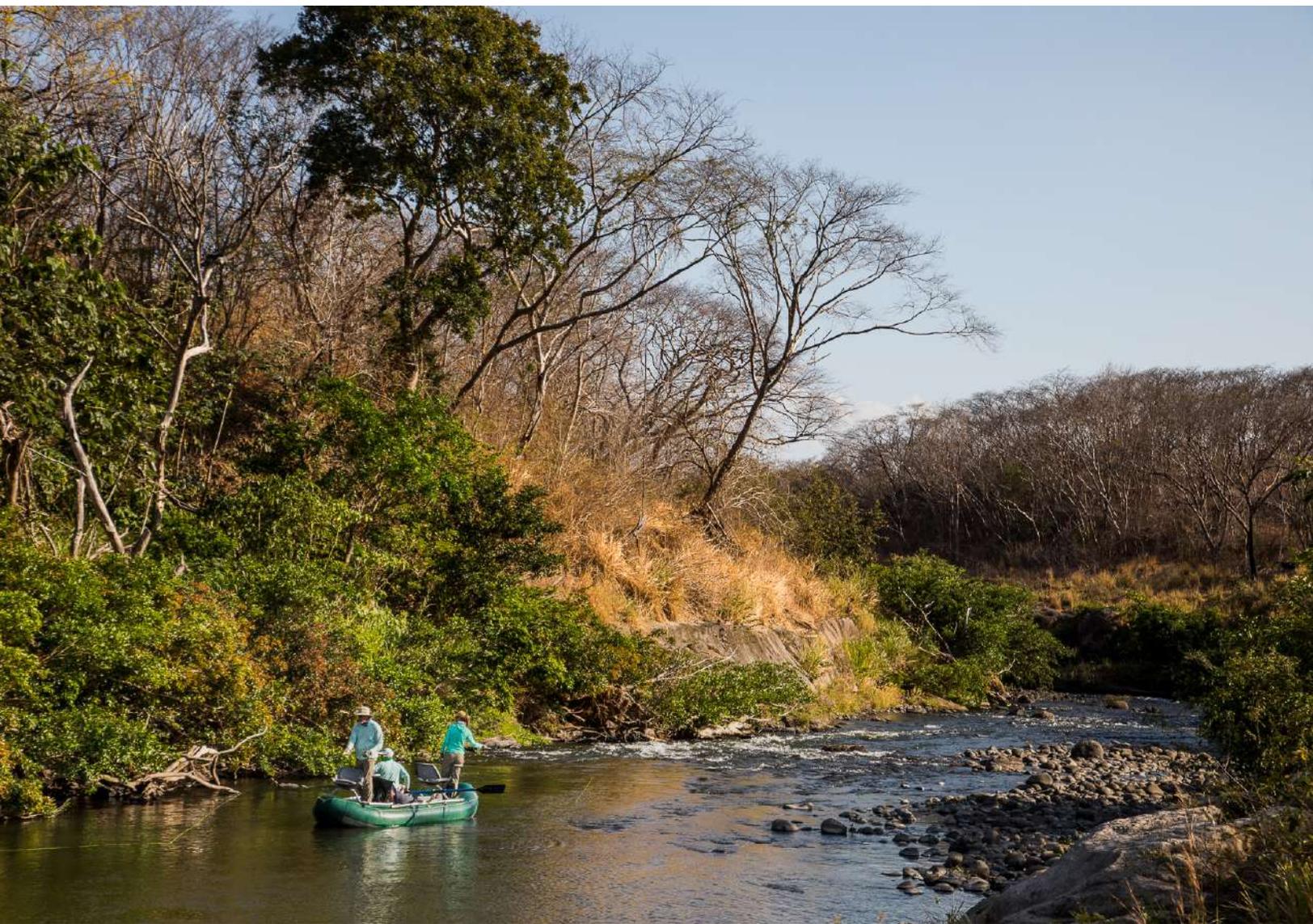


# fish FOR change



Connection - Education - Conservation - Exploration



COSTA RICA  
TALAMANCA PROGRAM



**CONNECTION** Students from around the world connect with one another in new environments. Hometown realities are challenged with collective thoughts from different backgrounds. Language barriers are torn down through shared passions. Strangers turn into friends who turn into family.



