THE OSA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION IN ACTION

The Osa Peninsula is one of the last pristine rainforest areas in Costa Rica, and an ideal location to learn best methods in field research and conservation. Approximately 50% of the course is devoted to hands-on teaching of practical field skills, 30% to learning about local threats to biodiversity and observing conservation initiatives in action, and 20% to developing an independent project that teaches participants how to pitch a conservation program grounded in research. Participants spend the majority of their time in the field, learning by doing, taking full advantage of the amazing diversity that surrounds them. Evenings consist of downtime, short lectures, and discussions of select articles. A primary goal of this field course is to impart skills that will benefit participants in any natural environment they choose to work. The Osa Peninsula covers < .0001% of the earth's surface, and yet it contains an estimated 2.5% of the biodiversity of the world. Osa was once an island in the Pacific that eventually merged with mainland Costa Rica around 2 million years ago, which is the reason for ~323 species of plants and vertebrates that occur nowhere else in the world. At the same time, Costa Rica is an ecotourism hotspot for the entire world. Tourism is by far the countries greatest economic sector and source of capital, and there are few holdouts of undisturbed forest left. During this course students will learn how local activism takes place from start to finish and is directly responsible for protecting pristine habitat like the Osa Peninsula. You will also have a chance to contribute to the broader discussion on how to put information in the hands of the people that matter.

LOCATION: The Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica
DURATION: 2 weeks
DATES: December 11 - December 23
APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 6, 2017
CREDITS: 3 credit equivalency
LANGUAGE: English

WEB: https://fieldprojects.org/course/costa-rica/

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