

PITZER ALUMNI ABROAD PROGRAM

Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology

Information to Assist you with Travel Preparations and Visit

1. **Meals:** Most of your meals will be provided at Hacienda Baru. If you have any special dietary restrictions, please let us know in advance.
2. **Power Outage:** In case of power outage, each bedroom at Hacienda Baru is equipped with a candle and matches or flashlight.
3. **Computer and Wireless Network:** No computer access or wireless network is available at Hacienda Baru. Guests may bring a laptop and access the Internet through the FCRE wireless network at our Ecology Center. To access the network click to connect the RACSA service visible on the desktop of the computer at the Program Office. Power outages are frequent so please regularly back up your work on a CD or memory stick. You are responsible for the safety and well-being of all computer equipment you bring to the FCRE and for helping to maintain the safety and well-being of the FCRE computer equipment.
4. **Emergencies:** For a security emergency at the FCRE, please contact the Dominical Police at 2787-0011, call Greddy Arias, our caretaker and farm worker at 2787-0207, and also call the director of the program Isabel Argüello at her cell phone 8336-8417.
5. **Telephone, Radio and Cell Phone Use:** There is a pay phone at the Hacienda Baru Office. For long-distance, please use a calling card or dial ATT International Access Code for Costa Rica (0-800-011-4114).
6. **First Aid:** A First Aid Kit is located in the FCRE Program Office and Ecology Center Science Laboratory. A small First Aid Kit (green with an orange cross) is located in the Teaching Pavilion at the top of the property and contains emergency numbers as well as very basic medical supplies.
7. **Plugging in electronic equipment.** Voltage in Costa Rica is the same as in the US. You may plug in hairdryers, computers, and other equipment with the same plugs as you use in the US. Hacienda Baru does not provide hairdryers or irons for guests.
8. **Hospital and Clinic:** The closest hospital is in San Isidro. The name of the hospital is Escalante Pradilla. It is located in front of the Stadium in San Isidro. To reach an ambulance, call 2771-5599. The closest ambulance service is in San Isidro, which is 35 kilometers up the road from the FCRE. The closest private clinic is in Dominical. It has a physician and a nurse. Open hours and days are from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. The name of the doctor is González Arellano. The clinic telephone number is 2787-0129. There is also a public clinic in Platanillo called an EBAIS. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All services from this clinic are free, but it would be helpful to the clinic for you to provide them with a donation of about \$10 in case you need their services.
9. **Pharmacy:** There is a pharmacy in Dominical. Open hours and days are from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday. From 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday. (Closed on Sunday). The pharmacy telephone number is 2787-0197.
10. **Critters (animals):** Keep all opened food items stored in the plastic tub, refrigerator, or in zip block bags. An open candy bar in your bedroom is an open invitation to ants! Check your bed for spiders or other critters before entering it. Same for the shower. Frequent visitors

include ants, toads, geckos, and spiders. Less frequent visitors include bats, rodents, snakes, scorpions, and stray dogs. Do not pet stray dogs. They may not be “pets,” and you may be bitten.

11. Drinking Water: Although Costa Rica, in general, has good water quality, we recommend drinking bottled or filtered water.
12. Walking to Dominical You can walk to the town of Dominical in about 25-30 minutes from Hacienda Baru along a dirt road. Since there are not sidewalks or shoulders on the road, walk facing traffic and exercise great caution. We recommend against hitchhiking unless you know the driver of the vehicle.
13. Keeping Things Dry: This is a challenge at the FCRE. We recommend you bring paper work and books in a zip lock bag with a silica packet in each bag. Bring extra plastic bags for keeping wet clothes until you can wash them and storing wet and muddy footwear.
14. FCRE Equipment: If you walk on the FCRE property beyond the Program Office or Ecology Center, we require that you wear sturdy rubber boots or snake gaiters for protection. We recommend you bring your own boots or that you have water-proof hiking boots to wear with the snake gaiters. We have a limited supply of rubber boots and snake gaiters to lend to guests. After use, wash them off on the outside, put the boots back on the boot rack, and hang gaiters up to dry on the clothesline behind the faculty suite.
15. Snake Protocol: A potential danger to personal safety at the FCRE is being bitten by a venomous snake. Please read the “Jose Pronto” emergency system included in this Guide for Visitors in English and Spanish. A stretcher for use in transporting the injured is located at the Caretaker’s House (Caretaker: Greddy Arias and his wife Jackeline.) Please feel free to ask Greddy for help in case of emergency. Say JOSE PRONTO. The word for snake in Spanish is serpiente.
16. Taxi: Dominical has one official taxi driver. The name of this taxi driver is Nelson León. His cell. phone is 8347-2020. There is a taxi stand in Dominical. Please note that some of the taxi drivers at the stand are piratas (illegal taxi drivers). Their taxis are often uninsured and may be unsafe. The drivers may not be licensed.
17. Local Car Rental: You may rent a car in Dominical at ALAMO RENTAL CAR. The telephone numbers of this rental agency are 2242-7925 or 2777-3344.
18. Program Director’s Vehicle: The Program Director owns a vehicle and provides transportation in case of medical emergency for the program. Guests may not request transportation services from the Program Director unless it is a case of medical emergency that cannot be served by an ambulance.
19. Farm Utility Vehicle: The Firestone Center owns a Kawasaki Mule 4 x 4 to assist with medical emergencies and the work of the reserve. Greddy Arias is the only authorized driver. It may not be used for routine transportation on the Firestone Access Road or off the Firestone Property. Faculty, staff, students, and visitors are not authorized to drive or otherwise use the vehicle.