

**Atlanta Public Schools  
Office of Gifted and Talented Education: Global Citizen Initiative**

**ACIS has created a trip for us**



**Costa Rica!**

***Saturday, March 31 – Saturday, April 7, 2018 (Spring Break)***

**Purpose**

The Global Citizens Initiative was developed to provide students enrichment experience outside of the school walls that connects the classroom to the real-world. Experiences develop a sense of community, respect for our world, and global leaders. Our Costa Rica adventure will provide students with the opportunity to compare Costa Rican and American cultures, including schooling and dining, learn about local agriculture and wildlife, and culminating with participation in an ecological service project.

**Tour Includes**

Round-trip flights, daily breakfast and dinner (unless otherwise noted), 24-hour tour manager, tours and experiences, and centrally located hotels.

**Cultural Highlights**

Visiting a coffee roaster, Monteverde Cloud Forest, and hot springs, hiking Arenal Volcano National Park, riding an aerial tram through Braulio Carrillo National Park, participating in a Costa Rican cooking lesson and culminating in a community and reforestation service project.

**For more information and to register go to**

**<https://acis.com>**

**Group ID: 113920**

**Participant Travel Meeting Required: Wednesday, March 14, 2018; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Campbell Building**

**21 Thirkeld Ave SW, Atlanta, GA 30315**

***\*Please contact your school's gifted teacher for more information\****



**ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

**GIFTED AND  
TALENTED EDUCATION**

# Las Selvas de Costa Rica



**Mar 31 - Apr 7, 2018**

**Group Leader:**

Bianca Bennett

**Group ID:**

113920

**Depart From:**

Atlanta



## what's included



Round-Trip Flights



Daily Breakfast and Dinner  
(unless otherwise noted)



Centrally Located Hotels



24-Hour Tour Manager

- ✓ Café Britt Coffee Tour
- ✓ Monteverde Cloud Forest Canopy Tour
- ✓ Visit with Local Students in San Carlos
- ✓ Hot Springs
- ✓ Arenal Volcano National Park Hike
- ✓ Costa Rican Cooking Lesson
- ✓ Community and Reforestation Service Project
- ✓ Braulio Carrillo National Park and Aerial Tram

## our promise

In educational travel, every moment matters. Pushing the experience from “good enough” to exceptional is what we do every day. Our mission is to empower educators to introduce their students to the world beyond the classroom and inspire the next generation of global citizens. *Travel changes lives.*

## cultural connections



**HIGHLIGHTS** waiting to happen

### Monteverde Cloud Forest Canopy Tour

Gain a bird's-eye perspective on the cloud forest as you explore via a thrilling zip-line tour.

### Visit with Local Students in San Carlos

Compare a typical Costa Rican and American school day with students at a local school.

### Costa Rican Cooking Lesson

Master the ingredients and preparation for a traditional Costa Rican dish before sampling the results!

### Community and Reforestation Service Project

Volunteer towards efforts focusing on community development and ecological projects.



## trip itinerary - 8 days

### Mar 31, 2018: San Jose

Depart from the USA. Upon arriving in San José, you'll meet your ACIS Tour Manager and begin to explore the vibrant capital of Costa Rica, known for its outstanding Spanish colonial architecture, interesting museums and tranquil parks, plazas and fountains.

### Apr 1, 2018: Monteverde

The day begins with a tour of Café Britt, a working, sustainable coffee plantation and roastery. Here you'll learn about the life cycle of growing gourmet coffee beans and participate in a "cupping," or coffee-tasting, session. Then it's on to Sarchí, a small artisan town renowned for its brilliantly colored arts and crafts, particularly its ox-carts. Your journey then continues on to Monteverde, where you'll begin to explore this lush rainforest region, recognized for its diverse flora and fauna. (B,D)

### Apr 2, 2018: Monteverde

Today explore the important and fascinating Santa Elena Cloud Forest. Originally settled in the 1950s by a group of Quakers from Alabama, Monteverde Cloud Forest is home to more than 400 species of birds, 100 species of mammals and 2,500 species of plants including the jaguar, ocelot, Baird's tapir, three-wattled bellbird, bare-necked umbrellabird, and the famously elusive resplendent quetzal. Get ready for a different perspective on the forest, as this afternoon you will swing far above the forest floor on the world famous Monteverde Canopy Tour. You will have views from a series of platforms and thrilling zip-lines that carry you above and through the canopy. Later perhaps stroll the small town center of Monteverde, chock full of restaurants and shops, or stop to savor a taste of the national dish, gallo pinto, a mix of fried rice and black beans. (B,D)

