



Spanish/Cultural Immersion Trip in Costa Rica

with Ann Becker

September 10-18, 2011

Co-sponsored by Personalized Spanish and Multilingual Chicago

Central Valley (four nights)

- Arrive at Juan Santa Maria International Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica and transfer to the nearby community of Tres Rios and your Tico host family.
- Increase your Spanish knowledge (all language levels welcome: beginner through advanced), confidence, and fluidity through 16 hours of mini-group and one on one lessons. Our headquarters will be Personalized Spanish, a small boutique school with an outstanding track record for creating effective immersion experiences with plenty of time and space for individualized attention.
- Experience firsthand the cultural warmth and embrace of your host family - all located within easy walking distance of school. Your home stay experience is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish skills in daily living situations, especially around eating the traditional "gallo pinto", sampling delicious tropical fruits and drinking coffee Costa Rican style. Learn more about the family and social lives of Costa Ricans, and make cross-cultural friendships that can last a lifetime.
- Enjoy additional daily cultural activities that are interactive, informative and fun. Among other activities, we'll take the local bus and discover a bit of San Jose as well as help create and share a pot-luck meal with our host families.



ACCOMMODATIONS: Home stays arranged by Personalized Spanish
www.personalizedspanish.com

MEALS INCLUDED: 9/10 D; 9/11 B,D; 9/12 B,D; 9/13 B,D; 9/14 B

Osa Peninsula (three nights)

Our second major destination is the magnificent Osa Peninsula, the southernmost peninsula of Costa Rica and a magical place full of pristine rain forest, rugged natural beauty and amazing wildlife.





- Settle in at a small, family-owned and run lodge in the community of Drake Bay. Hear the personal stories and learn about the history of the lodge as well as the opportunities and challenges of the community from Manolo and his family, long-time local residents.

- Join Javier, our outstanding guide and long-time colleague, on a day trip to Corcovado National Park, the “crown jewel” of Costa Rica’s famous national park system and one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world. Our destination will be Sirena, the largest interior ranger station and considered by many to be the heart of Corcovado. In addition to a spectacular boat ride along the untouched coastline, our Corcovado hike will include spectacular flora and fauna, including a once in a lifetime opportunity to potentially see, in their natural habitat, the endangered squirrel monkeys, wild peccaries, and the tapir, the largest land mammal in the Central American rain forest.



Our second tour will be to Cano Island, a marine biological reserve once considered sacred ground by the pre-Columbian Diquis peoples—with possible whale and dolphin sightings along the way. Near the island, we will have an opportunity for snorkeling, swimming and a picnic lunch.



- Meet Ann’s good friend, Pedro Rojas Morales, from the indigenous community of Boruca. Talk with Pedro and learn about the history, culture and extraordinary artisanship of the Borucan people.
- Pick your pleasure. “On your own” options include a zip line tour through the rain forest canopy, guided bird and night walks, or just relaxing at the beach or in a hammock by your room.



ACCOMMODATIONS: Cabinas Manolo www.cabinasmanolo.com

MEALS INCLUDED: 9/14 L,D; 9/15 B,L,D; 9/16 B, L, D; 9/17 B.

San Jose (one night)

- Spend our final night at a historic and charming hotel in close proximity to the Central Market, National Theatre, pre-Colombian Gold Museum and a renowned indigenous art gallery- great for gift shopping.
- Enjoy a final group dinner to celebrate our accomplishments and toast to the memories.



The trip concludes on September 18. Depart Juan Santa Maria International Airport to return home.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel Don Carlos or comparable
www.doncarloshotel.com

MEALS INCLUDED: 9/17 D; 9/18 B



Trip Price

The cost of the Spanish/Cultural Immersion Week in Costa Rica is \$1850 (double accommodations). A very small number of single accommodations are available for an additional \$300. After July 15, all trip prices will increase by \$300.

Price includes:

- All activities coordinated by the Personalized Spanish School (airport transfers, classes, accommodations, cultural activities) except three lunches;
- Accommodations, meals, entrance fees, activities (except those listed as optional), in-country flights, and local transfers associated with the Osa Peninsula portion of the trip;
- Final night hotel and dinner
- Bilingual Costa Rican guides
- Travel medical insurance

Price does not include:

- International travel to and from Costa Rica
- Four lunches
- Transportation to Juan Santa Maria International Airport on September 18
- Exit tax (currently \$26)
- Gratuities , personal purchase and alcoholic beverages
- Activities noted as optional in the itinerary



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IS THIS THE RIGHT TRIP FOR YOU?

The “Spanish/Cultural Immersion Week” trip plans are fabulous, but no trip is for everyone. Please review the following information very carefully and be honest with yourself before you make your decision about registering for the trip. Should you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me so that I can discuss them with you and help you make the right decision.

abecker@abecker.com or 773-955-0162.

What should participants expect?

Fellow travelers:

- Fun, active, curious and open-minded traveling companions of different ages, diverse walks of life and geographic locations
- Common desire to expand one’s Spanish abilities through home stays and a customized immersion language and culture program
- A “glass is half full” outlook; flexible attitudes
- A different roommate at each destination. Ann makes the roommate assignments to facilitate healthy group dynamics and create opportunities for connections and friendships that might not be made otherwise. (If you are signing up as a couple or with a traveling companion, you will share rooms with your travel partner.)



