

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

JENNIFER WAGMAN

Program: UW Spanish Language in Costa Rica, Summer

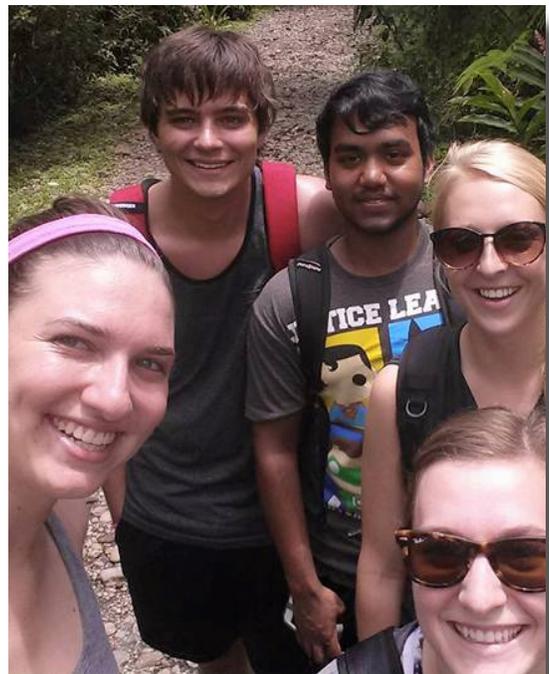
Jennifer's Major: Spanish

Academic Life: Classes were held in a language institute with only UW-Madison students in the specific classes. I took a lot of the intro courses that are required for the Spanish major, but due to the small class sizes I was able to turn the class into an experience that was more fun and unique than any other class I have had. In my literature course, our teacher had us attend a theatrical performance in the city, which was definitely one of the highlights of my experience abroad.

Housing: I was in a homestay experience. It consisted of a three bedroom ranch style apartment house with my host mom and host dad. My host parents did not speak any English. They also had family visit a lot, which was overwhelming, but tons of fun because I got to interact with people from four to 84 years old. I was a short bus ride away to school and the capital city.

Most Memorable Experience: Our group decided to travel and stay at hostels on the weekends, which was where I made my favorite memory. The night we came into Arenal/La Fortuna, our hostel staff advised us to check out the natural hot springs down the road, which was such a surreal experience that I cannot even begin to describe. The next morning, we woke up and went on one of the hardest hikes of my life, two hours up an inactive volcano, where we then proceeded to swim in "Crater Lake."

Advice to Someone Considering Costa Rica: Speak as much Spanish as possible. Travel and take advantage of all of the cool cultural things in San José. Never be afraid to ask questions.



Jennifer (left) before a hike with friends.

“Being abroad, I learned about myself in a way that I never thought I would.”