**EDUCATION** Outdoor education in a hands on setting. Students learn from guides, instructors, local officials, conservationist, and one another. Students are educated on behalf of human relationships, conservation initiatives, leadership, outdoor recreation, and of course - fly fishing.



**CONSERVATION** We protect what we love and we love to fly fish. Through programs, students have a chance to dig in to new environments, the issues they are facing, and ways to take action. We team up with local organizations in each location to participate and learn more about their ongoing conservation initiatives.



**EXPLORATION** Fly fishing serves as our lens for exploration. It challenges us to experience new environments and become curious about the world around us. In addition to fly fishing, students have a chance to enjoy other forms of adventure tourism pertaining to the area. We explore the world around us as well as within.



Fish for Change is a nonprofit organization that offers international fly fishing programs. Our mission is to use fly-fishing as a platform to make the world a better place by uniting a diverse group of students in wild fisheries where they engage in a variety of initiatives that promote **Connection, Education, Conservation, and Exploration**

# Program Details

Boys Week: July 10 - 18, 2022

Girls Week: July 19 - 27, 2022

Tuition: \$3,950

(all inclusive except for flight, gear, trip insurance and tips)

## Itinerary

### **Day 1**

Arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica

Transport to hotel in San Jose / Welcome Dinner

### **Day 2**

Early morning transport to one of Costa Rica's Highness Points at 11,500 feet

Cerro de la Muerte (Mountain of Death)

Hike down and through the paramo and cloud forest to San Gerardo da Dota

Wild Rainbow trout fishing

### **Day 3**

Wild Rainbow trout fishing

in UNESCO Biosphere River Reserve. Top Savegre

### **Day 4**

Hike from San Gerardo de Dota to Providencia following the river

Afternoon transportation to Canas in Guanacaste

### **Day 5**

Machaca float trip

Afternoon transfer to Jungle Tarpon Reserve

### **Day 6**

Jungle Tarpon Fishing

Jaguar camera trap and other wildlife studies

Bird Watching Activities

### **Day 7**

Jungle Tarpon Fishing

### **Day 8**

River cleanup & Tree Planting

Afternoon Transfer to hostel in San Jose for Farewell Dinner

### **Day 9**

Departure from Costa Rica



## Location

Situated amongst a cluster of countries with slightly troubled pasts, Costa Rica has maintained a state of peace and neutrality for the better part of the past 70 years, earning it the nickname the "Switzerland of Central America." In fact, the Ticos (as Costa Ricans call themselves) have even taken this notion of peace one step further by abolishing their national army in 1948 - the first country in the world to do so. But Costa Rica is much more than a political science case study, and the extreme natural beauty one finds in this country will awe even the most traveled nature enthusiasts. Fiery volcanoes, lush tropical rainforests, some of the world's last intact deciduous dry forests, verdant cloud forests, and high alpine paramo are just a sample of the many rich ecosystems that exist in a landmass the size of West Virginia. Biodiversity surveys have shown that up to 4% of the earth's species inhabit the country's many microclimates, and where there is great terrestrial diversity there is often also great aquatic diversity.

Costa Rica is home to an amazing range of fish species. Two oceans and a variety of rivers and lakes equates to the ability to target many different species all within a relatively small geographic space. This pilot trip is meant to put students in direct contact with this incredible angling diversity, starting with Costa Rica is home to an amazing range of fish species. Two oceans and a variety of rivers and lakes equates to the ability to target many different species all within a relatively small geographic space. This pilot trip is meant to put students in direct contact with this incredible angling diversity, starting with delicate dry fly fishing for wild rainbow trout, followed by connecting with an array of warm water exotics including machaca and guapote, and finally the chance to battle it out with a triple digit tarpon.

But fishing isn't the only objective, as students will trek through high elevation cloud forest, learn about the diversity of lowland rainforest and study some of the animals that live there, and finally give back with some river cleanups and tree planting activities.



