

#keywomeneducators DKG California Highlights

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About six months ago, a colleague told me about Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO), a nonprofit that provides affordable travel programs for teachers. She described it as "budget travel for teachers" and recommended Iceland for my first trip. It was the perfect scenario for me! I had already traveled so much, I may as well save money and earn professional development credit while doing it!

Like most teachers, I don't have time to plan complicated vacations. Thankfully, GEEO kept us on track and informed us of everything we needed to know. To my surprise, GEEO also accommodated "teacher hours" by having customer service available until 6 p.m. PT/9 p.m. ET, as well as on weekends. All my inquiries were answered promptly. Before I knew it, school was out for the summer and we were enroute to Costa Rica.

Once we met up with our group, the bond was immediate. There's something special about being with people who understand the challenges of the education field but are also inquisitive and eager to learn about their destination.

As the trip progressed, I realized we were in good hands with our knowledgeable tour leader, Ronald. As a group of knowledge-hungry teachers, we had a plethora of questions. Not only did Ronald answer our questions, he went above and beyond to educate us. From his funny personality to his helpful recommendations, he was superior. Having free time in a foreign country can be intimidating if you don't have the support of a considerate tour leader, but he helped us to feel like locals.

By the end of the trip, it was difficult to say goodbye to the group. To this day, we still communicate in our WhatsApp group message. The theme lately has been "first day back to school experiences." We're even planning a Zoom get-together to discuss taking another trip together.

As a District English Language Development Specialist, I'm excited to share my trip with my colleagues and introduce more teachers to GEEO.

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