UNIVERSITY CENTRE BISHOP BURTON
PROJECT PRESENTATION

Costa Rica
Turtle Conservation and Adventure Tour

SOUTH AMERICA

GLOBAL reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

ABOUT US:

SOUTH AMERICA

GAP Africa Projects

- We are a specialised travel company that offers academic trips and volunteering opportunities for groups and individual travellers, in a number of locations worldwide
- We pride ourselves on curating experiences which are personalised to your needs and requirements
- Our first project travelled in 2012
- Full ATOL Bonding
- Working with over 55 Colleges and Universities around the UK
- A small dedicated team in the UK and South Africa

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GAP AFRICA PROJECTS

ABOUT COSTA RICA

Project Overview and Location

ABOUT COSTA RICA

SOUTH AMERICA

Your Conservation Field Trip Explained

- A unique conservation experience - based in Costa Rica
- Experience Turtle Conservation Efforts on the Caribbean Coast
- Opportunity to visit various Rainforests and National Parks
- Experience one of the greatest biodiverse countries on earth
- Project Activities include:
  - Turtle Conservation & Research
  - National Park Visits
  - Rainforest and Cloud Forest tour
  - Animal Sanctuaries
  - Ecosystem Conservation
  - Coastal Reserves
- A true wilderness adventure!

ABOUT COSTA RICA

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Turtle Conservation and Adventure Tour - Location

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT THE PROJECT

SOUTH AMERICA

Turtle Conservation and Adventure Tour

Our academic team and qualified guides at the Turtle Conservation and Adventure Tour Project offer a bespoke course to each institution dependent on their own personal objectives and learning needs.

We set out the basis of the trip, comprising of a 12-night academic module split between the turtle project, national parks and animal sanctuaries across Costa Rica.

A full day will be planned but will vary from day to day depending on the day's task and research goals.

The project split and duration are as follows:

12 Night Itinerary

1 Night
Project Orientation

4 Nights
Turtle Project

7 Nights
Esparza - Animal Sanctuary work and National Park visits

YOUR PROJECT

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Pacuare Turtle Conservation Programme

- Night beach patrols (assist in measuring, tagging, and relocating eggs to the safety of the hatchery
- Biometric data collection from nesting turtles
- Exhumation of hatched nests to count survival rates
- Day/night hatchery duties
- Nest Monitoring
- Beach clean-ups (removing debris that blocks nesting)
- Turtle hatchery construction
- Maintenance of volunteer accommodation
- Reforestation work – collecting/sorting of seeds, planting saplings
- Wildlife monitoring on forest trails

YOUR PROJECT

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Laguna Urpiano Reserve - Pacuare Turtle Project

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Night Patrols of the Beach

Split into small shifts to patrol the 6km beach at night (until 3am).

Patrols are led by an experienced patrol leader walking a sector of the beach searching for nesting females.

Once a turtle is encountered the leader, with the aid of the volunteers, will collect information; the length and width of the turtle, nest location and its dimensions and the number of eggs laid.

The eggs will be carefully removed by the group leader and relocated to the hatchery.

Turtles are sensitive to light, if any light is to be used on the beach only red light is permitted.

YOUR PROJECT

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Nest Patrols and Biometric Data Collection

During a hatchery shift you will need to check for baby turtles that have left the nest and need to be placed on the beach so they can return to the water, monitor the hatchery for any potential threats to the nest e.g. crabs. Assist with the relocation of eggs found on patrol, recording data on the number of eggs, their original location and where they are relocated to.

YOUR PROJECT

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Turtle Hatchery Construction

During your time at the project, it may be required to build new hatcheries or maintain existing ones.

As a volunteer, you will assist the research team with this task.

YOUR PROJECT

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Releasing Baby Turtles

At **certain times** of the year, groups will have the privilege to assist the research team in releasing baby turtles from the hatcheries back to the ocean.

YOUR PROJECT

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Natuwa Wildlife Reserve

Natuwa Wildlife Sanctuary is a rescue and rehabilitation centre dedicated to protecting animals affected by illegal captivity, hunting, and habitat destruction.

The Sanctuary has a 15-hectare property, exclusively for activities that provide welfare to both the rescued wild animals and the local biodiversity.

Whilst volunteering, expert guides will provide information on local fauna and conservation, highlighting the stories behind the rescued animals.

