The SEE-U course in Brazil is hosted by the Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) at its Brazilian Center for Conservation Biology.

IPÊ is headquartered in Nazaré Paulista, São Paulo State, and is considered the third largest NGO in Brazil. The Institute, which began as a project to study the black lion tamarin, today comprises more than sixty professionals working in thirty projects throughout Brazil. For more on IPÊ visit www.ipe.org.br

The Institute is located in Brazil’s Atlantic Rainforest, a tropical forest that is considered one of the most threatened ecosystems of the planet and one of the Conservation International’s 25 biodiversity Hotspots.

The landscape around the Institute is a mosaic of forest, pasture, eucalyptus plantations, and reservoirs. There’s a network of backcountry roads running through small valleys and over what can be very steep hills. These offer excellent routes and views for hikes and mountain bike riding. The reservoir is open for swimming and kayaking. Adjacent to IPÊ is a small organic farm, which is the source for much of the great variety of fresh vegetables used in meals prepared for the class.

During SEE-U students will travel for one week to the coastal area of Picinguaba, located in Serra do Mar State Park. Here students will learn about coastal ecosystems such as restinga, mangroves, jatobá, and the marine. This week is capped off by an evening in historic Paraty.
Accommodations

São Paulo, BRAZIL

Students will live at the IPÊ headquarters in Nazaré Paulista. There are three main buildings on the campus. Dormitories are double occupancy and single gender. Four students share a full bathroom connecting two dorm rooms. Dormitories overlook the reservoir and courtyard. Linens and towels are provided in dormitories which are changed twice a week. Laundry service is provided weekly.

The kitchen and sala are the second building. All meals including daily coffee breaks are served in the kitchen, and the sala acts as a secondary classroom and lounge area with wireless internet and TV. The final building is the classroom where all lectures and lab work are carried out. The campus lies within a small surrounding village with lots of rolling trails.

For the week on the coast, we stay in dormitories located in Serra do Mar State Park in Picinguaba. Rooms are single gender and bunk beds (one room for females another for males). Meals and classroom activities are held in a sheltered, open air area directly outside the dormitories.

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