Jose by around 8:00 PM, taking with them lasting memories of the day.

Meals

- Breakfast provided
- Lunch provided
- No dinner provided

Day 9, December 15th
Check out and Departure

Check Out from Wyndham Escazu: The group will conclude their stay at Wyndham Escazu, ensuring all belongings are gathered before departing.

Airport Transportation by ILISA: ILISA has arranged seamless transportation to the airport. Depending on individual departure times, one or two shuttles will be provided to ensure all participants reach the airport in a timely manner.

Official End of the Program: This marks the official conclusion of their journey with ILISA.

Meals:

- Breakfast provided at the hotel
- No lunch provided
- No dinner provided