YOUR PROJECT

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Natuwa Wildlife Reserve

Assist with the daily routine of caring for the animals. Activities will include:

- Feeding monkeys, jaguars, tapirs, macaws, sloths, and many other species
- Providing fresh grass to the herbivores
- Creating environmental enrichment
- Providing water to the animals
- Cleaning enclosures and feeding stations
- Participating in release efforts

YOUR PROJECT

SOUTH AMERICA

Natuwa Wildlife Reserve

Get involved in important activities that assist in the running of the sanctuary.

- Maintaining animal enclosures
- Constructing organic structures for the animals
- Agricultural production
- General sanctuary maintenance
- Tree planting

YOUR PROJECT

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Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve

The cloud forest protects 35,000 acres of rainforest. There are over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, and 1,200 species of amphibians and reptiles

Undertaking a tour, led by a certified guide, takes you deep into Monteverde's cloud forest. You'll discover its fascinating plant and bird life while also uncovering the region's cultural and historical heritage.

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Las Hornillas – Miravelles Volcano

The Miravalles Volcano is located in Costa Rica's Guanacaste Province.

Tractor ride and guided walk through primary forest, crossing three hanging bridges and visiting four waterfalls. Opportunities to spot birds and reptiles.

Visit the active crater area of Miravalles Volcano before enjoying a mud bath and a dip in one of the three thermal pools.

YOUR PROJECT

SOUTH AMERICA

Marino Ballena National Park

Over 5,000 hectares or protected marine area created as safe haven for humpback whale migration.

Visit the coral and rock reefs to snorkel and observe the wonderful marine wildlife.

View the caverns of Ventanas Beach.

Marine boat tour to search for Humpback Whales and two species of resident dolphins.

After lunch in town, return to National Park to swim or to relax on the beach.

YOUR PROJECT

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Indigenous Day

Spend the morning with an indigenous guide learning about the Boruca culture, indigenous medicine and history. This will include a farm tour.

Enjoy a traditional lunch with the Boruca community before spending the afternoon making masks and other local crafts.

Boruca cuisine is simple and practical, making use of everything edible in close proximity.

YOUR PROJECT

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Manuel Antonio National Park

Smallest National Park in Costa Rica at just 682 hectares.

Talk on conservation and guided tour of park.

Lots of activities to explore during free time (optional and at additional cost).

YOUR PROJECT

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Rainforest Adventure - Braulio Carrillo National Park

Experience a canopy tour of the highland rainforest. This will include:

- An aerial Tram through the canopy levels
- Guided nature tour of the butterfly garden, terrarium (snakes, frogs, turtles), orchid garden and to see hummingbirds.
- Possibility of seeing tapirs.
- 500 Species of bird, 150 Species of mammal

YOUR PROJECT

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Crocodile Boat Tour and Ziplining

Embark upon a crocodile boat tour on the River Tarcoles, on the central Pacific coast. Winding your way through the mangroves to view crocodiles, birds and monkeys up close.

Later, enjoy the thrill of zip-lining in Jaco with a scenic canopy tour through lush rainforests, often featuring ocean views, waterfalls, and wildlife like monkeys and macaws.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Your free time on the project

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

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Activities/Excursions (own cost and optional)

LIFESTYLE & ACCOMMODATION

Life in Costa Rica

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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Esparza

The Hotel Las Palmas in Esparza has shared rooms with a balcony, a dining area, a large garden with swimming pool, and sports activities.

Wi-Fi coverage and hydroelectricity are both average.

Breakfast and some dinners will be provided.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

SOUTH AMERICA

Pacuare Turtle Project

Accommodation at the turtle project is in shared beach huts, these are basic, clean and comfortable.

There are small lockers available for personal valuables such as passports - you will need to bring a padlock.

Electricity is generated via solar and has to be rationed, so can be sporadic.

All meals are provided – though expect a lot of rice and beans!

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

SOUTH AMERICA

Natuwa Wildlife Reserve

Volunteers stay in shared dormitory-style accommodation designed to foster a sense of community.

Bathrooms and showers are in a separate building adjacent to the sleeping quarters. Hot water is **not** available in standard accommodation.

Wi-Fi is available in the volunteer area and volunteers have access to a pila (outdoor sink) for hand washing clothes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner is included.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

SOUTH AMERICA

Cascada Verde - Uvita

Cascada Verde is a family hostel located in the jungle above Uvita, Costa Rica's Marino Ballena National Park.

The hostel has spacious private rooms and shared dormitories with charming rustic-style décor.

