

## Expedition 23A Flight Guidance for Volunteers

READ THIS WHOLE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE BOOKING YOUR FLIGHTS

### Before you Book your Travel

#### COVID-19 Testing & Entry Requirements



Please make sure to keep up to date with testing requirements & COVID-19 adaptations before booking your flights, including requirements for returning to your home country. **Costa Rica currently does not require a COVID-19 test to enter the country, but at least 2 doses of a WHO approved COVID-19 vaccine are required for participation in the Expedition.**

#### Keep Up-To-Date

We recommend checking official government guidance around travel in your home country, Costa Rica, and in any countries that you are transiting through before booking your flights and travelling to make sure you have up-to-date information about entry requirements and available travel routes.

#### Follow Us On Social Media



You may find it helpful to follow our social media channels to see some of the last placements and get ready before your trip

[www.facebook.com/RaleighCostaRica](https://www.facebook.com/RaleighCostaRica)

[www.instagram.com/RaleighCostaRica](https://www.instagram.com/RaleighCostaRica)



## Important Information

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### 10-Week Expedition

**13<sup>th</sup> February – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Airport: **San Jose (Juan Santamaría International Airport)**

Airport Code: **SJO**

Land by: 20:00 on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Take off after: 12:00 on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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### 7-Week Expedition – Option A

**13<sup>th</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Airport: **San Jose (Juan Santamaría International Airport)**

Airport Code: **SJO**

Land by: 20:00 on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Take off after: 12:00 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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### 7-Week Expedition – Option B

**5<sup>th</sup> March – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Airport: **San Jose (Juan Santamaría International Airport)**

Airport Code: **SJO**

Land by: 20:00 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Take off after: 12:00 on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023



## Visa

The visa that you will get will entitle you **to a maximum of 90 days in Costa Rica**. You may be refused entry at the border if you do not have proof of an onward journey booked within 90 days. Please ensure you take this into consideration when booking your travel and see the visa guidance below for further information.

## Timings

If your flight lands after the 'land by' time or takes off before the 'take off after' time, we will ask you to rebook your flights, so please double check your booking before you confirm.

## Flight Details

Once you have booked your flights, please send your full flight itinerary to [volunteers@raleighcostarica.org](mailto:volunteers@raleighcostarica.org). **It is essential that we receive your flight details**, so if your flight gets delayed, the team know what time you will be arriving. If there are any changes to your flights, you must inform us as soon as possible.

## Top Tips

- **Book flexible flights** – we recommend having flexible flights in case you need to amend your booking.
- **Book your flights in advance (but only after you have received medical clearance)** – you are more likely to get a cheaper flight.
- **Watch flight prices over a week period** – they may change significantly.
- **Clear your cookies and cache on your web browser** – some websites have algorithms that increase the price of flights that they know you're interested in. You can also use a private browsing window which doesn't log your data (such as incognito mode on Google Chrome).
- **Check your travel route** – ensure you are allowed to transit through the stop over country, and ensure you are able to meet the entry / visa requirements.

## Recommended Airlines / Routes

Please make sure to check up to date travel restrictions for all countries you are transiting through. Here are some suggested routes from the UK:

Direct:

- British Airways London Heathrow to San Jose

1 stopover:

- AirFrance via Paris Charles-de-Gaulle (France)



- Iberia via Madrid (Spain)
- British Airways and Volaris via Cancun (Mexico)
- United via Houston or Newark

2 stopovers:

- Aeromexico via Paris Charles-de-Gaulle (France) & Mexico City (Mexico)
- Lufthansa via Frankfurt (Germany) & Zurich (Switzerland)
- Swiss via Zurich (Switzerland) and Geneva (Switzerland)

Please note, you may need a negative COVID-19 test and/or to transit through another country. Please check before booking / travelling.

## Flight Booking Websites

Always do some independent research to find the right flights for you that fit into the above timings. We recommend that you start off by researching flights using websites like [Skyscanner](#).

## Hotels in San Jose

We recommend you fly directly from your home country to Costa Rica. However, if you need accommodation in San Jose before or after the Expedition, we recommend:

- [Hostel Finca Escalante](#)
- [Casa Yoses Hotel](#)
- [Hotel Santo Tomas](#)
- [Holiday Inn Express San Jose Airport](#) – more expensive option but located closely to the airport

## Meeting the Team

You will be met in Arrivals at San Jose Airport by members of the Raleigh Costa Rica team. It's a small airport, and they will be wearing Raleigh T-shirts, so you won't miss them.

There will be 2 meeting times:

**At 18:00** for anyone arriving on earlier flights.

**And 20:00** anyone arriving on later flights.

If you are arriving before the Expedition start date, you will have to arrange your own accommodation and travel back to the airport for the start of the Expedition.



Once you meet the Raleigh Costa Rica team at the airport you will head to the British School to spend the night.

The following morning, you will all be taken to the Raleigh Costa Rica Fieldbase in Turrialba, which is about two and a half hours away.

The 'land by' time refers to the actual arrival time of the flight – we take into account the time it will take to get through customs/baggage reclaim.

At the end of the Expedition, you will be dropped back off at San Jose airport at least 3 hours before your 'take off after' time.



## Costa Rica Visa Guidance

The following information is applicable to volunteers with a **UK, EU or US passport**. Please ensure that you contact your nearest embassy for information about entry requirements for Costa Rica and any countries which your flights may transit through. We strongly recommend that you do this before booking any flights.

### Costa Rica Tourist Visa

*UK, EU & US Passport Holders:* When you arrive in Costa Rica, you will be issued with a free 90-day tourist visa upon entry. To be granted this tourist visa, you must:

- Have a passport valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival
- Show proof that you will leave the country within **90 days\***. This can either be a flight booking or a bus ticket. They will not accept the ticket on your phone, so you will need to print it out.

We recommend that you travel directly from your home country to the start of your Expedition. However, if you do plan to travel before your Expedition, you need to ensure that you have sufficient days left on your visa to cover the period of your whole Expedition. This may mean that you have to leave the country and re-enter to get another 90-day stamp.

### ESTA Visa for transiting through the US

If COVID-19 restrictions change, and you are transiting through the US, then you will need to **apply for an ESTA visa at least 72 hours before you travel**. This costs \$14, and it is all done online and only takes a few minutes. To apply for your ESTA - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

### Questions or concerns?

Get in touch. You can email us on [info@raleighcostarica.org](mailto:info@raleighcostarica.org)

