

## Meaningful Vacation: SURF AND TURTLE RESCUE Costa Rica: Summer and Fall Program 2008



### 2008 Multiple Dates:

03 August

02 November

07 December

17

16

14

30

21

### Overview

If you are looking for a beach break then this project in the beautiful Nicoya Peninsula needs you on board. You will be learning to surf and using your skills to conserve the local sea turtle population. For one or two weeks, you will be living on the beach - surfing lessons and supervised surf practice together with beach patrolling, research gathering and preparing turtle hatcheries. Providing you can swim, love the outdoors and have a passion for working with animals you will make waves.

## Project details

This project provides you with the best of Costa Rica in the shape of turtle conservation and surfing lessons. Situated on the beautiful beaches of the Nicoya Peninsula, you can pack a truly wonderful experience into one or two short weeks.

Working with a Costa Rican NGO, the municipal government and a local surf school, you take an active part in vital efforts to conserve the Olive Ridley, Black, Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles. All this, combined with the daily surfing lessons, adds up to a rewarding and fun project.

## Why the project needs volunteers

Turtles are under threat in Costa Rica and volunteers are really needed to help out with conservation efforts. This is your opportunity to play a part in an ongoing struggle to save a remarkable piece of Costa Rica's heritage. Turtle poaching is very common in Costa Rica and before the conservation projects started up the poaching rate was over 95% however this has now decrease to 10% but volunteers are needed to continue protecting these marvellous creatures.

## What kind of skills you need to go on this type of project

You need to love the outdoors, be enthusiastic and like working with animals. You do not need to be able to surf but you must be a good swimmer to do this project. A fun and positive attitude comes in handy too! The work and lessons are hard work be prepared to fall asleep exhausted each day.

## Your role as a volunteer

Your day will be filled with a combination of surfing lessons, supervised surf practice and also turtle conservation. You could get involved with night beach patrolling, research gathering and preparing turtle hatcheries. You will work 6 days a week and have one day off a week to be arranged with the project.

## Where the project is based

The project is based on the beautiful Nicoya Peninsula, the nearest town being Samara. It's the perfect place if you want to swim, surf, and relax.

You will be staying in beach hut or tented accommodation, they have just added a cold running water pipe but the conditions are still very basic.

You need to fly into San Jose International Airport (SJO) on your official arrival date. Our Air Desk can help you with these flight arrangements. Please call 1-866-269-2659.

- **Placement fee:**  
US\$ 1165.00 for 1 weeks, US\$ 195.00 for every week thereafter
- **Accommodation upgrade:**  
Not available.
- **Airport pickup:**  
Early airport pickup available: US\$ 30.00

- **Airport pickup details:**  
If you are arriving before your designated arrival date, we can arrange for an extra meet and greet service for you. For an extra supplement we will be there to meet you at the airport and take you to the orientation accommodation. Accommodation payment for any extra nights will then be made in country directly to the accommodation (approx 13 USD).
- **Can be combined:**  
Yes
- **TEFL included:**  
No. Enhance your experience with a TEFL course - Save 10% with a Combination Deal
- **Items not included:**  
Flight, insurance and visa costs In-country transport (except airport pickup on arrival date) Language Lessons optional - please contact our offices. Taxi to surf lessons (Aprox \$6 per day)
- **Activities:**  
Surfing sessions will be either in the morning or the afternoon with the rest of the day focusing on the turtle project. The surfing sessions will concentrate on technique will plenty of time to practice and even cut that first tube! The turtle project involves working with 4 species of turtle observing their nests, tracking movements, logging research as well as night time patrols.
- **Working Hours:**  
Flexible work schedule due to nature of combining surfing with turtle conservation. Note: 1 day off per week You will arrive day 1, your orientation will be held on day 2 and you will start your project work on day 3. Please note: Semana Santa (Latin America Holy week) will be from 1st to 8th April 2007 and 16th to 23rd March 2008, you may have some disruptions to the placement during this time.
- **Resources:**  
The project is well resourced, however please bring quick drying clothes (prepared to get dirty), hiking boots, beach sandals, protective sun cream, as well as beach wear. January, February and March are low season and there may be less turtles nesting during this time.
- **Accommodation:**  
Accommodation will be at the turtle project campsite. Please note that this is basic and you will not have electricity at the project
- **Meals:**  
2 meals a day

