There's more to Panama than meets the eye...



Panama is a beautiful country with a diverse array of landscapes and ecosystems. It hosts remote and spectacular rain forests, river gorges, water falls, volcanoes, fertile agricultural areas, coral reefs, pristine remote island archipelago's and tree covered highlands.

Panama also is home to indigenous groups, including the Embara and the Kuna. Gain an understanding of how these people attempt to embrace their cultures and traditions, while also welcoming new ideas and change.

Panama is rich in history, & serves as a global economic engine via the Panama Canal.

However, Panama's richest asset is the people who call this beautiful country home.

Come and join us as we discover what Panama has to offer!

Pana-mania!



Be prepared to learn more about...

- Tropical forest ecology;
- Natural resource management and conservation issues;
- Indigenous cultures in the Autonomous San Blas Region;
- The impact of climate change on tropical environments and cultures;
- Local, regional, international causes and impacts of tropical deforestation;
- Latin American history and culture;
- Agricultural practices and related issues in developing countries;
- Field work, data col-





Panama



Issues in Sustainability and Natural Resource Management

2 Weeks!

Wintermester 2018

January 2-14*
Open to all majors!
Earn University Credits!
Space is limited, register today!

Experience tropical, marine, and urban environments!







Want more information?
John McGee, VT, Dept. FREC
307C Cheatham Hall,
Blacksburg, VA 24061
jmcg@vt.edu | (540) 231-2428

*Dates may be approximate. Concrete dates provided in Fall, 2017.

Program Costs:

Dates: Wintermester, January 1 — January 13, 2018.*

Credits: 3 credits. Open to all

majors

Housing: Various locations, sometimes double occupancy

Costs: \$2,950*. Includes airfare, in country transportation, travel insurance, housing, & all meals while in Panama. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required.

Not included: Tuition (and associated fees), passport fees, vaccinations, & spending money.

Service Learning:

Discover how you can change the world and impact people's lives...

Global Learning:

Your international experience will impact the way that you view the world. You will reassess how your day to day decisions play out in a global community.

The Agenda:

Itinerary:

Days 1 - 3: Panama City where we will be staying in the canal zone. Learn about the history and economic importance of the canal.

We will visit the Canal and the old Spanish Quarters (Casco Viejo) and will spend a day at the Embara indigenous village along the Chagres River (accessible only by boat)!

Day 4: Travel to the field station in the Cocobola nature reserve in 4x4. Orientation, field work, and presentations.

Day 5: Hike through the rain forest with local guides, visit waterfalls, set up cameras in the forest. Assist with wildlife inventories and GPS mapping. with local scientists.

Day 6: Work with researchers with mist netting, wildlife inventories, and wildlife cameras.

Day 7: Tropical forest exercise / tree mapping. Service learning (working on the farm, tree planting, etc.)

Day 8: Visit subsistence farms and nearby villages. Meet families and participate in farm activities. Hike to the river for a swim.

Day 9: Pack up and travel by road and boat to Guna Yala (the San Blas Islands). Learn about the history, culture and modern challenges facing this indigenous group. Sleep in huts on Okotupu, Guna Yala.

Day 10-11: Visit other remote islands by boat. Snorkel and enjoy.

Day 12: Return to Panama City. Wrap up session and dinner on the Causeway.

Day 13: Return home!



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