



Thomson Family Adventures
Friends Across Borders Information
Destination: Costa Rica

HOLA (hello)!

Very soon you will be packing your bags and waiting for the flight that will start your adventure. Before you go your child(ren) can write to a pen pal in Costa Rica.

Meet your pen pals and learn some Spanish or play a rousing game of "futbol" (soccer)! Costa Ricans have great rhythm, before you leave ask your new friends to teach you a traditional dance.

Keep in mind that children in Costa Rica are generally very shy and the community speaks very little English. Encourage your kids to be open and share information about your hometown and the way you live.

BEGINNING COMMUNICATION - Kids

See reverse side for a list of conversation starters.

1. Your child is responsible for writing the first letter. Photos and drawings are always a nice touch! Be sure to send their first letter as soon as possible.
2. Mail their letter to our local office in Watertown, MA or scan and email me at lisa@familyadventures.com. All letters are delivered electronically to our colleagues in Costa Rica.



GETTING RESPONSES

- Please be patient. The locations of schools, library and/or community centers are in remote areas with limited access to technology, which makes communication difficult. Your letter will be delivered by our colleagues.
- Your pen pal will write a letter which will then be translated and delivered electronically to our local office in the US.
- We will then mail or e-mail the letter to you and your child.
- Your child can respond via our office to any letters they receive by following the initial guidelines.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE!

Spanish is the primary language spoken in Costa Rica. Help your kids learn common Spanish words and phrases by encouraging them to include them in their letters to their pen pal!

- Hola! (Hello)
- Yo me llamo... (My name is...)
- Mucho gusto (Nice to meet you.)
- Quieres jugar? (Do you want to play?)
- Tengo ___ años. (I am ___ years old.)
- Yo vengo de... (I come from...)

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts and donations are not required. However, if you would like to bring something, we encourage school donations rather than personal gifts for your pen pal. These children would benefit more from fun educational materials, school supplies, or sports equipment such as soccer balls or Frisbees. Kids always love to see photos and post cards from your hometown, so be sure to bring some of those along too!

Sincerely,
Lisa Aprille

Conversation Starters

Who? What? When? Where? How?



What is your favorite book?

When is your birthday?

Where are you from?

Do you have any pets?

How old are you?

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

What is your favorite holiday?

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

What is your favorite month? Why?

What is your favorite food?

What is your favorite movie?

How tall are you?

What type of music do you listen to?

Who is your best friend?

Who is your hero?

Do you have any nicknames?

What is your favorite subject in school?