



Language Link Line
JANUARY 2015

Language Link
Your Pass to
Spanish Learning

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Full details of all programs on our website including fees and dates:
www.langlink.com

***Travel is the only
thing you buy
that makes you
richer.***

Been There, Loved That

Comments from recent participants in a multi-country South America program

I greatly enjoyed my time in Quito. I had a lot of fun in Santiago. I absolutely loved Buenos Aires. Had a wonderful time in Montevideo. Thanks for everything, Language Link! It's been wonderful. – Tim Walsh, College Student, Onaska WI

All in all, my time in South America was incredible. I will never forget the memories, stories, and experiences I have seen. Thank you, Language Link, for helping us set it up. We were blessed to have no major problems and a smooth viaje. I have learned and understood so much about the culture of Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. *¡Increíble!* – Ethan Brooks,

Hints and information about learning Spanish and the people who speak it. Published every other month

What do we do? We represent 20+ Spanish schools in 8 different countries and have sent thousands of people of all ages to study Spanish in countries where it is spoken. Our students learn Spanish and live the culture.

Language Link's Latest

MAKE YOUR PLANS! 2015 will be your year. In addition to our regular programs Language Link has much to offer you with language and culture packages. These are all inclusive, easy and affordable short viajes which our students love! Full itineraries (some coming soon) at www.langlink.com under News on the front page (scroll down a bit). Or write to kay@langlink.com for info.

Winter Getaway in Cuernavaca Feb. 7...soon, but not too late to make your plans and contact us. \$850. Escape the cold. And did you know that Southwest is now offering flights to Mexico City with great prices?

One (or 2) week for all ages **Spring Break, Mar 7 - 28 or April 8 – May 2**, in Cuernavaca. \$850. Don't waste your spring break...do something memorable!

Playa y Español in sustainable paradise of **Huatulco**, Oaxaca, Mexico, **Mar 15 – 22**. \$1040. Contact maru.cortes@gmail.com for full info and to register. Tell her you're with Language Link for extra attention.

And for long range planning in 2015

Fiesta de Muertos in Cuernavaca, Oct 26 – Nov 2
Chiapas On The Road, Nov 2 – 9 These two make a perfect combo.

CUBA deserves its own unique mention. We're ready to depart on our licensed legal viaje for U.S. citizens on Feb 23, quickly filled to capacity. Recent changes were announced by President Obama, and those will re-establish diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba, among other openings. However, the embargo can only be lifted by the U.S. Congress, and the new rules mean that general Cuba tourism is still not permitted for Americans. You can legally go to Cuba through our license, and many now want

College Student, Janesville WI

The teachers made learning Spanish as fun as it can possibly be. ...The instructors were prepared and were good at helping the students along as they tried to explain themselves. ...Florencia and Soledad are excellent teachers and made classes fly by while practicing and bettering tough constructions... I really loved the programs that they had taking us out to interesting places in the city to use our Spanish in real life...Well prepared instructors, willing to ask provoking questions, able to find challenges for every student. – Paul Bourman, College Student, Rochester MN

Cocina Cooking

Chimichurri Sauce – a brilliant sauce for grilled beef, pork, chicken, or fish... also superb on empanadas. It has a great story! Legend has it that it was created by a Scot in the 1800 's when Argentina was "invaded" by Irish, Scots and English, mostly on sheep and cattle ranches. A man named James McChurry or close to that is said to have come up with a mixture of herbs made into a sauce. He roamed for commercial reasons, talking his sauce around Argentina with him, and it became Jimmie McChurry's sauce. Since the gauchos could not get the name right it gradually became Chimichurri because nothing sounds like it in traditional Spanish. True? Who knows?

Ingredients: 1 C chopped flat leaf Italian parsley (or can use half cilantro/half parsley), 5 cloves minced garlic, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper, 1/2 tsp chili pepper flakes, 2 T. fresh oregano leaves (optional), 2 T. minced onion, 3/4 C. olive oil, 3 T. red vinegar, 3 T. lemon juice Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor and pulse until well chopped, but not pureed.

Rhythm and Reads

Rhythm In the spirit of South American diversity... *El Canto del Tiempo/Ayahuasca Icaros* by Don Evangelino Murayay: A live recording

to go more than ever, knowing that the winds of change are blowing. This small window may be your last chance to see Cuba as it is today. To accommodate you we have planned another ***Cuba viaje for 2015 – October 19 – 27***. See full information on our website under News on the front page (scroll down) or indicate your interest to kay@langlink.com

Online Lesson

The Rights and Wrongs of Writing

Sooner or later you will find yourself writing a letter in Spanish, as after all, it's an important part of communication. You may be writing to someone involving arrangements or it may be to a personal Spanish-speaking friend. Even if the friend speaks English, you will make major points for showing respect and cultural consideration by making the attempt in Spanish. Hints follow which will help you look good.

