

Journal/Diary of Costa Rica 2019

Day 1 in Costa Rica:

- Landed in Costa Rica at 10pm so that was pretty scary !
- Took a taxi to my living accommodation and I got lost trying to find it with the taxi driver
- Once I found the campus and my room I loved it! The apartments were nicely furnished and the actual building had a roof where you could have a nice overlook of the entire city; the building also had a movie room, a game room, and a area on the roof to grill and lounge

Day 2 in Costa Rica:

- Meet Mariel (program coordinator) → super sweet, energetic, and overall extremely helpful in telling us information about the city, and how we would get to work the first day

Day 3 in Costa Rica:

- Mariel took all the interns to downtown San Jose
- Saw the “Market Central” where most people in Costa Rica do their shopping since there are a variety of different stores and museums there
- Ate at a famous taqueria (it was delicious!)

First Day of Work:

- Met all my co-workers and my boss and my initial impression was that everyone was very nice and inviting
- Was given a very informative introduction to the solar energy sector in Costa Rica
- Assigned my first big assignment → comparative financial analysis between this solar energy association and various similar ones in different countries

Week 2 in Costa Rica:

- Took a salsa dancing class → I don't know how to salsa so it was particularly challenging but super happy I took it because it was so much fun and an experience I can not ever forget

Week 3 in Costa Rica:

- Went to Volcano Irazu → super high altitude! Costa Rica at that time had about an average temperature of about 75 degrees. However on the volcano the temperature was about 45 degrees so it was a crazy transition!
 - Beautiful even though it was hard to see a lot of the volcano because it was so foggy that day ☹

Week 4 in Costa Rica:

- Work → went to a conference with my boss and various CEOs and investors of companies that are members of our association to draft main points to bring up to the Minister of Environment and Energy in Costa Rica
 - Main points: 49% tax rule, negative influence of electrical companies, how to increase consumer pool, negotiations with banks to get better financial for low income citizens so they can also get solar panels
- Went to a toucan rescue ranch
 - Learned all about the mistreatment of certain animals
 - Sloths, toucans, monkeys, etc.

Week 5 in Costa Rica: (My favorite part 😊)

- Traveled outside of the capital (about 5 hours) to Puerto Viejo!
 - The trip was supposed to take about 5 hours but because of large protest going on during that time due to a big tax change that took place it took us about 9 hours to get to our destination → however despite it being an unpleasant turn of event with taking us longer to get there it made all of us who were in that car together great friends for the rest of my time in Costa Rica
 - Went to my first black sand beach; stunning
 - There was a lot of Jamaican influence there so I got to eat Costa Rican food with a influence from Jamaican food and it was amazing
 - Great weather perfect to go to swimming

Week 6 in Costa Rica:

- My final project for the company was starting to come along: Strategic Business Plan
 - Adding a new target market: foreign distributors and investors
 - Introducing a new product sponsoring idea
 - Brining awareness among homeowners and businesses about why solar is a bankable and beneficial technology right now
- Worked on crowdfunding for a project that consisted of installing photovoltaic solar system at the marine turtle conservation in Costa Rica

Week 7 in Costa Rica:

- Playa Jaco → an amazing beach where I had the best tacos ever!
- Went with one of my good friends from the program; this beach is the closest beach to the capital only like 2 hours on the bus!

Week 8 Last Week:

- Me and my closer friends from the program about 6 of us went to Playa Tamardindo which is on the pacific coast of Costa Rica, and hands down is the most beautiful beach I have ever been to!
 - Saw monkeys and giant lizards on the streets
 - Bonded much more with my friends since it was our last trip together
 - Was at the beach from morning to evening

- Ended the night dancing away !