

Costa Rica- Day 1&2 – Joanna Haveman

On the first full day we were in Costa Rica, we started the day by moving 2 tons of books... When we were done that, the guys headed off to the other school to set up a swing set while we stayed back to start painting railings, even though we didn't actually get a chance to start painting because plans were changed and we went to the school to meet the kids and sit in with them in their classrooms. That was a really cool experience because we got a better knowledge of what school is like down there. It's not really that different than here, except for the fact that they speak Spanish and the classrooms are way smaller with more kids. When the kids had lunch, we joined them to play some volleyball, which was pretty fun. When they were done lunch, we sat in a couple more classes with them until they were done classes. Once they were done and they all left, we stayed behind to paint some classrooms. When we were done painting, we took the bus back to the high school, had supper, took showers, and then went to bed.

The next day was a little less exciting, as we just stayed at the school and painted some railings all day. When we were done painting, we just had some supper, then did some homework and went to bed, so it was a pretty boring day.



This is what 2 tons of books looks like...good work, team!

Costa Rica Day Three – Joel Cramer

We started the day by eating breakfast and then going straight on the bus to the school with all the kids in it. We went to the school for sports day and were late but we still got to play volleyball in which the team me and Adam were on, won the tournament. We played two games in which we both won, while Ian was on the team that we beat first. After volleyball we just played around with the kids and then we went to someone's house for lunch. After lunch we played soccer with the people that gave us lunch. Then we went back to the school and painted for about two hours. After we were done painting we went back on the bus to go to the high school, and Mr. H walked back. When we got back to the high school we waited for Mr. H who didn't come back until it was dark. When Mr. H came we ate supper and went to bed.



The winning volleyball team!



Lunch at a Costa Rican family's house.

Costa Rica day 4 – Adam Knight

The day started off waking up early up at 6. We got ready and walked to the bus and drove about 2 hours. When we got there we went horseback riding which I didn't really like. Then we went and ate lunch. After we ate lunch we drove to the zip lining which was very fun and very cool sites. Then we went rappelling down a wall which was little scary but fun at the same time. On the way to river rafting we saw some monkeys. Then we went river rafting which was very fun. After we went river rafting we drove to have supper. After supper we went to hot spring which were just pools that were very hot. It was very relaxing then we drove back to the school and went to bed.



Above: Horseback riding.

Below: Jaco Beach, where the students learned to surf (and also received nasty sunburns!).



Seeing the City – Jori Bakker

In Costa Rica, we had a huge opportunity to see and tour the city on Sunday and Tuesday. On Sunday, we were able to go to a small church. Even though the service was in Spanish and we couldn't understand anything, it was interesting to be there and see what it was like compared to churches here. After the service, the people served us a delicious lunch. After lunch, we went to a lookout where we saw an amazing view of the city. For supper we went to Rev. Bill Green's house. On Tuesday we went to a coffee plantation. We received a tour of the plantation and then were able to buy some coffee to bring home. The owner of the plantation saw how sunburned we were from yesterday's trip to the beach and gave us an aloe vera plant to use and bring back to the school. After that, we went back to the school to rest and have lunch. In the afternoon, we went to some small souvenir shops to buy souvenirs and saw an old Catholic church. Touring the city was an amazing experience!



Dressed up to go to church...the service was in Spanish!
What a wonderful experience to worship God with Costa Rican Christian brothers and sisters!

Sixth day in Costa Rica – Ian Mol

On the sixth day in Costa Rica we woke up early, so that we could pack up and leave. We rented a bus and left probably around 7:00; and drove for a couple hours. We stopped at a bridge that had a whole bunch of big crocodiles underneath it. We looked at them and fed them some sandwiches that Mrs. Knight made. After about 15 minutes we decided to go on our way, we drove for probably half an hour then stopped at a beach to see what it was like, we went swimming for like 15 minutes then decided to go to a beach called Jaco Beach. We rented some surf boards and attempted to go surfing. When we first went out the waves were perfect, we were all doing pretty good, but as the day went by the waves became bigger and closer to the shore. At the end of the day it was almost impossible to get out in the ocean far enough to be able to ride the surf board. Some of us did try but got beat up too much by the giant waves. By the time the sun was going down we were all pretty sun burnt (the guys were the worst). We went for supper at the beach, tried to eat and then left to go back to the school we were staying at.