## What exactly does the Program Package provide

It may seem like a strange concept to pay for your volunteer experience. You'd be right if you think you shouldn't and the truth is you actually don't! Your placement is free; it's the benefits around it that you pay for. It's important to note that our affiliate, i-to-i, is a travel company and not a charity, and they provide a professional travel service. They are responsible for finding and assessing worthwhile projects across the world, preparing you for the volunteering experience and supporting you whilst you're there.

## Project sourcing and assessment

The company, i-to-i, works with hundreds of locally run partner projects around the world and are constantly sourcing new opportunities. The staff visit all projects to check that they are worthwhile and legitimate and also conducts a thorough safety assessment before we'll send volunteers there.

## Expert help-desk

Almost everyone who works for i-to-i has traveled extensively or worked overseas. This means they are a goldmine of information; and always available to offer support and guidance before, during and after your trip.

## Thorough project briefing materials

Once you book on to a project you'll receive a Welcome Pack that contains loads of general information about volunteering, about your chosen country and project, and a DVD about how to have fun and stay safe. We'll also give you advice on visas and inoculations.

## Airport pickup

It can be pretty daunting arriving in a different country for the first time... especially after a long flight! If you arrive on your project start date, there'll be a welcoming face at the airport to pick you up and take you to your accommodation.

## Arrival orientation

Soon after you arrive you will attend a thorough orientation with our in-country team. This is to cover important safety and security information. You'll also get some tips about sight-seeing options for your time off and maybe even learn some of the local lingo!

## Accommodation and meals

Accommodation is included with all projects and meals are even included with some. We only use locally-owned and operated accommodation so that part of your placement fee is filtering back into the local economy. Most projects offer homestay, guesthouse or shared volunteer houses as standard accommodation, but some offer the chance to upgrade to a more comfortable living standard.

## Local in-country coordinators

Your in-country coordinator (ICC) will pick you up from the airport and conduct your orientation upon arrival. All ICC's are English speaking and are locals of your destination country. They won't be at your project every day, but will be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week if you need them.

## 24/7 emergency support

Aside from the local support from your in-country coordinators you'll be given access to a 24/7 emergency phone line manned by i-to-i staff in case any problem should arise while you're overseas. We also hire crisis management professionals Docleaf to be on hand in case of a situation that requires additional expert support.

## Ongoing training

The safety and security of our volunteers is paramount. For this reason we provide ongoing crisis management and emergency response training to our local teams around the world. At the end of 2006 we flew all our in-country coordinators to the UK for thorough training to help them offer the best safety to the thousands of volunteers they support each year.

## Supporting our projects

We don't fund our projects directly, but once a year they are all invited to apply for funding for special projects or resources from our registered charity arm, the i-to-i Foundation. i-to-i funds the operation of the i-to-i Foundation and is the largest single donor. Along with the generous support of our volunteers, we have distributed over US\$200,000 in funding in the last two years alone!

## Recruiting people like you

We make no secrets of the fact that part of your placement fee is reinvested in to recruiting volunteers just like you! The volunteers recruited in one week will typically deliver over 2000 man-days of service. The difference this makes to projects overseas is immeasurable. Many of our overseas projects rely on assistance from international volunteers, so it's necessary for us to put together brochures and websites to find the people who can support them. This recruitment process is vital to ensure programs have a constant stream of reliable volunteers.

