



SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURE IN PANAMA

SAMPLE PROGRAM

DEVELOPED FOR CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO



LEARN FROM TRAVEL

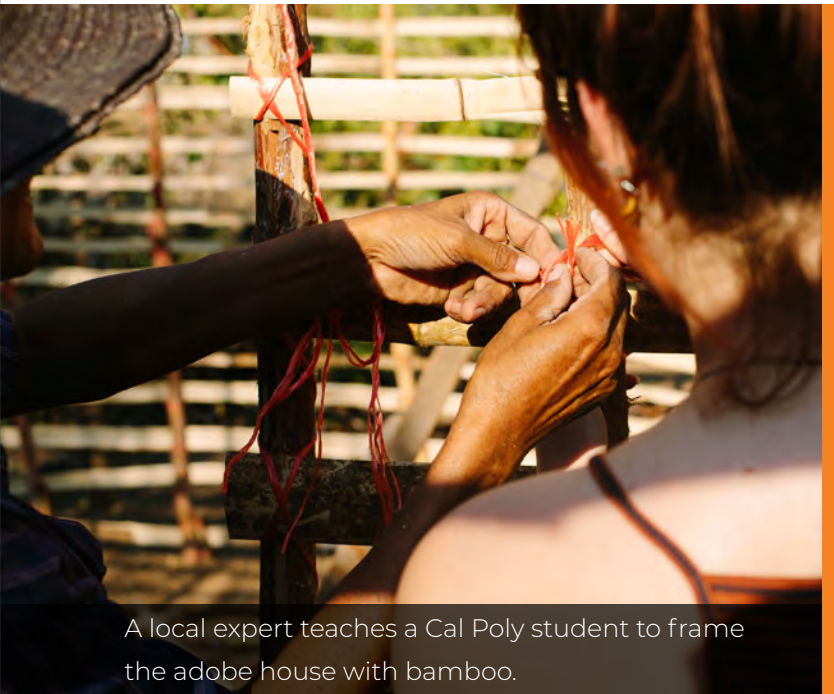
ABOUT LEARN FROM TRAVEL

Learn from Travel is a social enterprise founded by Roman Yavich, an expert in community-based global learning, with more than a decade of experience in community development in Latin America. With a mission to enrich the traveler and the host, Learn from Travel aims to make a positive economic impact on the host community while providing unique field-based learning and cultural exchange opportunities to students.



Our strength is facilitating sincere and unforgettable interaction with the local community.

PROGRAM SUMMARY



A local expert teaches a Cal Poly student to frame the adobe house with bamboo.

This faculty-led study abroad program in rural Panama allows students to learn about sustainable construction and design through a hands-on construction project and site visits guided by architects. Students learn from rural Panamanians traditional adobe construction techniques while building a small house. In addition, students learn from some of the top architects and designers in Panama, and visit unique examples of sustainable tropical architecture, the Panama Canal, and Panama City's historic center. Curated free time and recreational activities compliment the academic itinerary.



Cal Poly students and their Panamanian hosts in front of the adobe house they built with the local community.



Community members mash clay to prepare it for construction. More than 50 neighbors and friends joined the construction project.

<h3>Program Objective Provided by Faculty Leader</h3>	<h3>Relevant Program Experience</h3>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Examine sustainable methodologies and technologies in the built environment. 	<p>Adobe house construction project led by local rural residents.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Explore long-term solutions to social, economic, scientific, mathematical, artistic, and/or commercial problems. 	<p>Conversation with architect of hotel that employed former gang members during the construction and as tour guides.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Analyze the benefits and detriments of energy, water and material use. 	<p>Bench construction project with plastic bottle “eco-bricks” led by local a Peace Corps volunteer.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand ethical and policy issues in design and construction. 	<p>Visit to the Panama Canal and discussion on the politics and ethics involved in its construction.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Gain an understanding of new and emerging technologies used in the built environment. 	<p>Engineer-guided visit to two LEED certified buildings in a campus repurposed from an army installation.</p>

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival. Transfer to Los Santos Province and rural La Miel community. Preparation of clay for construction. Group dinner with community and local volunteers.

Day 2: Full day adobe construction project with local residents and volunteers. Group meals shared with local community.

Day 3: Optional surf or paddle board lessons or equipment rental. Beach day.

Day 4: Return to La Miel for construction of bench with “eco-bricks” guided by local Peace Corps volunteer. Afternoon visit to swimming hole with local residents.

Day 5: Guided tour of sustainably designed and constructed buildings with world-famous architect and designer. Afternoon recreational activity options include: surfing, horseback riding, hike to waterfall, or relax at the beach.



Panamanian architect Hildegard Vasquez presents her work

Day 6: Guided tour of permaculture farm. Transfer to Panama City. Group dinner in historic center.

Day 7: Tour with architect of the recently remodeled American Trade Hotel in the historic center. Tour of Panama Canal locks and museum and City of Knowledge, innovation and logistics hub repurposed from an old US Army base.

Day 8: Departure.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



“People think that traveling abroad is fun but they don’t know that it is actually life-changing. So be ready.”

— Gabriela, Cal Poly 2018

“Learn from Travel provided me with an experience I could not plan on my own. From cultural interaction, to developing academic skills, to new relationships, this was truly an unforgettable trip.”

— Dante, Cal Poly 2018



World class architect Andrew Coates presenting on his sustainable tropical design

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Cost:

Program fee is usually in the range of \$1,300 - \$1,900 per student, depending on the number of students, the number of free seats for faculty, and the nature of the itinerary.



Eco-brick bench construction project led by a Peace Corps volunteer

Program fee includes:

- ✓ In-country costs of faculty leader
- ✓ In-country transportation
- ✓ Lodging in multiple occupancy for students and single occupancy for faculty
- ✓ Meals as listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Activities as described in the itinerary including entrance fees
- ✓ Unique, customized, culturally-immersive and experiential itinerary to compliment course material
- ✓ Guide and translator with the group the entire program
- ✓ Carbon offset for air travel



Learn from Travel

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