



PLAN YOUR VISIT TO COSTA RICA

Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace-Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (MISP-FCER) offers both 9 and 10 night learning adventures to Costa Rica that maximize meaningful peace education and scientific research. Costs range from \$1315 to \$1434 per person for a minimum of 15 travelers including Costa Rica ground travel and food (airfare not included). With prior approval from FCER-MISP, trips are customizable to fit your group's needs. Changes may incur additional expenses and are dependent upon staff and lodging availability.

Sample 9-Night Itinerary

- Day 1 Arrive at The University for Peace (UPEACE), San Jose, Costa Rica
- Day 2 UPEACE: tours, seminars, classes
- Day 3 Children's Eternal Rainforest (CER): orientation, plan for week
- Day 4 CER: Identify specialist and individual projects
- Day 5 CER: Collection and analysis of data for projects
- Day 6 CER: Collection and analysis of data for projects
- Day 7 CER: Collection and analysis of data for projects
- Day 8 CER: Presentations
- Day 9 Local activity: canopy walkway, zip line, hot springs, rafting, etc.
- Day 10 Depart San Jose, Costa Rica

Visit Dates

- Spring 2014: April 10-19, 2014
- June 12-21, 2014 (CER only)
- June 26-July 5, 2014 (CER only)

Fall 2014-Spring 2015: Please submit two options for trip dates and we will try to accommodate them based on availability of lodging and guides in Costa Rica.

Program dates are reserved with a \$400 deposit per person (50% of the deposit is non-refundable). Please contact trips@friendsoftherainforest.org as soon as possible to guarantee your participation in this wonderful opportunity.

Visit Friend's the Children's Eternal Rainforest website:

<http://friendsoftherainforest.org/ecotravel/montessori-school-trips/> for more information about Montessori school trips and to complete the registration form.

AUTHENTIC ABROAD EXPERIENCE IN COSTA RICA



Montessori Institute
for the
Science of
Peace

www.constructingpeace.org

In partnership with the Friends of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (FCER) and the University for Peace (UPEACE), Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace (MISP) has developed an authentic learning experience that incorporates tropical ecology, peace education, activism, scientific study, and travel abroad for Montessori adolescents. The Costa Rica experience was designed to build upon the uniquely adolescent ability to construct their own worldview as distinct from another's without judgment. This practice requires moving outside the comfort of their home community.



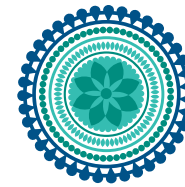
Most important in thinking about young people's participation is the sequence of phases in perspective-taking, and the insight that the child is actively trying to construct the world of the other, while simultaneously constructing her own understanding of that world (Hart, 1992).



The Costa Rica abroad program is designed to be a peak experience for adolescents. It explores peace and biodiversity through access to real work with the United Nations mandated University for Peace and the Children's Eternal Rainforest. The UPEACE mission is "to contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace by engaging in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge fundamental to the full development of the human person and societies through the interdisciplinary study of all matters related to peace." MISP students receive lectures, participate in classes, and interview UPEACE staff, who are some of the top experts in their respective fields. MISP students work alongside the UPEACE students and faculty on sustainability issues on campus, participate in projects strengthening the relationship between UPEACE and its Costa Rican host community of El Rodéo, and assist with individual student projects that require eager workers. This work is deepened through the relationships built by staying with host families.



The reciprocity between UPEACE and MISP sets the framework for students to move into the Children's Eternal Rainforest. Founded in 1987 by Swedish school children, the Children's Eternal Rainforest is 54,000 acres and represents the maximum expression of life on Earth in terms of biodiversity. It is a forest created by children for children and a forest that needs study and support. In this way, it provides an opportunity for Montessori schools to take a leading effort in original research and stewardship of a global treasure. The Children's Eternal Rainforest provides limitless potential for uncovering new knowledge, which not only offers endless possibilities for research but also perspective and appreciation for local (knowable) biodiversity back home. Integrating the Costa Rica experience into the disciplines pre- and post-trip is important because this work is most impactful when it builds upon the local study of biodiversity and gives relevance to the real work being done, locally and globally.



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