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2009-10 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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9-8-2009

## First Few Weeks in San Ramón

Emily Urness  
*Linfield College*

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# Journals from Costa Rica 2009

2009-09-08 First Few Weeks in San Ramón



Entrada de Los Santos

We have already been in Costa Rica for a few weeks, but it feels like much longer. I can't believe everything we have already gone through! It has been quite the adjustment to live with a Costa Rican family, communicate in a different language, and learn how to navigate the city (after getting lost a few times) with classes on top of it all. It can be overwhelming at times, but it has been a great adventure so far!

We first arrived during the Dia de San Ramon festival, which is the biggest festival in the city during the year. It was a great way to be immediately immersed into the culture of the city. We got to spend the whole first weekend participating in the festival with our families and with each other. On August 30th we got to observe the Entrada de los Santos, which is a huge religious procession (see picture). There were also lots of *ranchos* where we got to try authentic Costa Rican food and buy handcrafted items, such as jewelry and purses. The festival was also filled with lots of music and dancing.

Not to mention, we have already gotten to explore the rainforest! Last Saturday, we went to the biological reserve in San Ramon. It felt like we were in Jurassic Park :) We learned all about the Reserve, and also saw lots of birds, insects, and frogs. We didn't see any monkeys or snakes, but maybe next time. We have already experienced so much, and I think we are all excited to see how much we learn and grow as we continue this semester in Costa Rica.

Emily Urness, Mathematics

Linfield College Semester Abroad Program in San Ramon, Costa Rica