

To: School Board of Vicksburg Community Schools
From: VHS World Language Department
Date: May 2025
Subject: Costa Rica Trip

We are writing to you to seek formal approval for an upcoming trip to Costa Rica for Spanish students in June of 2025. The trip is offered to those students who have completed at least two years of Spanish. There are 14 students enrolled in the trip. The dates for the trip are June 11-June 19, 2025. This trip's itinerary and mission are similar to previous year's trips that have been taken abroad. Our mission is to provide students with an opportunity to immerse themselves in Costa Rican culture, while using skills taught in the classroom to communicate in Spanish with native speakers. As in years past, XPeritas is the travel organization who we are working with to provide this meaningful experience for our students. The Minnesota-based Xperitas is a non-profit, reputable student travel and tour company. The trip includes a local guide who is at our disposal the entire time while we are in the country. The guide personalizes the trip to fit the needs of our students to ensure that each student walks away with a memorable and meaningful experience. Our guide this year is the same one we had in 2019 when we took students, and we are looking forward to working with him again.

Costa Rica is an incredibly safe country that is known for its beautiful rainforests, active volcanoes, hot springs, and stunning beaches—all of which our students will have the opportunity to experience while using Spanish in a real world setting. This trip offers an opportunity for personal growth by challenging the students to explore a new culture while practicing their second language skills. The trip also includes a four day homestay. All host families are volunteers who have been given extensive background checks by Xperitas. Xperitas works closely with the families to maximize the experience each student will have while at their home stay. Many of the families have hosted international students for many years and look forward to the opportunity to share their way of life with American students. This portion of the trip is almost always the most memorable for students.

Similar trips to Costa Rica have been taken previously through the same company, and the takeaway from these trips for the students has been irreplaceable. The cost for this nine day trip is \$3,954 and includes nearly all of the expenses that come with traveling abroad. This cost is paid for entirely by the students' families. Please see the attached itinerary for more specific details regarding the cities we will be visiting and the activities we will do. The attached information also contains all 24-hour emergency contact information which is also provided to VCS families whose students are participating.

Thank you for your consideration in the approval of this trip. It is sure to be an enriching and meaningful experience for our Vicksburg High School students

Sincerely,

Allie Lamers, Spanish Teacher & World Language Department Chair

Mary Zemlick, Spanish Teacher

Jenna Khan, Spanish Teacher

Contact Information

Leader	Allison Lamers	+1-989-493-9403
Co-Leader	Jenna Khan	N/A
Xperitas Program Manager	Bethany De Leon	+1-612-436-8296
Land Operator	Costa Rica Sun Tours	+506-2296-7757 (office) +506-8332-4717 (cell)
Family Stay Coordinator	Costa Rica Sun Tours	+1-518-708-4192
Insurance	Core Travel Insurance	+1-518-708-4192
Medical Emergency Number (when calling from outside the U.S.)	Zurich Travel Assist	+1-416-645-4682
Medical Emergency Number (when calling from inside the U.S.)	Zurich Travel Assist	+1-866-224-0146
Xperitas Emergency Contact	After Hours Emergency Phone	+1-612-643-1473

Itinerary Details

Date	Location	Time	Activity	Notes
Day 1 11 Jun 2025, Wednesday	En Route	Morning	Depart for San José	See Flight Details
	En Route	Evening	Transfer to hotel by bus	
	San José	Late evening	Holiday Inn Express Lindora (HIEX)	Holiday Inn Express Lindora (HIEX) Address: Lindora Santa Ana, Diagonal a Fresh Market Phone: +506- 4103-6615
Day 2 12 Jun 2025, Thursday	San José	Early morning	Breakfast at Hotel	
	En Route	Morning	Transfer to Family Stay by bus	
	Trinidad de Dota	Late morning	Biological Reserve Hike	
	Trinidad de Dota	Late afternoon	Meals and Time with Host Family	
	Dota	Late evening	Curuba Lodge	Leaders Hotel Address: Quintas Genesis, Costa Rica Kilometro 57, interamerica Sur, San José, Dota, 10701, Costa Rica Phone: +506 6366 7160

Day 3 13 Jun 2025, Friday	Trinidad de Dota	Early morning	Breakfast with Host Family	Leaders Hotel Address: Quintas Genesis, Costa Rica Kilometro 57, interamerica Sur, San José, Dota, 10701, Costa Rica Phone: +506 6366 7160
	Trinidad de Dota	Morning	Explore Local Town	
	Trinidad de Dota	Late morning	Farm Visit and Picnic Lunch	
	Trinidad de Dota	Afternoon	Pick Up Soccer Game with Host Community	
	Arenal Dota	Evening	Dinner and Time with Host Family	
		Late evening	Curuba Lodge	
Day 4 14 Jun 2025, Saturday	Trinidad de Dota		Meals and Time with Host Family	Leaders Hotel Address: Quintas Genesis, Costa Rica Kilometro 57, interamerica Sur, San José, Dota, 10701, Costa Rica Phone: +506 6366 7160
	Trinidad de Dota	Morning	Coffee Plantation	
	Dota	Late evening	Curuba Lodge	
Day 5 15 Jun 2025, Sunday	Trinidad de Dota	Early morning	Breakfast with Host Family	Address: C. 466A, Provincia de Alajuela, La Fortuna, 21007, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2479 7047
	Trinidad de Dota	Morning	Reforestation Project	
	En Route	Early afternoon	Lunch	
	Arenal	Early evening	Hot Springs	
	Arenal	Evening	Dinner	
	Arenal	Late evening	Hotel Secreto la Fortuna	

Day 6 16 Jun 2025, Monday	Arenal Arenal En Route Arenal Arenal Arenal Arenal	Early morning Late morning Afternoon Late afternoon Early evening Evening Late evening	Breakfast at Hotel Organic Farm Visit Lunch Explore Local Town Salsa Dance Class Dinner Hotel Secreto la Fortuna	Address: C. 466A, Provincia de Alajuela, La Fortuna, 21007, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2479 7047
Day 7 17 Jun 2025, Tuesday	Arenal Arenal En Route Manuel Antonio Manuel Antonio Sámara	Early morning Morning Late morning Afternoon Evening Late evening	Breakfast at Hotel Arenal Volcano Hike Transfer to Samara by bus Explore Local Beaches Dinner Samara Beach Hotel	Address: 50 metros norte de la plaza de Samara, 506 Sámara, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2656 0218
Day 8 18 Jun 2025, Wednesday	Sámara Sámara Sámara Sámara Sámara	Early morning Morning Afternoon Evening Late evening	Breakfast at Hotel Kayak and Snorkel Free time at beach Dinner Samara Beach Hotel	Address: 50 metros norte de la plaza de Samara, 506 Sámara, Costa Rica Phone: +506 2656 0218
Day 9 19 Jun 2025, Thursday	Sámara En Route En Route	Early morning Morning Afternoon	Breakfast at Hotel Transfer to Liberia Airport by bus Return to United States	See flight details