

Costa Rica

Choco Rica: The Science, History and Culture of Chocolate

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explore@uga.edu · 706.542.5276

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Spend eight days traveling through vibrant Costa Rica, where you'll experience the creation of chocolate from cacao and examine the product's history and local socioeconomic effects in this lush, biodiverse country.

In your study of chocolate production and the science behind it, you'll visit production farms where cacao is grown, walk through cacao orchards, handle and taste fresh cacao, and tour both small and large chocolate manufacturing facilities. At the orchards, you'll participate in the elaborate process of fermenting chocolate and, in a daylong, hands-on chocolate-processing workshop, you'll participate in all the steps it takes to go from bean to bar.

Beyond processing, you'll learn about horticultural practices associated with cacao that increase productivity and mitigate pests and diseases. You will learn how to conduct a sensory analysis of chocolate and will study its health benefits as they relate to chocolate's chemistry and biochemistry. You'll also be exposed to the culture behind chocolate, its history, the technology behind its evolution and socioeconomic issues associated with the production of chocolate. On-site lectures and labs will be offered at the University of Georgia Costa Rica campus.

Other opportunities include a hike through the jungle, zip lining and a guided natural history tour. And a traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served on the UGA's Costa Rica campus.

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FDST 4160/6160 (2 hours)

Fulfills experiential learning requirement

Projected travel dates:

Thanksgiving break

Estimated cost:

\$1,500 + UGA in-state tuition and fees + international airfare

University of Georgia academic credit:

2 hours

Application deadline:

Check GoAbroad.uga.edu for the application deadline.

For additional information, please contact:

Jose Reyes De Corcuera
jireyes@uga.edu

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To apply, visit:

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