### Apr 3, 2018: San Carlos

The morning starts with a journey to the San Carlos region, gateway to the world-famous, 5,357-foot-high Arenal Volcano. After arriving, you'll visit with students at a local school—a great opportunity to practice your Spanish skills as well as compare notes on typical school days, customs and lifestyles. Later don your bathing suit and take an invigorating dip in one of the hot springs, for which the area is famous, at the base of the volcano. (B,D)

### Apr 4, 2018: Sarapiquí

Lace up your sneakers this morning for a fascinating hike through Arenal Volcano National Park, which features a geographically diverse landscape that veers from lava fields to thick forests. Then say adios to San Carlos and head for Sarapiquí, a beautiful region that's gaining a reputation for top-notch adventure tourism. (B,D)

### Apr 5, 2018: Sarapiquí

Burnish your ethnic-culinary credentials with a Costa Rican cooking lesson, where you'll learn how to make a regional dish



using traditional techniques and locally grown ingredients. Bonus: You also get to snack on the results! In the afternoon you'll come together to help the community during a reforestation service project on a nearby farm. Learn about local agriculture as you plant indigenous trees needed to sustain the region's ecosystem. (B,D)

### Apr 6, 2018: San Jose

Depart for the cloud forest in Braulio Carrillo National Park, a nature lover's paradise named for the country's third president, Dr. Braulio Carrillo. Keep your camera handy as you sit back and relax during a breathtaking ride on the park's Aerial Tram. Keep an eye out for toucans, quetzals and hummingbirds, not to mention the white-faced capuchin monkeys and other wildlife. Continue back to San José for the evening. (B,D)

### Apr 7, 2018: Departure

Depart for the USA. (B)

*This is a preliminary itinerary for your group.*





## learning objectives

1. Students will learn about the economic and cultural importance of Costa Rican coffee and its production process.
2. Students will learn how volcanoes, such as Arenal, function and what influence they have on the local geography and environment.
3. Students will gain an understanding of the challenge of developing sustainable and responsible tourism without damaging a fragile environment.

## tour cost

### Participant Fees

Program Fee	\$2595
Early Registration Discount	\$-300
Weekend Surcharge	\$80

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Total Participant Fees <sup>2</sup>	\$2375
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<sup>2</sup> Valid through 05/01/17 with \$200 deposit.

### Additional Fees (as applicable)

Adult Surcharge	\$95
Single Room Supplement	\$665
Double Room Supplement	\$315
Ultimate Protection Plan	\$240
Comprehensive Protection Plan	\$200

## notes from acis

Checked bags are no longer free for flights to or from Costa Rica - pack light if you don't want to pay for a checked bag!

Suggested Tour Manager tip of \$6 per person, per day and \$4 per person, per day for Bus Driver.

- Save \$50 off your Total Participant Fees if you pay for your trip by E-Check or through our Automatic Payments Plan.
- All registered participants can enjoy the convenience, security and savings of having payments automatically withdrawn from a checking account by enrolling in an Automatic Payments plan. To learn more, visit [www.acis.com/autopay](http://www.acis.com/autopay)
- Adult travelers age 24 and older should add in the Adult Surcharge and Double or Single Room Supplement to calculate their Total Participant Fees.
- This educational travel program is not school or district sponsored unless expressly stated by the Group Leader.

The **Most Recommended**  
Educational Travel Company!



Don't just take our word for it! Read reviews online at  
**[acis.com/CRR](http://acis.com/CRR)**

# Travel Changes Lives

To learn more, we invite you to read our free ebook, "The Making of a Five-Star Future."  
<http://pages.acis.com/ebook>



Can travel make a difference in students' futures? It certainly can and does every single day. In fact, we surveyed 930 former ACIS travelers to see how their tours abroad as young adults influenced their choices in education and paved a way for future careers. Many of them credit travel as a defining moment in their adolescence, and below is a recap of our findings.