The tropical treehouse style building features hammocks, plenty of comfy furniture and two large terraces. Free Wi-Fi is available in the shared lounge/common area.

Breakfast and lunch is included.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

SOUTH AMERICA

Food at the project

When at Esparza breakfasts and some dinners will be provided at the hotel; for those meals that are not included there are a variety of restaurants in the vicinity. Budget approximately $10-$15 per meal including a drink.

Whilst at the Turtle Project and Natuwa three meals a day will be provided. Generally, this will be local food – rice and beans! Please be aware there is no shop at the Turtle Centre so ensure you have brought snacks/drinks with you.

Your stay at Cascada Verde hostel includes breakfast and lunch.

Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts. However, Costa Rica is not as well developed for food intolerances as the UK, so prior notice is essential.

**The inclusion of meals TBC as part of the itinerary*

USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is Included?

- UK Transfers
- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day at Pacuare
- Meals as specified on itinerary (*see sample itinerary for days with meal listings*)
- 24/7 support via WhatsApp

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NOT Included

- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any meals not specified in the itinerary
- Some activities that are part of the itinerary do incur an additional cost
- Visas/travel documents

* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.

THE NEXT STEPS

Project dates & key deadlines

Confirmed travel dates:

Depart UK: 21 March 2027 | Arrive Costa Rica: 22 March 2027

Depart Costa Rica: 03 April 2027 | Arrive UK: 04 April 2027

Trip cost:

£3,478.00* Based on a group of 16 (confirmed once flights have been held)

Key deadlines are:

- Return online booking form by 15/03/2026
- Deposit payment, £300.00 by 10/04/2026
- 50% instalment to be paid by 30/11/2026
- Balance payment to be paid by 25/01/2027
- 08/03/2027 e-Tickets & final documents will be issued

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

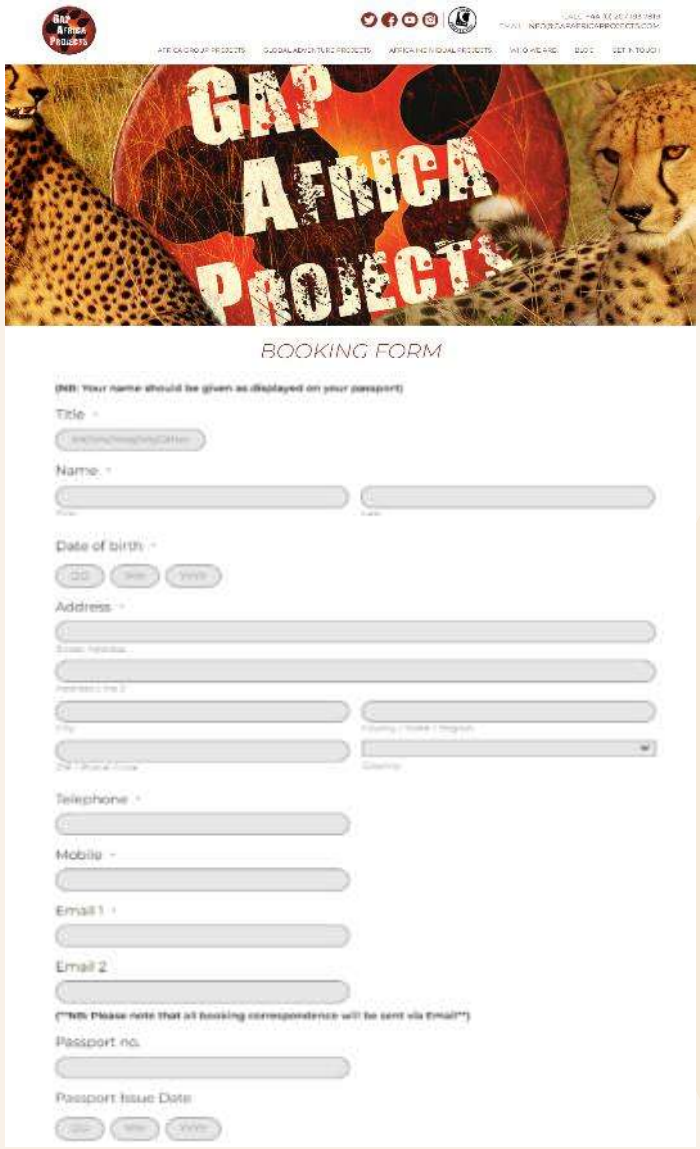
SOUTH AMERICA

Booking Form

- Please submit by 15/03/2026
- No deposit required at this stage of booking
- Passport fields not mandatory

Key deadlines are:

- Deposit of £300 to confirm placement
- Instalment payment of 50% due 16 weeks before departure
- Balance payment due 8 weeks before departure



THE NEXT STEPS

SOUTH AMERICA

Confirmation Documents

Confirmation documents will be issued and sent directly to you via email.

