

Costa Rica

Tropical Ecology, Development & Social Justice in Monteverde

Study the interrelated issues of environmental, economic and community sustainability in Monteverde, Costa Rica - one of the most unique and fragile environments on earth. Come walk in the clouds among the largest number of orchids in the world, where resplendent quetzals flash through the trees and howler monkeys sound the morning wake up call. Experience Costa Rica: a peaceful and developing country that abolished its



Research agroecology in a Fair Trade Coffee and Permaculture Farm

Photo by Timothy Vincent Wong

army in order to allocate resources to the environment and education. Interact with Monteverde area organic farmers, who formed cooperatives to promote Fair Trade before the term was invented. Sit in quiet meditation with local Quakers who immigrated there in the 50's. Engage in social justice and development projects to preserve this rare environment.



Experience tropical rainforests and the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve

Photo by Timothy Vincent Wong

Program Highlights

- ☀ Explore the ecological and cultural diversity and stunning beauty of Costa Rica's Afro-Caribbean influences, the marina eco-systems, cloudforests and lowland tropical rainforests
- ☀ Study Tropical Biology and Ecology with international experts in one of the world's leading conservation and research institutes
- ☀ Conduct field research at the high altitude San Gerardo Field Station
- ☀ Live with welcoming families in a pastoral farming community of sustainable organic gardens, banana trees, dairy cows and horses
- ☀ Take your Spanish to the next level with daily language instruction and integrated field work
- ☀ Travel to Nicaragua and learn about local sustainable development

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 16 transferable credits through University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring Semester	Jan. - April.(see Website for dates)
Fall Semester	Sept. - Dec.(see Website for dates)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.



About Monteverde Institute

Monteverde is a living laboratory to develop a just, sustainable culture and environment. It is a mecca for research, a melting pot of cultures, a myriad of micro-climates, a magnet for eco-tourism, and a meeting place for artists, scientists and great minds from all walks of life. An area of outrageous bio-diversity with 30 kinds of hummingbirds, 2,500 species of plants, including 420 orchids (with more being discovered all the time), Monteverde contains the largest private reserve system in all of Central America. Within the preserve, nestled high in the Tilaran Mountains, the **Monteverde Institute** is an international research and educational center, whose mission is to advance sustainable living at the local and global level through place-based education, applied research, and collaborative community programs.



Photo by Timothy Vincent Wong



Application Deadlines

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

Fall March 15

Spring September 30

Cost

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance, and in-country travel. . .see Website
UMassAmherst credit included

Faculty (for full list of faculty, please see www.LivingRoutes.org)

Patricia Ortiz, M.S., Biological Science, Otago University, New Zealand
Ortiz' teaching and research focuses in on behavioral biology and using video filmmaking as a tool for studying animal behavior. She has made several documentary films about the Monteverde area and issues affecting sustainability in Costa Rica. She excels at working with students to create their own films that document their individual research or group projects in the field.

Ernesto Ruiz, Ph.D. (ABD), Applied Anthropology, University of South Florida; M.P.H. & B.A. Public Health & Anthropology, University of South Florida. Ruiz is an experienced anthropological and public health researcher who has focused on the biological and cultural dimensions of social and economic transformations. For the past several years, he has engaged in ethnographic research in the Monteverde Zone, exploring people's perceptions concerning the transition from a small-scale agricultural to an economy heavily reliant on eco-tourism.

Cristina Rubio Rey, Ph.D. (ABD), Spanish Philology, Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain; M.A., Spanish Philology and Hebrew Studies, University of Tel-Aviv, Israel. Rubio Rey, Coordinator of Monteverde Institute's Spanish Department, has over 10 years of professional experience teaching Spanish, including appointments with the Cervantes Institute and Bosphorus University. Her academic focus has been on Spanish Philology, Hebrew Studies and Second Language Acquisition.

Fran Lindau, M.A.T. - Master's of Arts in Teaching (with Distinction), Colorado College. B.A., Political Science, Colorado College
Lindau's academic focus is on comparative politics of Latin America, the environment and teaching. She has traveled extensively throughout Mexico to study trans-migratory patterns and the political ramifications of the drug war. In Costa Rica, Lindau spent a year researching these same issues, along with the effects of ecotourism, globalization and sustainable development.

Courses

Ecological Relationships in the Tropics (Biology 497M and 497L) 4 CR
Use nature as a laboratory, developing and practicing field methods in order to study and observe the diversity of life forms and interactions between plants, animals, microorganisms and their physical environment. The primary level of focus is on whole organism biology, ecological communities, and ecosystems, including both an introduction to methods for sampling and observing a variety of organisms, theory and practice and conducting original research.

Community Service Learning in Costa Rica: Theory and Practice (Service Learning 390CR) 4 CR
This field-based experience, combined with readings, dialogue, reflection and a project paper, explores the history, methods, and meanings of sustainable development as it applies to a small farming community in Costa Rica. Students learn skills in Appreciative Inquiry and Action Research, and help select, implement, record, and evaluate their service project(s).

Sustainable Development and Social Justice (Political Science 397LR and H397LR) 4 CR
This field-based experience, combined with readings, dialogue, reflection and a project paper, introduces you to the history, methods, and meanings of sustainable development. Students select, implement, record, and evaluate an internship project in sustainable development.

Spanish Language and Costa Rican Culture (Spanish) 4 CR
Three options:

- Introductory (Spanish 197CR)
- Intermediate (Spanish 297CR)
- Advanced (Spanish 397CR)