## education



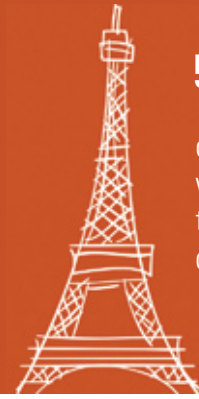
**81%**

of those that traveled in middle school or high school continued their studies at the college level compared to the national average of 68%



**37%**

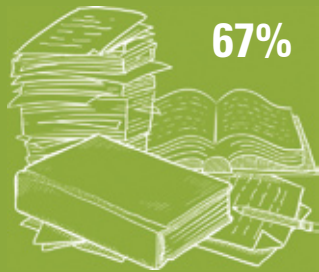
of travelers, who went on to college said their travel experience influenced their field of study.



**57%**

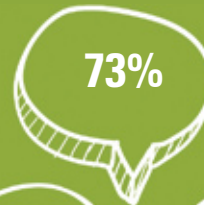
of respondents were motivated to study abroad during college.

## language skills



**67%**

of students continued to study foreign language in college.



**73%**

of ACIS travelers say they speak one foreign language fairly well compared with 18% of the American population.



## personal development



**94%** felt more independent after their trip.

**78%** saw an increase in their problem solving skills.

**92%** noted improvement in their interpersonal skills.



**65%**

have traveled overseas again since their ACIS trip.

## Get Started Today

### ONLINE:

Find Your Trip at: [www.acis.com](http://www.acis.com)

Enter your Group Leader's ID & Last Name (on page 1) about halfway down the page. Click Register Now on your Trip Site when you're ready to sign up.

### MAIL:

If you prefer, send your completed registration form to:

ACIS  
343 Congress Street Suite 3100  
Boston, MA 02210

### QUESTIONS?

Give client services a ring at:  
**877-795-0813** or  
email: [accounts@acis.com](mailto:accounts@acis.com)



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## ***Costa Rica Student Travel Frequently Asked Questions For Parents***

### **What is included in the cost of the trip?**

The cost of the trip includes round-trip flights, daily breakfast and dinner (unless otherwise noted), 24-hour tour manager, centrally located hotels, and participation in cultural experiences.

### **What ages can travel?**

The student trip to Costa Rica is open to gifted and talent development students in third grade through twelfth grade. Younger students are able to travel with their parent as a chaperone.

### **Can I travel with my child?**

Parents who choose to travel with their child are considered chaperones. Chaperones are required to submit to a background check & fingerprinting conducted by Atlanta Public Schools at a cost of \$44.25.

### **What are the roommate requirements?**

Package price is based on quad occupancy. Additional fees will be required for triple or double occupancy. Please reach out to Junior Tours for more information on pricing.

### **How are food restrictions accommodated?**

If your child has food restrictions, please indicate so on your medical form. Every effort is made to accommodate food restrictions, but please be prepared to send alternative food options if you have concerns with the group meals. A vegetarian option will be available for all meals.

### **Can I pay the gifted teacher directly for registration?**

The gifted teacher will not accept any payments for tour registration. Payments can be made at ACIS.com or mailed directly to ACIS.

### **My gifted/talent development child has sibling(s) who are not in the gifted and talent development program. Can they attend the trip?**

The trip has been approved as part of the gifted curriculum/program, but other Atlanta Public School students may travel with their siblings as long as parents accompany the trip as well.

**Can I make payment arrangements?**

Please reach out ACIS directly in order to make payment arrangements.

**How can I receive more information about gifted travel/field trips?**

Parents who are interested in receiving an overview of gifted student travel/fieldtrips are invited to attend a Parent Travel Interest meeting. Parents with children attending the Costa Rica trip should attend the appropriate participant meeting. Additionally, you can reach out to your gifted teacher or the Office of Gifted and Talented Education for questions concerning all field trips/student travel.

**Parent Travel Interest Meeting (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)**

- Wednesday, April 12, 2017 Campbell Building
- Monday, May 15, 2017 Inman Middle School

**GA Barrier Islands Participant Meeting (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)**

- Tuesday, October 3, 2017 Campbell Building

**Costa Rica Participant Meeting (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM)**

- Tuesday, March 20, 2018

**Campbell Building**  
21 Thirkeld Ave SW  
Atlanta, GA 30315

**Inman Middle School**  
774 Virginia Ave NE  
Atlanta, GA 30306