



# **Costa Rica Field Experience J-Term 2024**

# Wednesday, 1/10/2024 - Last day of classes!

What a busy 3 days of JTerm classes! During our three days together, we learned all about the environment and culture of Costa Rica and its people, the history of coffee, how cocoa is harvested and countless other things.

We also talked a lot about our trip and what we should all expect while abroad. Finally,, we started our research for our independent research projects. By the end of the day we were ready to go!



# Thursday, 1/11/2024

Travel day! We had a long day of hanging out in airports and flying in the air. We arrived at our hotel after midnight, and didn't get to bed until 1 AM. The 6:45 AM breakfast tomorrow morning is going to come too quick!





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# Kickin' it on the Rich Coast

This morning we went to a Lasallian sister school in the city of San José. We had a tour around the school, and talked with some of the students about their daily life as a Costa Rican Lasallian student.

## Animal Friends



# Spillin' the Beans: the secrets of the chocolate trade



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## Makin' liquid gold: A drink fit for a king

First we learned the history of the cocoa beans and the origin of chocolate an example being how the Aztecs believed a drink made of cocoa powder and hot water was something from a God. Then, A man demonstrates how you would first take the beans and put them through a process to dry and fertilize them. We got to try the beans in different stages as they would taste bitter and very different in every stage. He would then grind the beans into a powder and mix it with sugar and other ingredients. We then got to make a sort of cocoa drink and try different forms of the bean including different kinds of chocolate with different percentages of pure cocoa.

