

Spanish Immersion with a Shallow Pocket

Language Magazine's recommended destinations for students on a tight budget

Mexico

Mexico, home to more than 100 million Spanish speakers, is the most obvious (and closest) immersion destination for the budget-conscious American language learner. Mexico offers great opportunities to study Spanish at an extremely affordable price.

Fees for Spanish classes in Mexico vary depending on the location, the program, and the extras offered. As a general rule, tuition fees range from \$125 to \$200 a week for two to four hours a day of instruction; private lessons range from about \$180 to over \$360. Expect to pay a one-time registration fee of \$75 to \$100 on top of that. Homestays cost about \$125 to \$200 a week, depending on the number of meals and whether rooms are shared or private.

Schools

Cactus Language has been running Spanish courses around the world for over 10 years and has an established network of specialist partner schools across Central and South America, from Mexico to Argentina. Each of its schools is chosen to ensure the highest academic standards for Spanish teaching, with an emphasis on developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students of all ages and backgrounds take lessons, from group lessons to more intensive, one-to-one instruction. Cactus advisors can tailor learning options, as well as offer in-depth knowledge of a wealth of Latin American destinations, from Sosua to San Juan.

Cactus also offers special language and activity holidays which are really popular, helping students learn more quickly by taking part in a particular hobby or passion. Cactus also runs a wide variety of volunteer projects around Latin America, such as coastal conservation in Pisco, or community work in Quito.

Located in the quiet town of Tlaquepaque, a suburb of Guadalajara 20 minutes away from the city's center, **Guadalajara Language**

Center is an English and Spanish language institute, which believes in providing a relaxed, informal yet professional environment in which to learn. Staff members are always on hand to personally answer any queries or problems that a student may have. At GLC, they encourage plenty of extra-curricular activities, so that students get as much "field" practice as possible, including the opportunity every Friday afternoon to take an excursion with their tutor to a local place of cultural interest.

IDEL (Instituto de Idiomas y Culturas Latinoamericanas AC), located in Cuernavaca, was founded 36 years ago with the goal of teaching Spanish successfully in the shortest amount of time possible. The Intensive Spanish Language Program consists of various levels: elemental, basic, intermediate, advanced, and superior courses. There are four options of studying any level: 25 hours a week, 15 hours a week, private lessons 25 hours a week, and also a customized schedule option. Classes are year round, starting every Monday.

The **Instituto Mexico-Americano de Cultura** (IMAC) Spanish school in Guadalajara also has over 35 years of experience in language instruction. Within their program, there is an impressive array of Spanish courses. From conversational to specific purposes, they address such needs as: Spanish for Business and Finance, Spanish for Teachers, Spanish for Medical Personnel, Spanish for Social Services, etc. IMAC is an organization accredited by the Mexican Board of Education and the Secretariat of Foreign Relations, devoted to promoting international goodwill through education and the teaching of languages.

OLÉ Center for Spanish Language and Culture is a privately owned school founded in 1996, and is located in the heart of the his-

