

COSTA RICA STEM TOUR

This lush paradise features jungles, beaches, and the famous Arenal volcano. Discover exotic animal species, admire tropical plant life, and dig into local agriculture and industry at chocolate, coffee, and pineapple farms.

Why Brightspark?

Safety And Security

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

Our Tour Directors

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

Quality, Custom Tours

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

Industry Experience

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

Travel Protection & Incident Coverage

With our 24/7 emergency hotline and comprehensive travel insurance options, we've got you covered at home and abroad.



COSTA RICA: STEM TOUR

Day 1: Board your flight to Costa Rica

Day 2: San José

- Meet with your bilingual tour director at **Juan Santamaría International Airport**.
- Board your private motor coach and travel to **La Paz Waterfall Gardens**, a park and conservation center home to five waterfalls, an aviary, and an insect exhibition. [Biology](#), [Earth Science](#), [Entomology & Zoology](#)
- Wake up your senses at a **coffee plantation tour**. [Agriculture](#), [Engineering & Technology](#)

Day 3: Sarapiquí

- Go behind the scenes of a local industry with a **chocolate plantation tour**. [Agriculture](#), [Engineering & Technology](#)
- Enter La Selva research station in **Sarapiquí**. Part of the **Organization for Tropical Studies**, the site is a leading biological reserve. Nearby activities include frog and snake gardens, a pineapple tour, whitewater rafting, and more. [Biology](#), [Botany & Ecology](#)
- Depending on the season, venture to **Tortuguero National Park**, the nesting grounds for leatherback, loggerhead, and hawksbill sea turtles. [Marine Biology](#)
- Meet new species during a **nighttime forest excursion**. [Botany](#), [Ecology & Wildlife Science](#)

Day 4: Arenal

- Embark on a morning hike from **La Fortuna Waterfall**, then enjoy lunch at the **Don Juan Educational Farm**. [Agriculture & Technology](#)
- In the afternoon, explore a private trail near **Arenal Volcano**, where you can get a close-up view of the volcano from the look-out point. [Geology](#), [Earth Science & Volcanology](#)
- At the end of your excursion, enjoy the natural hot water springs at **Ecotermales**. [Geology](#)

Day 5: Monteverde & Abangaritos

- Take a boat ride across **Arenal Lake** to **Río Chiquito**.
- Once in Monteverde, experience the famous **Hanging Bridges** and a **zip-line canopy tour**. [Ecology & Engineering](#)
- Travel to **Abangaritos** and enjoy a **horseback riding tour** and a **mangrove swamp boat trip**. [Ecology & Earth Science](#)

Day 6: Chira Island

- Board a boat to Costa Rica's second largest island. **Isla de Chira** is the result of a geological fault that led to unique landscape formations. The island features the most biodiverse tropical dry forest in the country and perhaps all of Central America. [Botany](#), [Ecology & Geology](#)

Day 7: Manuel Antonio National Park

- Head into **Costa Rica's biodiverse national park**, filled with rainforests, unique flora and fauna, and coral reefs. Enjoy a **nature walk**, and swim at one of the park's many **pristine beaches**. [Botany](#), [Ecology & Wildlife Science](#)
- Enjoy dinner near the town of **Quepos**, a charming town with a plaza surrounded by galleries and shops.

Day 8: Tarcoles & San José

- Experience adventure on a **Jungle Crocodile Safari Tour**. [Botany](#), [Ecology & Wildlife Science](#)
- Return to San José for dinner.

Day 9: Depart to the airport for your flight home.

