

FF Trip to Costa Rica in January 2011

In January 2011, 20 members of the Haliburton Highlands club went on a Costa Rican FF exchange. The host club was Heredia, with Alajuela helping out to host some of our ambassadors when Heredia realized that they were unable to accommodate everyone in the group. We loved the Costa Rican countryside, the birds, animals and vegetation and most of all, the friendliness and generosity of our hosts. There were some surprises— e.g. the taps in some homes only had cold water--good for waking us up for our early morning bus pick-ups for the day's activities.

Travel to our activities and sightseeing locations was by charter bus. The itinerary was quite ambitious as several of our visitations were to places that were well outside of San Jose. Picking up everyone in the morning and dropping off the group in the evening took quite some time as the traffic in San Jose was very busy. We visited the Irazu Volcano, Lankester Gardens, a resort with a pool, and a rainforest area. In addition, our host families took us to a variety of other places; museums, zoo, the new soccer stadium, the beach, country clubs, shopping, etc.

It was a very enjoyable week with lots of laughs.

We topped off the FF visit with a privately organized, one week, eco-tour to other areas of this lovely country. We went to the northern part of Costa Rica and to the west coast. Volcanoes, rainforests, a coffee plantation, waterfalls, hiking, the beach, the wide variety of animal life and of course the zip-line were all highlights. This tour was very worthwhile as it gave us a more complete picture of the whole country.



Dancing at the farewell party



Iguana



Orchids



Cathedral



A colourful marketplace



The countryside