Active travel:

- Experiencing firsthand different cultures, customs and ecosystems; “out of the ordinary” activities
- Myriad opportunities to practice one’s Spanish beyond the Personalized Spanish portion of the trip
- Amazing flora and fauna
- Experienced trip leader. Ann has traveled to Costa Rica almost 20 times. She has led 8 prior group trips including multiple visits to destinations included in this itinerary.
- Outstanding local teachers and bi-lingual guides (Osa tours will be conducted predominantly in English)



- Walking, hiking and other activities in temperate and tropical climates, which require overall good health and physical condition
- Moments of emotional and physical intensity
- Opportunity for optional activities such as zip lining (canopy) tour and beach time
- Early to rise and generally early to bed



School, Accommodations and Food:

- Modern school facilities, all classroom materials, daily snacks, free internet, wireless service and unlimited international calls
- Comfortable private homes in a secure community outside San Jose with two meals per day, laundry service, and easy walking distance to school; experienced host families
- Locally owned and comfortable small hotels/eco-lodge with private baths and hot water.
- Food is typically plentiful with fresh local cuisine (lots of plantains, beans and rice, and when available, fresh fruits and vegetables), but choices are occasionally limited. While efforts are made to accommodate vegetarians and other dietary needs, some flexibility may be required.

Transport and Transfer Times:

- Bus/van transport occasionally on bumpy, slow going, and windy roads
- A round trip domestic plane flight, approximately 50 minutes each way
- Some activities by boat
- Occasional unpredictable travel times

Weather:

- Temperate and tropical climates, including rain forests
- Weather that can be unpredictable and shift without much warning



What should participants NOT expect?

- Air-conditioned rooms and televisions on the Osa Peninsula
- Guaranteed daily phone and internet connectivity on the Osa
- Need for high fashion attire
- Everything going exactly as planned!



REGISTRATION FORM

**SPANISH/CULTURAL IMMERSION WEEK IN
COSTA RICA
WITH ANN BECKER
SEPTEMBER 10 – 18, 2011
PRICE: \$1850.00***

NAME _____ Passport # _____ Exp. _____ Date of Birth _____

(Exactly as on passport)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (day) _____ (Evening) _____

EMAIL _____ Cell phone _____

_____ Enclosed is my deposit of \$250.00 per person (payable to Preferred Adventures Ltd)
Additional Payment of \$1000.00 per person is due no later than June 1, 2011
Final payment is due no later than July 15, 2011

I have been advised that basic medical insurance is included in my registration fee and that a travel interruption/cancellation protection plan is recommended and available at additional cost. (Detailed brochure will be sent upon receipt of registration)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please read the Terms and Conditions on page 2. These Terms and Conditions must be signed and submitted in order to accept registration for participation.

*After July 15, 2011, the trip cost is \$2150.00

Terms and Conditions

Reservations

A reservation is confirmed when we have received a non-refundable deposit of \$250.00 per person and this signed form. All payments are payable by check. Second payment of \$1000.00 per person is due on June 1, 2011. The trip balance is due July 15, 2011. All payments are payable by check only. If any trip balance is unpaid by July 15, 2011, Preferred Adventures Ltd and Ann Becker and Associates, Inc. reserve the right to treat the reservation as cancelled, and it will be subject to the cancellation charges outlined below. For reservations made after July 15, 2011, the trip cost will be \$2150.00.

Cancellations

At the time we receive written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following cancellation fees per person will apply:

June 1 and before	\$250.00
June 2 – July 15, 2011	\$1250.00
After July 15, 2011	100% of trip

Insurance

Your trip registration fee includes basic travel insurance/medical coverage through Travelex. Upon receipt of deposit and registration form, your insurance confirmation number will be sent to you via email. Trip interruption/cancellation insurance can be added to this policy for an additional fee by contacting Travelex directly after the initial policy confirmation number has been received.

Responsibility

Payment of deposit represents an acceptance by participant of the following terms and conditions: Preferred Adventures Ltd, and Ann Becker and Associates, Inc., their affiliates and all cooperating airlines and agencies act only in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operation, and their liability is limited to the terms of the land accommodation contracts. They are not responsible for any delays, inconveniences, accidents, expense or mishap of any kind whatsoever resulting entirely or in part from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. They are not responsible for refund of additional expenses incurred in preparation for trip. They can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, riot, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses must be borne by the participants, as tour rates provide for arrangements only as stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotel of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. No refund can be made for unused hotel rooms, meals, sightseeing trips or tours unless arrangements are made at the time of booking.

I agree as a participant that it is my sole responsibility to be familiar with and capable of handling the physical and/or mental demands associated with this trip. With these demands in mind, I declare that I have no physical, mental or psychological condition that would endanger myself or others or interfere with my ability to participate. I agree to abide by any rules established by the tour leader while I am participating, and understand and agree that failure or refusal on my part to do so shall entitle Preferred Adventures Ltd and Ann Becker and Associates, Inc. at its option to deny me further participation in the tour. No such refusal shall be grounds for refund to me any funds or portion thereof paid for the tour or any services associated with it. I agree that neither I, nor any of my heirs, personal or legal representatives, or family members will bring suit or make a claim for illness, injury, loss or damage of property, or loss of life resulting from the negligence (but not the willful or fraudulent conduct) of Preferred Adventures Ltd, Ann Becker and Associates, Inc. or their respective employees, directors, owners, officers, agents, contractors of affiliated organizations as a result of my participation in this trip. I further agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Preferred Adventures Ltd, Ann Becker and Associates, Inc., their respective affiliates and all cooperating airlines and agencies and their respective directors, officers, employees, members, staff and all individuals assisting in conducting these activities, from any and all claims resulting from injuries, including death, damages, or loss, which may accrue to me or heirs arising out of or in any way connected with my participation.

I have carefully read this Agreement and fully understand its contents. I am aware that it is a release of liability and a contract between myself and Preferred Adventures Ltd and Ann Becker Associates, Inc and/or its affiliated organizations and sign it of my own free will.

Signature _____ Date _____



Ann Becker
AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

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