The Osa Peninsula is the most spectacular region of Costa Rica. Containing half of the country’s biodiversity, it is a nature-lover’s dream. Deep in the canopy of the old growth forest, you can find squirrel monkeys swinging from branches, scarlet macaws flying overhead, and thousands of tropical plant species, many endemic to the Osa. In fact, National Geographic named the Osa the “most biologically intense place on earth.”

What makes us a unique location for experiential learning?

- The Osa Peninsula is one of the world’s most biodiverse areas, holding 2.5% of the world’s biodiversity!
- Students can participate in conservation first-hand through our modules and learn directly from our expert research staff.
- With a range of habitats on our property – primary and secondary forests, restored pastures, wetlands, and beach – courses are not limited to a single ecosystem!
- Over 7 miles of accessible trails for students to explore, create research projects, and observe wildlife and plants.
- Previously known as “Piro,” our long-standing biological station holds up to 36 students and offers 3 delicious meals a day.
- Electricity, wifi, classroom space, and a small lab for teachers and students to use.
- Teachers can create their own curriculum OR design it with our conservation modules in mind!

Conservation Modules

All of our hands-on education modules are taught by our expert science staff and can be added to any field-based curriculum. Half-day modules include an interactive presentation, science-based field activity, discussions and assessment.

- Sea Turtle Conservation: Students monitor the beach for sea turtles, learn about the sea turtle species that visit the Osa and gain an understanding of their ecology, threats and conservation challenges. Students will practice methodologies used by Osa Conservation for sea turtle protection, population monitoring and data collection.
- Tropical Forest Restoration: Students explore the history of deforestation & biodiversity loss in the Osa and learn techniques that Osa Conservation uses to restore degraded forests. Hiking through primary and secondary forests, they will gain skills in identifying and planting native tree species and recognizing unique biological characteristics.
- Biodiversity Monitoring: Students learn about Central America’s largest camera trap network. Analyzing collected images from camera traps, students gain skills in wildlife identification and data analysis. While learning about local wild cats and their prey, students discover how this information is used to rewild corridors in the region.
- Healthy Rivers: Students analyze river restoration approaches & identify threats to freshwater resources. Through integrating theory and practice of river monitoring, students learn the value of watersheds in the Osa and evaluate ways to improve local and international river conservation strategies.

Sustainable Agriculture

Students actively learn on our 24 acre farm about principles of tropical ecological agriculture. Topics include crop rotation, integrated pest management, and use of native crops. As a model for the Osa, this wildlife-friendly farm is an example of how farming can have a positive impact on the environment.

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

- Students monitor the beach for sea turtles, learn about the sea turtle species that visit the Osa and gain an understanding of their ecology, threats and conservation challenges. Students will practice methodologies used by Osa Conservation for sea turtle protection, population monitoring and data collection.

Contact us to learn more about this ideal destination for field-based learning!

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