## Accommodation

Being that Costa Rica is a well established tourism destination also means there are a great variety of available accommodations ranging from rustic DIY-type bungalows to some of the finest eco resorts in the world. This pilot trip will use a variety of different accommodations, from an antique house turned into a sheik hostel to high mountain rustic cottages, a luxury ecolodge to family run and operated cabinas.





## The Fishery and how to prepare

**Target Species:** Rainbow Trout, Machaca, Guapote (Rainbow Bass), Pacific Snook, and Tarpon

**Flies:** Trout: A variety of standard dry flies as well as weighted nymphs.

Machaca: Fruit flies - we have you covered

Guapote & Snook: Medium Streamers and large Woolly Buggers

Tarpon: Larger Streamers

**Terrain:** Small high alpine streams to larger lowland rivers

**Weather:** Cool in the mountains and more tropical in the lowlands. Mornings are generally cloudless & beautiful but be prepared for rain.

**Guides:** Our team of guides are passionate, fun, and will work with you one on one during your time on the water.

**Cast:** We can help you cast but practice for an efficient 40 foot cast.

**Preparing for your trip:** The diversity of the fishery means students will be exposed to various situations. Learn what you can about each species and practice casting light weight rods as well as heavier weight rods with targets. We have one on one instruction throughout the course of your trip that will help to continuously improve skill sets.



## Travel Information

**Airport:** Juan Santamaria International Airport (JSM), San Jose, Costa Rica

**Arrival:** Anytime, but earlier is better to make sure you arrive for the welcome dinner.

A Fish For Change Representative will meet students at airport & group will head to destination in a private shuttle van.

Parents / Guardian will be notified when students arrive at evening destination.

### **Departure:**

Trip Leaders will help students to check into their flights and secure travel needs.

Fly out on any point during departure day. Earlier in the day is preferred.



## Packing List:

### Fishing Gear

**Rods:** 6 - 8 weight rods and a 12wt for Tarpon

**Reels:** Any quality reel with a good drag system and at least 150 yards of 30lb backing

**Lines:** Floating Lines for everything but Tarpon, we recommend intermediate sink tip

**Flies:** Variety of standard trout dry flies, weighted nymphs & streamers as well as larger streamers for Tarpon

**Other:** Fishing Pliers, Clippers, Sun gloves, dry bag, polarized sunglasses

We understand this trip requires a large diversity of gear. If you have questions or are missing something, please reach out to our staff. We are happy to help!

### Personal Gear

- 4 long sleeve shirts (quick dry, sun protection with a hood is recommended)
- 4 quick dry pants
- 2 warm outer layers
- 2 shirts
- 2 shorts
- Pajamas
- 1 lightweight rain jacket/ rain pants
- 1 bathing suit
- Buffs (sun protectors for your face)
- Toiletries
- Bug Spray Sunscreen
- Camera
- Headlamp
- Hat
- Wading boots
- Hiking shoes
- Sandals
- Journal and pen (writing every day)
- Passport, plane ticket, itinerary, cash

# General Considerations

## Currency:

US money is accepted everywhere, but local Colones (CRC) are also good to have on hand. Once you arrive in San Jose exchange \$100-200 for snacks, drinks, and souvenirs.

## Gratuities:

For guides, captains, and local ambassadors helping with hiking and river cleanups, average tip is \$25 USD per day/per angler and is given to FFC leader or local partner for distribution at the end of each day.

## Time Zone:

Central Standard Time Zone

## Laundry:

Laundry will not be available, but we will try.

## Communication:

Student Programs are a phone free zone. Students will have access to their phone for photos throughout the course of the week, but no access to WiFi. Reach out to [info@fishforchange.org](mailto:info@fishforchange.org) to connect.

Family and friends can also follow along on the daily instagram stories @fishforchange and blog <https://www.fishforchange.org/blog> to keep up on students adventures.

## Water Bottle:

Each student is given a water bottle at the beginning of the week. Purified water is available throughout the duration of the trip.

## Emergency Contact Info

Emergencies: [info@fishforchange.org](mailto:info@fishforchange.org) or

All other questions: Heather Harkavy - Director of Operations, [heather@fishforchange.org](mailto:heather@fishforchange.org)  
954-579-3457