

# Costa Rica Bat Monitoring & Conservation

*Join this project and help carry out ground-breaking survey work, explore Costa Rica's amazing remote habitats and help combat the effects of global warming and habitat loss.*

Set between its tropical Caribbean and Pacific coasts, Costa Rica is one of the most breath-taking countries in the world. Even though it covers just 0.03% of the world's landmass, it is home to an incredible 500,000 species including 110 species of bats. This is the highest density of bat species of any country in the world.

Frontier volunteers are carrying out ground-breaking survey work, exploring Costa Rica's remote habitats and helping to combat the effects of global warming by establishing a baseline which will support conservation efforts in the near future, allowing local stakeholders to advocate for an increase in protected area size in the region. On this project you will live in a wilderness camp set in dense tropical forest on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

You'll live and work with other enthusiastic and energetic volunteers at a basic research camp near some of Costa Rica's most impressive protected areas. You'll carry out crucial surveys that are being used to find out how climate change is affecting endangered species and threatened habitats.

Join this incredible project to discover a world of fragile beauty and help safeguard Costa Rica's huge diversity of bat species for future generations.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Make new friends
- Visit this tropical paradise
- Work with some of the world's most secluded bat species

## FAST FACTS

<b>Location</b>	Costa Rica
<b>Activities</b>	Bat Echolocation studies Biodiversity surveys Behavioural studies Forest trails, river walks and beach walks Recreational sports Trail creation and maintenance Games nights Nocturnal forest walks Awareness-raising and recreation activities in the local community Extra activities and excursions (subject to availability and may involve extra cost)
<b>Transport</b>	Pick-up from Puerto Jimenez weekly on a Monday before 12:00pm. Pick-ups available at all other times for \$40
<b>Accommodation</b>	Frontier forest research station in communal eco-cabins

## **WHAT WILL I BE DOING?**

You will be working in the Pacific rainforests and beaches near Corcovado, one of the most remote parks in the country. Home to one of the largest tropical primary lowland rainforests in the world, the Corcovado National Park is also the habitat of a large range of endangered plant and animal species. Dense rainforest creates a dramatic habitat for hundreds of bird and mammal species, along with a variety of bat species.

Our bat studies focus on echolocation, which is one of the most unique aspects of their biology, in order to monitor their abundance and diversity on various man-made trails in the forest. Echolocation is the use of sound to detect objects, and bats use this ability to both detect prey and to navigate in the dark. Most bat species have unique calls, and these can be recorded with a bat detector and later analysed in order to identify which species are present. We conduct surveys using a portable bat detector attached to a smartphone, which allows us to walk along a short portion of each trail and record any bats which have flown overhead.

We are also recording the physical characteristics of each trail that we survey, taking information on canopy cover, linearity, undergrowth density and tree height. This will allow us to discern which trails are most used by bats, and whether man made paths are a benefit or hinderance to them.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?**

If you arrive on a Monday before 12:00pm, you will be greeted at Puerto Jimenez airport or bus station by a Frontier staff member and escorted by local bus to the project camp. If arriving after 12:00pm on a Monday or at any time on any other day, a pick-up can be arranged for an additional US\$85.

## **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?**

Life on camp is a unique experience! You will be staying in simple, shared, mixed-sex eco-cabins amidst the jungles near to Carate. This is a jungle research camp, so a mosquito net is an absolute must! We have tried to keep the camp in harmony with its pristine surroundings, so conditions are simple, but environmentally friendly and comfortable.

The camp is situated about 5 minutes walk from Playa Carate, a beach which stretches for over 20 miles all the way into Corcovado National Park. There are cool, refreshing showers and toilets on camp too. You'll be feeling one with the jungle before you know it!

**Check out our camp tour video!**

## **WHAT WILL I BE EATING?**

We feel it is very important to support the local economy, so most of our supplies are sourced locally. This means we do not have access to everyone's preferred foods and much of what we eat is

seasonal and fresh. Costa Rican food is delicious, with a focus on rice, beans and good quality fruit and vegetables.

Cooking and cleaning are carried out communally on a rotational basis, so everybody will be responsible for meal preparation. You will have the opportunity to learn how to cook the national staple food, gallo pinto, consisting of fried rice and black beans. Another dish that is simple to prepare with local ingredients and is often eaten on camp is light and crispy tortillas stuffed with refried beans and vegetables.

There are no refrigeration facilities for meat, fish and dairy, so the team takes the environmentally friendly option of vegetarianism during their time on project. If this sounds worrying to you, not to worry, as volunteers regularly make delicious comfort foods such as pizza, falafel-style burgers, curries with homemade chapattis and ginger and cinnamon cakes to name but a few. Get creative! There is also powdered milk to satisfy you avid tea-drinkers.

Much of the fresh water in the streams surrounding the camp and on the peninsula are safe to drink and it's important to remember to keep hydrated. Just be sure to check with staff first.

Costa Rica is also world famous for its coffee and it represents the country's biggest export, so coffee lovers will have plenty of opportunities to get their hands on some. Luxuries like chocolate and packet soup are available in the town nearby, but it is worth bringing some of your favourite treats out with you as well as any herbs or spices. It is recommended that you buy snacks when in town (cereal bars, biscuits etc) for mid-morning sugar dips or to give you energy on long treks.

## **COSTS**

1 week	US\$ 945
2 weeks	US\$ 1,445
3 weeks	US\$ 1,995
4 weeks	US\$ 2,445
5 weeks	US\$ 2,845
6 weeks	US\$ 3,095
7 weeks	US\$ 3,395
8 weeks	US\$ 3,695
10 weeks	US\$ 4,245
20 weeks	US\$ 6,495
Extra week	US\$ 395
Christmas week	US\$ 295

## **DEPARTURE DATES**

Every Monday

## **DURATION**

You can join this project for a minimum of 1 week

## **CHRISTMAS OFFER**

This project is available for the special price of US\$255 per week over the Christmas period. Placements starting on the 23rd or 30th of December 2019 are eligible for this price, subject to availability. Please apply using the orange button below and then tell your volunteer advisor that you wish to take part over Christmas.

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

### **Before you go**

- Pre-departure support & documentation
- Travel advice & documentation
- Kit advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt (UK)
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

### **In-country**

- Accommodation
- 3 meals daily (while on project)
- Project orientation and training
- Airport pick-up, Mondays before 12:00pm
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ backup
- Qualifications available

## **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Nearest airport(s): Puerto Jimenez (PJM)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on [info@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:info@frontier.ac.uk)

Check out our social media here:

*Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.*