

SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

TAMARINDO ITINERARY





Dear MEDLIFERs,

Thank you for joining the MEDLIFE Movement via a Service Learning Trip with us! Here at MEDLIFE, our mission is to build a worldwide Movement empowering the poor in their fight for equal access to healthcare, education, and a safe home. As an SLT participant in Tamarindo, Costa Rica, you are joining that worldwide Movement!

The following is a sample travel plan for you to review. Please go over it before your trip and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you for joining the Movement, and we can't wait to see you in Tamarindo, Costa Rica,!

Overview:

Known for its breathtaking landscapes and rich biodiversity, Costa Rica is often seen as a tropical paradise. Yet beyond the postcard views, many families — especially in rural and peri-urban areas — continue to face systemic challenges such as limited access to quality education, healthcare, and stable employment. As of 2024, around 21.8% of Costa Rican households were living in poverty, a reminder that inequality persists even in countries celebrated for progress and sustainability.

Through a MEDLIFE Service Learning Trip in Costa Rica, you'll gain a deeper understanding of these realities while working alongside local leaders on sustainable, community-driven initiatives. Projects may include improving educational spaces, restoring local environments, or strengthening community infrastructure.

You will also help the tourism industry bounce back by exploring the country's dazzling natural wonders! As one of the world's most biodiverse countries and a leading destination in ecotourism, Costa Rica is a nature lover's paradise. It is also a hotspot for adventure travel, with adrenaline-pumping activities such as zip lining and kayaking!

Join us on a Service Learning Trip to Tamarindo, Costa Rica, to help families recover from the pandemic and learn about poverty and sustainability. You will work hand in hand with the community to improve their living conditions. Register today!

Highlights of the Week:

- Learn about the challenges faced by low-income communities.
- Gain experience volunteering on a service project.
- Build bridges across cultures by connecting with community members.
- Deepen your understanding of sustainability and the environment.



Key Pillars

- **Service:** By volunteering on a Community Empowerment Trip, you'll directly bring support to the marginalized communities you visit.
- **Environment:** This trip will take you to a leading destination in ecotourism, and you may have the opportunity to volunteer on a reforestation project.
- **Education:** Learn about the systemic factors that have shaped the realities faced by families. Participate in educational discussions about sustainability and conservation.
- **Life-changing experiences:** Through eye-opening experiences and building human connections, a Community Empowerment Trip will renew your passion for building a world free from the constraints of poverty.

Itinerary in Brief:

DAY

1

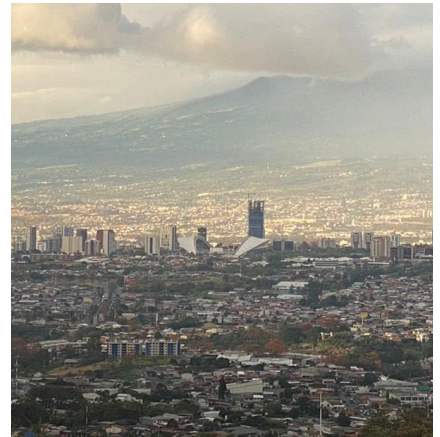
Saturday

Arrival to Liberia

Arrive at Daniel Oduber Quiros airport (LIR) between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A MEDLIFE representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your accommodation. You will have time to relax, settle in, and then head out to explore. Meals aren't included today, but you can enjoy a tasty dinner at one of the nearby restaurants.



Overnight
Tamarindo MEDLIFE Hostel



DAY

2

Sunday

Orientation Day

At 9:00 a.m. we will host a welcome meeting where everyone can gather together and we will cover what to expect for the week and review safety precautions. After that, you have the rest of the day at your leisure!



Overnight
Tamarindo MEDLIFE Hostel



DAY

3

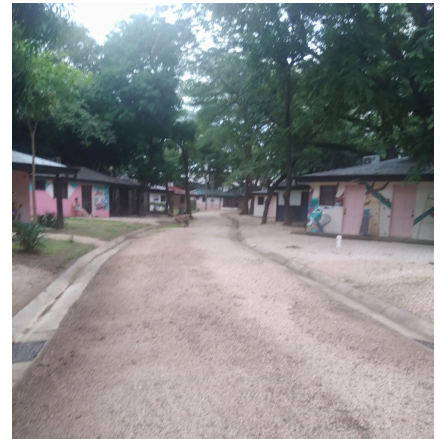
Monday

Reality Tour

On a MEDLIFE Reality Tour volunteers join MEDLIFE staff in the field to learn about our partner communities and the challenges they face daily. It is often our volunteers' first exposure to extreme poverty, making it one of the most impactful experiences of their trip. The Reality Tour's main goal is to introduce volunteers to the area's culture and history. This lays the groundwork for cultural awareness and sensitivity, which are so important when you're serving communities in another country.



