

# Costa Rica Turtle Trax Packing List

Before you begin planning what to pack for the course, it is important to note that you will need to **dress conservatively**. It is better to be deliberately conservative in your appearance than to risk offending our hosts or anyone in the communities we visit.

Everyone has their preferred style of packing for travel, so please use this list as a helpful guide and be mindful of your own needs.

It is very important that you try to fit all of your belongings into one backpack/duffle and a daypack that you are comfortable carrying on your own. Your backpack/duffle cannot exceed 50 lbs.

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## DOCUMENTS & ESSENTIALS

- Passport** Your passport needs to be valid for six months after the day of arrival and have at least two blank pages. Also, bring a copy of your passport.
- Covid Vaccination Card** Good to have but not required by Costa Rica
- Health Insurance Card** Copy of front and back
- Prescription Medications** Carry medications in their original containers, clearly labeled, and make sure you have enough for the entire trip. Bring medications in your carry-on, so you will still have access to them if your luggage is delayed or lost. Consult with a travel doctor for recommendations and a prescription. Ask the physician about the possibility of obtaining prescription drugs commonly used by travelers such as Cipro and Z-packs.

## GEAR

- Backpack/Duffel Bag** 4- 5,000 cubic inches (65-80 liters). Bring all your clothes in just one backpack or duffle, with a few essentials in a daypack. Soft/Duffel bags are highly recommended.
- Day Pack** Small, light, nylon bag with shoulder straps. This is what you'll take with you as a carry-on and on excursions. It should be big enough to hold a water bottle, headlamp or flashlight, some food, a raincoat, and a book or journal.

## FOOTWEAR

- Sturdy Shoes** Solid, tough, durable, closed-toed shoes that you don't mind getting wet/muddy. Will be used for turtle patrols (up to 3 miles walking)
- Sneakers** A different pair than you will use for the night patrols.
- Sport Sandals** Waterproof sandals (i.e. Tevas or Chaco-style)
- Flip Flops**- These are nice to have for shower shoes

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## CLOTHING

- Raincoat** Waterproof material is required. Best if lightweight and breathable.
- Hat/Bandanas** Can be nice for sun protection.
- Socks** 6 pairs. Thin synthetic socks can dry more quickly.
- Underwear** 7+ pairs. Cotton is fine, but synthetic quick-drying underwear is best.
- Bras/Sports Bras.**
- T-Shirts** 5-7: Quick-drying material is best. *May get dirty.*
- Dark T-Shirts** 2: Dark colors are important for turtle patrols.
- Long Sleeve Shirt** 2-3: Light and loose-fitting button-up shirts are great
- Long Pants** 2-3 pairs: Suitable for work and play that will dry quickly. Avoid denim. *One pair should be dark in color for the turtle patrols.*
- Shorts** 3-4 pairs. Something lightweight & quick drying. Be conservative. *May get dirty.*
- Swimsuit** Please be conservative when selecting a suit to bring.
- Pajamas** Bring something comfortable but culturally appropriate to sleep in.
- Synthetic Camping Towel** Synthetic camping towels dry much faster than regular towels
- Towel** 1-2. Preferably quick-dry as cotton ones take a long time to dry.
- Nice Pants** Bring the kind of pants you would wear when casually dressing up.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

- Headlamp with Red LED light** Preferably rechargeable. Used for night turtle patrols. Bring a few extra batteries if not rechargeable.
- Masks** Small pack of disposable masks
- Water bottles** 2- Each should hold one liter.
- Work Gloves** Leather gloves are the most durable.
- Sunglasses**
- Toiletries** Bring a supply of everything you need for grooming and taking care of yourself (hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste, personal hygiene, etc.)
- Sunscreen** - SPF 30+ (water/sweat proof)
- Kleenex** A few packets.
- Glasses/Contacts** Bring enough contact solution for the entire program
- Alarm Clock/Watch** Small travel clock or a watch with an alarm.
- Insect Repellent** We have [found this one](#) (Sawyer Products 20% Picaridin Insect Repellent) worked best.
- Lip Balm** SPF 15 or higher.

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## OPTIONAL

- Card/Travel Games**
- Good Books**
- Hand Sanitizing Gel/Wetwipes**
- Ziplock Bags** Having a few small and large sizes can be handy to keep things dry.
- Spanish-English Dictionary** Useful to assist in communication.
- Duct Tape** Wrap some around your water bottle and pull it off as you need it.
- Energy Bars** Recommended for picky eaters or those accustomed to especially high-calorie diets. These will not be used to replace meals, however.
- Emergen-C** Water-soluble vitamin and electrolyte packets that dissolve into water. These are great for combating dehydration
- Over the Counter Medications** SStS field staff carry an extensive medical kit. Most students bring a supply of whatever they use at home along with some cough drops, Pepto-Bismol tablets, and whatever they need for motion sickness, headaches, or menstrual cramps.
- Gold Bond/Medicated Powder** Helps avoid/treat heat rash in humid environments
- Dramamine** Bring some Dramamine if you tend to get motion sickness.
- Camera** We may not always have access to electricity, so you may want to pack an extra battery. For people using digital cameras, bring a few memory cards.
- Luggage Padlock** A way to lock/secure your bags.

## SPENDING MONEY

Although the costs of the course are covered in your tuition we recommend each student bring cash or a debit card to cover spending money and miscellaneous expenses (baggage fees, souvenirs, gifts, and snacks.) Please do not bring more than \$150 in cash. Most places are CASH ONLY. Small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10) are best. Note: We have found that prepaid debit cards do not work internationally. In addition, many small shops don't accept debit/credit cards.

## DONATIONS

If you would like to bring some school supplies (markers, colored pencils, pencils, children's books, etc.), the teachers at the local schools will put them to good use. As well, soccer balls, frisbees and other sporting equipment would be great.