## What i-to-i will do after you've booked:

- Once booked on you will instantly receive a welcome email confirming your booking with access to your online account
- We will send a Welcome Pack in the post containing further information and a t-shirt, the information in this pack should answer most things you need to know
- Community Development and Teaching customers will receive an email introducing them to their Online TEFL course
- Community Development and Teaching customers will be requested to complete a police check (where relevant) or send through a reference
- We will contact you if we require anything else e.g. CV/resume for some projects, doctors note for medical conditions etc.
- We will hound you to complete your forms and pay your final balance when they are due
- We are available for any questions you may have on 800 352 1794 or [operations@i-to-i.com](mailto:operations@i-to-i.com)
- We will prepare for your trip and send you an email with final project and accommodation confirmation 21 days before you go

## What LUX World Travel will do or assist you with to complete the booking with i-to-i:

- Book your flights
- Arrange suitable travel insurance
- Fill out some extra details through our online interface:
  - application form
  - travel details
  - insurance details
  - medical information

- emergency contacts
- Complete your police check or request your reference (where relevant)
- Do your Online TEFL Course (where relevant)
- Make final payment at least 60 days before you go
- Read all details and prepare as much as you can for your trip

## Orientation Information

You will arrive on the Arrival Date - Sunday and will be met at the airport on that day (whether it is 12 in the morning or 11:59 at night). You will be taken to the Hostel Maleku (see contact details below) where you will have the first day/night to recover from your flight. Dinner is provided on Sunday at 6.30pm if you are arriving in before this time. The hostel is within walking distance from the main shops and access to internet if you wish to have a wander.

Your orientation will take place the next morning and will introduce you to life in Costa Rica as well as important information about staying healthy and safe and information getting to your project. This is your chance to ask any questions of the team before work. You will be given lunch at the office and then the afternoon to rest or explore Alajuela. You will stay at the Hostel Maleku again on the Monday night before transferring to permanent accommodation on the Tuesday. This will also be the first day that you meet your project and depending on your arrival time will start working as a volunteer.

### Hostel Maleku

50 meters west of the main entrance of the new hospital

Alajuela

Costa Rica

## Vacation Pricing

**\$1165.00** per person for 1 week, **US\$ 195.00** for every week thereafter.

## Deposit Information

**A deposit of \$275.00 per person** is due at the time of booking and is non-refundable. Final payment is due on 60 days prior to departure. If airline tickets have been issued there is a further airline penalty. No refunds will be made after departure.

## Passport, Visa, and Health Requirements

For entry into Costa Rica, U.S. citizens must present valid passports that will not expire for at least thirty days after arrival, and a roundtrip/outbound ticket. Some U.S. airlines may not permit passengers to board flights to Costa Rica without such a ticket. Passports should be in good condition; Costa Rican immigration will deny entry if the passport is damaged in any way.

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellation penalties imposed on LUX World Travel by its suppliers are stringent, and are per person for land arrangements. Airline tickets are different, and hold a completely separate penalty and we will advise you at the time of your cancellation of this additional penalty.

The following terms apply effective as of the date LUX World Travel receives written notice of cancellation.

### **Days prior to departure:**

More than 90 days prior to departure – \$275 per person

89 to 60 days prior to departure – 25% of trip cost; 59 to 30 days prior to departure date – 50% of trip cost;

29 days or less prior to departure – 100% of trip cost to include handling fee and liquidated damages for LUX World Travel.

Penalties from the airlines may occur depending on the type of air purchased, for which LUX World Travel is not responsible. We do highly recommend **Cancel for Any Reason Insurance** for at least the flight portion of your journey to insure our clients with full flight protection coverage.

## Travel Insurance

We highly recommend travel insurance for this journey. We will be happy to provide you with a variety of quotes to fit your specific travel needs. **1.866.269.2659.**

## To Register for this Tour

To register for this tour, please call us directly at **1-866-269-2659** or email us for a Registration Form and a Credit Card Payment Form.

[www.luxworldtravel.com](http://www.luxworldtravel.com)

Travel for the Journey Inside You.

**1.866.269.2659**

**1.585.672.5587**