Overnight
Tamarindo MEDLIFE Hostel



DAY

4-6

Tuesday to Thursday

Mobile Clinics

Tuesday through Thursday, you will support Mobile Clinics in the various communities around Tamarindo. Each day, the Mobile Clinic will be held in a different community. You will wake up at 6am for breakfast and leave the hotel by 7am to travel to the community by bus. Bus rides may be anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours.

Upon arriving to the community, you will unpack all medical supplies from the bus and meet the health professionals you will be assisting that day. After unloading supplies, volunteers will report to the Mobile Clinic station that you have been assigned to that morning. A brief training session will be provided by the health professionals at each station, and the clinic will begin accepting patients between 8-9 am. Patients will first visit the Triage Station, where you will assist in taking each patient's vital signs. From there, patients will listen to educational talks provided by MEDLIFE nurses in the Education Station, while volunteers hand out educational pamphlets. Patients will then move to either the General Medicine, NutritionI, or OBGYN stations to receive medical consultation. Within all medical consultation stations, volunteers will have the opportunity to shadow the physician and learn how the physician works with the patient to evaluate what the patient has presented with, provide a diagnosis, and devise a treatment plan. Finally, patients will be directed to the Pharmacy Station where you will assist nurses to fill the prescriptions that patients have been given during their medical consultations.

Participants stay at their assigned station until they are relieved for lunch by their Trip Leader at around 11:30am. Take a break and eat lunch on the bus before you report to your second station assignment



for the afternoon. The Mobile Clinic will close anywhere from 1-3pm, depending on the number of patients that day. As many as 100+ patients may pass through the medical clinic throughout the day!

In the evenings volunteers will meet in the hotel conference room at 5pm for interactive post-clinic activities before eating dinner at 6pm. On the days when no post-clinic activity is scheduled, volunteers will be free to explore the city before and after dinner.



Overnight
Tamarindo MEDLIFE Hostel

DAY

7

Friday

Development Project

Today you'll work hand in hand with locals on a community development project such as a home renovation, well construction, or bathroom complex. Development projects can vary, depending on community needs. We'll leave the hostel at 7:30am to head to the project site. Remember to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty as you might be involved in messy activities, like mixing cement, painting walls, and other manual labor activities. After the project has been completed, take part in an inauguration with the community to celebrate all that you've achieved!

We'll return to the hostel around 2:30pm-4:00pm for a short reflection and debrief with the MEDLIFE team to wrap up the week.



Overnight
Tamarindo Hostel

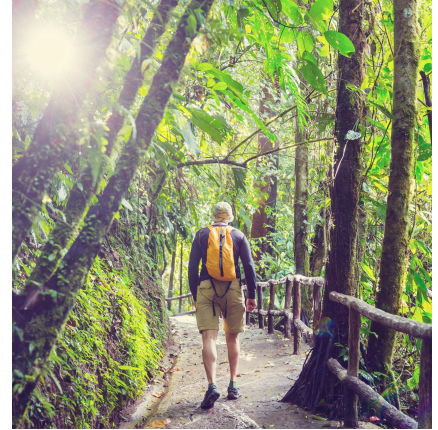
DAY

8

Saturday

Optional Day Trip

Join us on an optional day trip where you will get to explore more of what Costa Rica has to offer. The day will begin with a coffee and chocolate tour where you will get to taste test as well as look into the process of production for authentic Costa Rican coffee and chocolate. After that, we will go on a sloth bear tour where you will be able to see up-close some of Costa Rica's native sloths! We will then head over to the butterfly garden where we will sit down and enjoy lunch while basking in the beauty of the butterflies. After lunch, we will head over to Llanos del Cortes waterfalls where you are free to enjoy the majestic falls by taking a swim. We will end the day with some free time to go souvenir shopping, and then arrive back at the hotel around 6:00 p.m.



DAY

9

Sunday

Departure

Depart Tamarindo anytime between 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

INCLUDED

- ✓ 7 nights dorm room accommodation
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch, and dinner from Monday to Friday
- ✓ Transportation to and from the airport (within the established schedule), and to SLT activities
- ✓ English-speaking Trip Leader
- ✓ Safety equipment (including face masks)



NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ Flights
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Pre or post-trip accommodation
- ✓ Optional excursions
- ✓ Weekend meals

Travel Advisory

All volunteers require a valid passport of at least 6 months from the SLT start date. You can register for the MEDLIFE SLT without a passport, but you will need to submit the info at least 2 weeks before the trip. You must ensure your passport validity before departure.

Visit your doctor: MEDLIFE does not require any vaccinations however, you should follow all CDC requirements and any advice from your medical professional.

If you're not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you may need a visa to enter certain countries. It is your responsibility to determine if you need a visa and make appropriate arrangements.