Please communicate with us with any questions relating to the field trip.

Your Booking

Travel Advice

Dear Chloe,

Passport expiry date

Passport Copies

Travel insurance

Passengers Travelling

Miss Chloe

Placement(s)

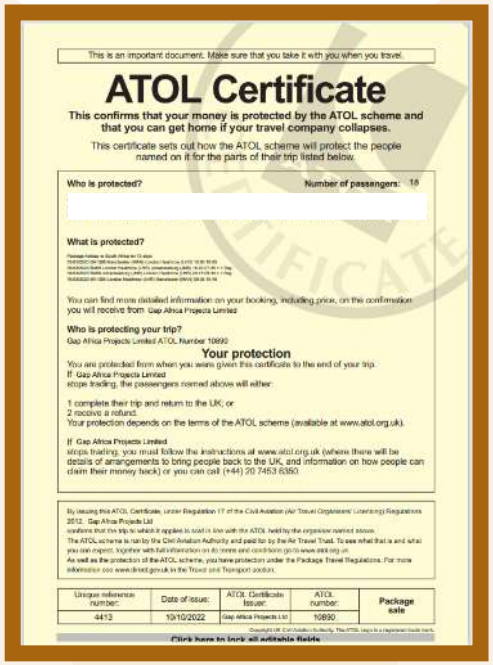
Zulu Land Conservation Research (06/03/23 - 18/03/23)

Inclusions

Exclusions

Your Flight(s)

CONFIRMATION INVOICE


This is an important document. Make sure that you take it with you when you travel.

ATOL Certificate

This confirms that your money is protected by the ATOL scheme and that you can get home if your travel company collapses.

This certificate sets out how the ATOL scheme will protect the people named on it for the parts of their trip listed below.

Who is protected?

Number of passengers: 18

What is protected?

Who is protecting your trip?

Gap Africa Projects Limited ATOL Number 10890

Your protection

BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

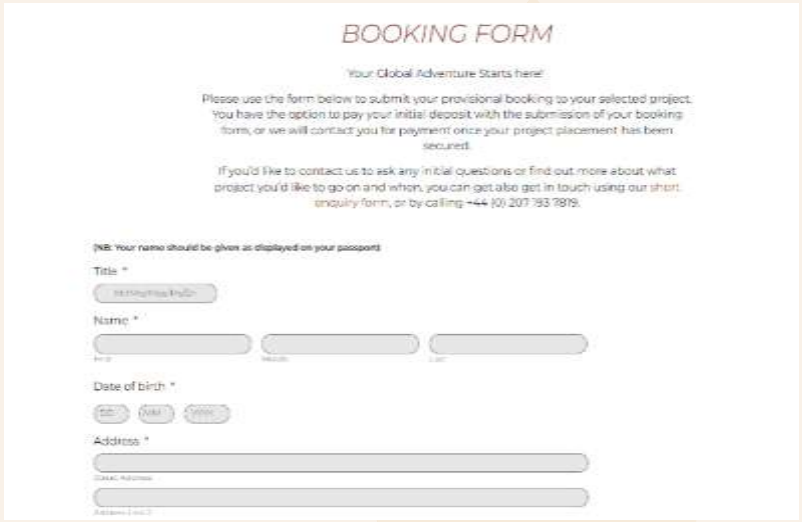
SOUTH AMERICA

Group Web Page

https://gapafricaprojects.com/27-4839/

Booking Form

https://gapafricaprojects.com/booking-form-27-4839-bba-cra-university-centre-bishop-burton/



BOOKING FORM

Your Global Adventure Starts here!

Please use the form below to submit your provisional booking to your selected project. You have the option to pay your initial deposit with the submission of your booking form, or we will contact you for payment once your project placement has been secured.

If you'd like to contact us to ask any initial questions or find out more about what project you'd like to go on and when, you can get also get in touch using our short enquiry form, or by calling +44 (0) 207 193 7819.

(NB: Your name should be given as displayed on your passport)

Title *

Name *

Date of birth *

Address *

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