

## What I Learned

- Travelling abroad and navigating a foreign country alone
- Living remotely with basic amenities and cooperating with others
- Identification of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles based on morphology and behaviors
- Data collection techniques



## Why I Chose This Project

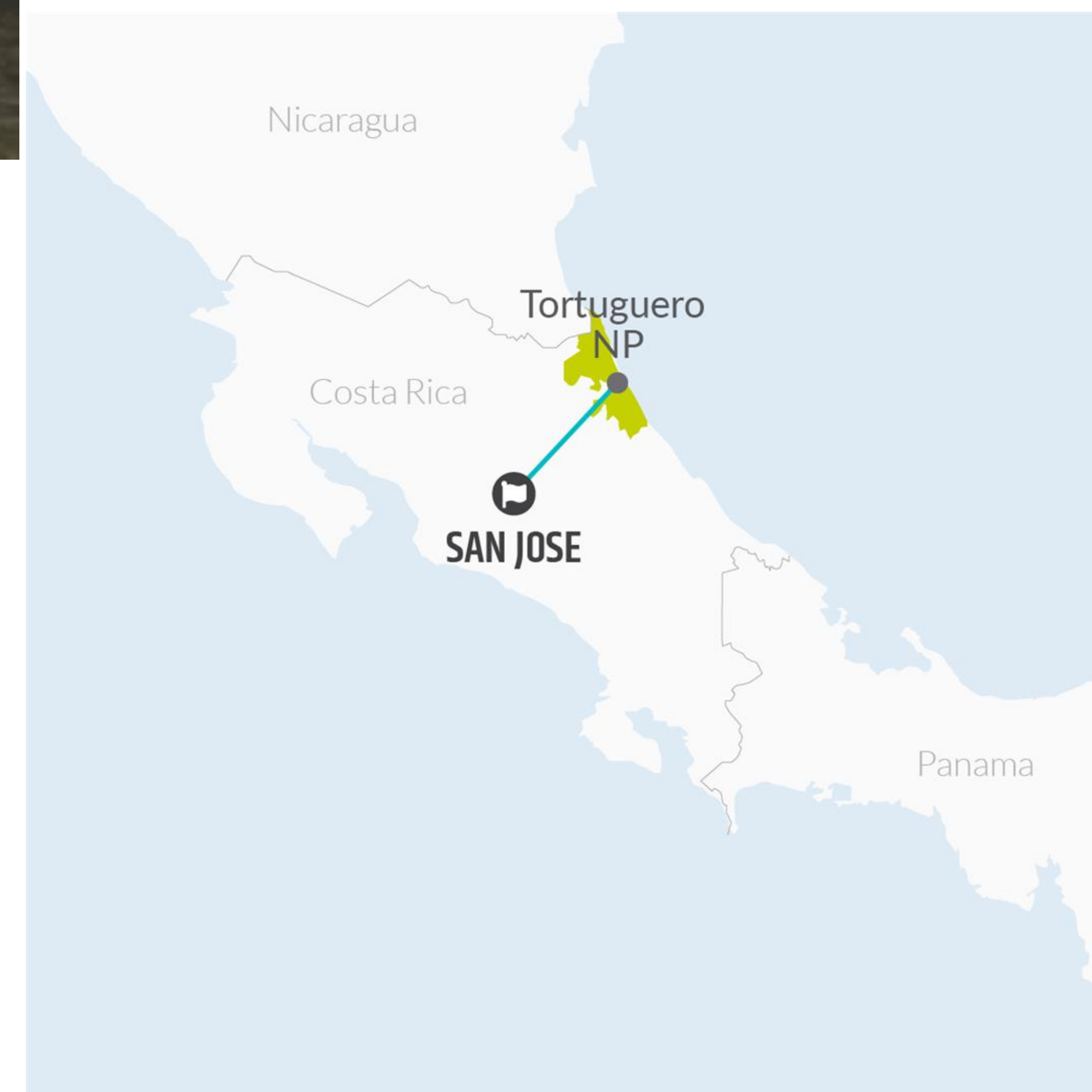
- I have a passion for animals and their welfare
- Opportunity to travel somewhere new and experience a culture different from my own
- Desire to learn more about conservation and get hands-on experience with data collection
- Chance to serve animals and people while having fun at the same time

# Sea Turtle Conservation in Costa Rica

- Conservation program in Tortuguero National Park
- Jalova, Costa Rica
- Participated in training and surveys contributing to the conservation of sea turtles, canal birds, jaguars, and other exotic wildlife

## Transformational Aspect of My Project

- Stepped outside of my comfort zone and gained independence and confidence
- Living and working with people that did not necessarily share my beliefs and opinions, but still treating them respectfully
- Mentally and physically demanding conservation projects
- Gave me clarity regarding career choice and inspired me to care more about conservation of endangered species



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**STEP Project Category:** Service-Learning

**STEP Faculty Member:** Yecenia Diaz

**Major:** Zoology



## Favorite Part(s) of My Experience

- Meeting people from all around the world and hearing about their lives and experiences
- Learning about the native Costa Rican fauna and getting to see animals undisturbed in their natural habitat



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**STEP**

Second-year Transformational Experience Program