

COSTA RICA TRIP

SPRING BREAK, 2022

Monday, April 2nd, 2022- Sunday, April 10, 2022

Mary Ann Milletics

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Link: www.explorica.com/Milletics-2267

About Explorica:

Explorica is an educational travel organization that has more than 20 years of experience taking kids to Costa Rica. They are partnered with WorldStrides and affiliated with several other tour associations. The Explorica vision is to create a better world by enriching every student with a cultural experience through educational travel.

When: Spring Break, 2022- April 2nd- April 10th

Who: Trip is open to all 8th-12th grade students interested in science, nature, outdoor activities, and culture.

Why: Students will be immersed in the rich culture of Costa Rica. They will be learning about the flora and fauna in one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Students will be keeping a Discovery Journal to take observations, record data, make diagrams, and answer thought-provoking questions.

Science and Cultural Activities:

- A. Hiking to the active Arenal and Poas volcanoes;
- B. Kayak around Arenal Lake
- C. Zip-lining over the top of the trees
- D. Canopy walks and many scheduled hikes with an experienced guide
- E. Visiting a local school and share school supplies, t-shirts, and/or candy
- F. Community service project- plant trees in the Santa Elena Biological Preserve
- G. Horseback ride and visit a waterfall
- H. Hike and explore the Manuel Antonio National Forest

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Safety-

A course leader or tour director will be with the group at all times. They are trained in first aid and crisis management.

Knowledgeable and experienced guides will be with the group on all scheduled activities.

All students will wear name tags with the Tour Central phone number on the back.

All students and parents will have 24 hour access to an Explorica representative at Tour Central office.

All students will sign a medical release and a behavior contract.

Enrollment:

You must go to the website and enroll your child. There is a non-refundable enrollment fee of \$50.00 or \$99.00, depending on the payment plan that you are going to choose.

Enroll your child and set up a payment plan. There are a couple of different payment plans you can choose.

Enroll now...tickets will be the cheapest...you can lock in your price. Prices will change between now and the trip.

If you have trouble with the enrollment, call 1-888-310-7121.

Insurance-

There are two options for insurance:

- a. Standard insurance plan is \$12.00 per day x 9 days= 108.00- only covers being in Costa Rica and events that may happen in Costa Rica. This will not return your money to you if you have to cancel. You will lose whatever you have put into the trip.
- b. Travel Plan Plus is \$18.00 per day x 9 days= \$162.00- this ensures that if you have to cancel your trip (before 30 days departure date), you will receive 75% of your trip back.

***** Travel Plan Plus must be paid in full within a 14 day window after you enroll your child.

*****Standard plan may be paid at any point in time.

*****Any charges not covered by this insurance are the responsibility of the participant.

Refunds- If you purchase the Travel Plan Plus and you cancel BEFORE 30 days of the trip, you will get 75% back. If you cancel inside 30 days of the trip (March 2020), you will not get your money back.

Passports- Passports must be up to date and are taking a long time to receive. Make sure you have this detail taken care of as soon as possible.

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Pricing/Payment-

- a. Student pricing- 2598.00 (50.00 registration fee or 99.00 registration fee- depending on which payment plan you choose- these are included in the 2539.00) + 162.00 Travel Protection Plan Plus insurance. (This is the price with the white water rafting extension- we would get back on Monday, April 13th- must be approved by the Board)
- b. Could also do 3 monthly payments of 839.33
- c. Includes flight, sightseeing transportation, course leader, hotel accommodations, field journals, all meals, all admissions fees, all evening activities
- d. Payment is due in full 105 days before trip
- e. Students may keep track of their own money through e-card.
- f. Students may use social media to reach out to family and friends
- g. I will help set up fundraisers during the school year.
- h. Students/parents may set up own payment plan that works best for them
- i. Financial assistance and scholarship money is available- must apply online
- j. Adult pricing- Add \$ 530.00 to trip price for the twin room upgrade

***** Please see payment plans below

Cross-curricular disciplines- Zoology, Ecology, Botany, Chemistry, Conservation Biology, Animal Behavior

Objectives

- Students will be able to describe characteristics of a rainforest
- Students will learn terminology associated with the rainforest.
- Students will become familiar with some of the flora and fauna of the rainforest.
- Students will learn how some of the flora and fauna are used locally.
- Students will gain knowledge of how to conserve resources in the rainforest.
- * Students will appreciate the diversity and fragility of the rainforest ecosystem by participating in a community service project.

