Costa Rica Family Adventure
June 25 to July 3, 2011

Experience the beauty of Costa Rica as we explore its lush rainforests, pristine beaches and charming villages. Visit the area surrounding Arenal Volcano, one of the world’s most active volcanoes. Explore the nearby forests via the trails and hanging bridges at Las Colinas, and glide from platform to platform on a zip line canopy tour. Swim and soak in a thermally heated hot springs and learn about the process of coffee production on a visit to a coffee farm. Participate in a community-based half-day of service where our kids meet their pen pals. Travel to the beaches of Guanacaste to snorkel or sail on a catamaran or paddle a sea kayak amid a diverse array of coral reef and marine life.

YOUNG EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Stanford Family Adventures bring destinations to life for our younger travelers. Our Young Explorers program features hands-on educational activities, kids-only tours and meals, and opportunities to meet lifelong friends. At the close of every Adventure, the comment we hear most often from our Young Explorers is how much they are going to miss their new friends!

At the heart of our Young Explorers program are our well-seasoned, highly trained, road-tested Sierra Camp counselors, all recent Stanford grads. Summers spent working closely with families have given this crew the skills to make each Adventure exciting and educational for Young Explorers of all ages. You can count on these talented counselors to provide age-appropriate educational activities for kids that make travel come alive. Kids meet in small peer groups where a 10-1 explorer-to-counselor ratio promises intimate and age-appropriate programming.

But in case you thought your kids got to have all the fun, our Young Explorer Leaders also engage the whole family through fun (and silly!) group activities. Virtually all over the world, our families have danced through Disco Bingo, squared off in Family Feud, raced through Family Olympics and competed in their own Palio.

FACULTY LEADER

Dmitri Petrov is an associate professor in Stanford's biological sciences department. Born in Moscow, he graduated from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MFTI) in 1989 and then worked at the Institute of Molecular Genetics in Moscow. After receiving his PhD in evolutionary biology from Harvard University in 1997, he became a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Professor Petrov has taught evolutionary biology at Stanford since 2000, with particular emphasis on molecular evolution and evolutionary genetics.

“I would have to say that my most memorable impression was meeting such a variety of people and experiencing Costa Rica while getting to know them. Dmitri’s lectures were both enriching and enlightening – a great trip!” Moby Coquillard ’84 Costa Rica Family Adventure, 2006
ITINERARY

Saturday, June 25
HOME / SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA
Independent arrivals into San José, Costa Rica, any time this day. Transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.
HOTEL BOUGAINVILLA

Sunday, June 26
SAN JOSÉ / ARENAL
This morning, meet for a welcome orientation and breakfast at our hotel. Visit a local coffee farm for an interactive tour and learn about the history of coffee and how it is processed. Continue on to the region around Arenal Volcano, one of the most active volcanoes in the world. After checking into the hotel, enjoy a late afternoon soak at the Ecotermales hot springs. These hot springs consist of a series of four pools of varying temperatures, ranging from 91 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Enjoy dinner at a traditional Costa Rican restaurant.
HOTEL ARENAL MANOA (B, L, D)

Monday, June 27
ARENAL
Visit the Hanging Bridges at La Fortuna, a small town near the base of Arenal. Hike the trails and a series of bridges and suspension bridges that crisscross this huge private nature reserve, and observe birds and animals as well as spectacular views of the volcano. After lunch, experience the thrill of a zipline canopy tour. With the help of our experienced guides, you are secured to steel zipline cables and then glide from platform to platform for a unique opportunity to see the forest from a bird's eye view.
HOTEL ARENAL MANOA (B, L, D)

Tuesday, June 28
ARENAL
Today families are on their own and can choose from a number of activities (additional costs may apply). Options include: horseback riding, visiting the Maleku village, a visit to a local Costa Rican farm, kayaking, rafting, mountain biking, or just relaxing poolside at the lodge.
HOTEL ARENAL MANOA (B, L)

Wednesday, June 29
ARENAL / GUANACASTE
After breakfast, depart for the Pacific Coast. Our drive takes us through small villages and towns, and past fields growing sugar cane and various other crops. Stop en route for a float trip down the Corobici River, where you can see a variety of wildlife, including caiman, sloths, howler monkeys, iguanas and various aquatic birds. Arrive at our hotel and have some time to explore the lush grounds and pristine beaches before dinner.
HOTEL BOSQUE DEL MAR (B, L, D)
Thursday, June 30
GUANACASTE
Visit a local school this morning, where the group takes part in a half day service project. (The exact nature of the project will depend on the needs of the school and community at the time of our visit.) This afternoon families are at leisure to enjoy the amenities of our hotel or to relax at the beach. Children with pen pals will have the opportunity to meet them this afternoon, and play some games at the beach.
HOTEL BOSQUE DEL MAR (B, L, D)

Friday, July 1
GUANACASTE
Today is open for families to do as they wish. Relax at the hotel, or perhaps opt to head to Tamarindo Beach for surf lessons and shopping. Another option is a full day Adventure Tour at nearby Hacienda Guachipelin, which includes horseback riding, whitewater river tubing, and a zipline canyoning tour. (additional costs will apply)
HOTEL BOSQUE DEL MAR (B, L, D)

Saturday, July 2
GUANACASTE
A full-day catamaran sailing trip is on the agenda for today! Spend your last full day in Costa Rica enjoying a variety of activities, including beach hopping, swimming, snorkeling and a BBQ on the beach. Return to the hotel later this afternoon with time to relax and pack before our farewell dinner.
HOTEL BOSQUE DEL MAR (B, L, D)

Monday, July 3
GUANACASTE / HOME
Following breakfast at our hotel, transfer to the airport at Liberia for flights home.
(B)

INFORMATION

WHAT TO EXPECT
The Costa Rica Family Adventure is fast-paced and active. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Schedules include some long days, with early wake-up calls and activities scheduled throughout the day and sometimes into the evenings.

A typical day may start with breakfast, followed by a stimulating lecture by the faculty leader while kids meet with their Young Explorer groups for learning-based, fun activities with their peers. Then depart on the day’s activities with fellow travelers. Lunch is a delicious, hearty meal made from fresh, local ingredients after which families have some free time to explore on their own. In the evening, partake in a fun family activity, perhaps the all-time favorite, Stanford Family Feud.
ACCOMMODATIONS
Our accommodations during this program range from a comfortable hotel in the city of San José to a luxurious lodge located within the “green” zone of the Arenal volcano, and finally a small, beachfront boutique resort in Guanacaste.

SIZE
Limited to 60 participants, 6 years of age and older

COST*
$4,895 per adult, double occupancy
$4,495 per child, double occupancy
$5,795 per adult, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.

INCLUDED
• 8 nights of accommodations at comfortable hotels lodges
• 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 6 dinners
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Bottled water on excursions
• Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
• All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
• Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
• Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
• Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
• International and U.S. domestic airfare
• Passport and visa fees
• Immunization costs
• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
• Independent and private transfers
• Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
• Excess-baggage charges
• Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT, FINAL PAYMENT, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Sign up online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?costarica2011. Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until the final payment due date, 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.
INSURANCE
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. We strongly encourage that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

ELIGIBILITY
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association; the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members' price. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

RESPONSIBILITY
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50