Representatives and Access

Explorica representative- please direct all questions about the trip to me and I will relay them to our representative at Explorica.

School representative- Mary Ann Milletics

mmilletics@sjschools.org

For customer service questions, call the [Customer Care Line at 1-888-310-7121](tel:1-888-310-7121)

Fundraising-

1. I encourage students to set up a social media fundraising page.
2. I encourage students to babysit, mow lawns, pull weeds, pet sit, do chores for family and neighbors.
3. Any fundraisers I do will be during the school year only. Fundraisers have to be approved 30 days in advance. Only the kids that show up for the fundraiser get a part of the money. I will keep all of the money in an account set up through the school. I will keep a spreadsheet of how much each student has raised through MY fundraisers. Toward the trip, a check will be cut to Explorica company and the money divvied up into each of the students' online accounts.
 - a. Elementary movie nights at the student center
 - b. Karaoke/Lip Sync nights after high school basketball games
 - c. Parents Night Out at the high school
 - d. Staff versus student volleyball or basketball game
 - e. Special days at school- hat days,
 - f. Kelley's Bowl does a bowling fundraiser
 - g. I am open to ideas.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

COSTA RICA EDUCATIONAL TRIP-

1. Does roundtrip travel include from high school to airport? Which airport?
 - a. No, probably out of Midway. We will have to arrange volunteers to shuttle us to the airport.
2. How long in advance in order to get passport?
 - a. 9 months in advance
3. Gift of Education-every student has the ability to set up gift of education for a social media site; kids set up video/ or inspirational pictures/posters to get people to donate; Explorica will help you set up an account; 100% of donation goes into student's individual account;
4. What is the weather like in Costa Rica?
 - a. Weather in Costa Rica in April- Dry season average 85 and sunny
 - b. Students will be given a list of things to bring
5. Is there assistance for dietary needs?
 - a. Yes, usually many options...including vegetarian; lots of fresh fruit, beans and rice at every meal;
6. What kind of spending money?
 - a. Is the colones- 500-550 colones per dollar.... \$3.00 – \$5.00 per meals.
T-shirts can cost \$2.00...recommended \$75-100 in spending money; BUT
- No exchange will be necessary- vendors will take dollars.
7. Chaperones- 15 to 1;
8. What is the payment plan?
 - a. See payment plans below.
9. How many kids in a room and can they room with their friends?
 - a. Four kids to a room. I will send out a sheet with preferences.
 - b. Adults- 2 to a room.

Payment Plan

INTERNATIONAL TOURS departing in 2018

Monthly Automated Plan:

Pay your \$50 deposit and travel protection plan costs with credit/debit card or checking account upon enrollment, and the balance of your Tour Fee will be automatically charged to your card or debited from your account in equal monthly installments until 35 days prior to your departure date (checking account) or 65 days prior to your departure date (credit/debit card). Please note that you must make all payments by credit card, debit card, or checking account.

Full Payment Plan:

Pay in full at time of enrollment.

4-Step Manual Plan:

Pay your \$99 deposit and travel protection plan costs upon enrollment, \$500 toward your Tour Fee 30 days later, and 75% of your remaining balance at 105 days prior to departure. The final remaining balance is due 65 days prior to departure and can be paid by check, credit or debit card, or checking account. If you enroll 150 days prior to departure or later, you will make only three payments—\$99 deposit and travel protection plan costs at enrollment, 75% of your remaining balance at 105 days prior to departure, and the final balance at 65 days prior to departure. Please note that we do not automatically deduct payments on this plan; you must make each payment manually. All full-paying participants, including participants who have previously traveled with Explorica, are required to pay the \$99 deposit upon enrollment. Any participant who has already paid the deposit for a previous tour will receive a \$100 credit on his or her Explorica account.