Determine if this is a business letter or a personal one. There's a big difference in the style of the two. For a personal letter you can use the equivalent of "dear" – querido, querida or queridos. It's considered better form to follow this with a colon instead of a comma. Ejemplo – Querido Roberto: In the body of the email, know that you are not going to be complete without accent marks and punctuation marks. Maybe it's time for you to easily discover how to convert your keyboard to enter Spanish characters! (Go to Settings.) On most phones you can change to an international mode to send a text or email message in Spanish. Keep your text simple when you write, and write by thinking in Spanish, not English. Remember that you may not be at the level to express yourself as completely and eruditely as you do in English, so stay with simplicity. In your writing never make a cultural assumption such as use an acronym without an explanation. An example would be ASAP – most likely not recognized by a Spanish speaker. Always start off with a greeting and a comment on something such as the weather and asking about the family. Ease into your business, even if it's personal business. Be profuse with courtesy statements. Close with a warm statement such as Mis mejores deseos para 2015. As for a closing phrase, to English speakers these will definitely sound like emotional overkill, but these are what is commonly used. Un abrazo (literally a hug), Un fuerte abrazo (a big hug), Cariñosos saludos (affectionate greetings or regards). With really close friends you can use Besos y abrazos (kisses and hugs), Besos, Con todo mi cariño (affection), Con mucho cariño.

Let's move to a more formal situation such as a business letter making travel arrangements. In this case, don't use the querido (dear or beloved form)...too familiar. An all purpose one is Estimado, Estimada or Estimados. If you know their name, use Sr., Sra. or Srta. Understand that Sra. or Srta. is more a matter of age rather than marital status.

of inspirational sounds during a traditional Ayahuasca (jungle psychotropic) ceremony. The CD comes with a booklet of English translations. Don Evangelino is a Peruvian curandero who opens the doorway to a path of intense exploration of inner worlds and spaces, utilizing the plants of wisdom.

Reads *The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey* by Ernesto Che Guevara: A book by the charismatic Che when he was a 23 year old med student, written on a motorcycle trip through South America, but it is also a rare glimpse into the young mind of a major cultural revolutionary. It presents a sweeping portrait of South American life and is an enlightening human introduction to the people and lands.

OJO

Our ongoing contest is to PLFM of Antigua, Guatemala. One week of all one on one classes and a homestay with meals are yours to win. Remember that to enter all you have to do is send us an email and brief comment as shown in the contest description on our website. You'll then be included in the general drawing. ¡Suerte!

Consider studying in Spain this year! The dollar is stronger against the euro than it's been in nine years, making it one of the best times for Americans to find values in Spain. Language Link states its prices for Spain's programs in euros so that you will get the best exchange rate possible.

Southwest is now flying to Mexico City with low fares. From Orange County CA direct to Mexico DF about \$350 RT.

Likeable Links

If you don't have any name at all, you can just use Estimado señor or Estimada señora. Notice that these are not capitalized here. If the letter is to whom it my concern, use A quien corresponda. Remember the same advice about simplicity and no cultural assumptions. Keep in mind your formats for dates and times. El 22 de febrero a las 18:00h (6:00 pm). Transporte is a good word for things such as pickups. To close the letter a common form is Atentamente (used as Sincerely). If it's someone you know, but still a business situation, you can use Cordialmente. Write away in the right way!

Culture Clips

South America in My Head and Heart

Recently I had the thrill of being in South America in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, even rounding the very tip, tempestuous Cape Horn. Long having a fascination with just the name Ushuaia, I, of course, proudly came away with my T shirt proclaiming that I had been to El Fin Del Mundo. Being close to Antarctica ...well, of course, I had the requisite picture taken with a penguin. Because we also work with schools in Ecuador and Peru, I have visited those countries several times, as well as Chile and Argentina on other trips. But this multi-country trip through different terrain gave me a great sense of excitement, as well as a new appreciation of the continent. It also made me think of our many students who combine locations for their study, as South America is a perfect place to do this. On the left you can see comments from recent participants who created a marathon of four SA countries. As one said....*increíble!*

South America is the fourth largest continent in area after Asia, Africa and North America. (By the way, did you know that Mexico is considered to be in North America and not Central America, as many think.) Its vertical length is 4,443 miles and its width 2,705 miles. It includes twelve countries, and I even dropped in on the nearby British overseas territory, the Falkland Islands. The population of the continent is close to 400 million, and mostly all speak Spanish except the Brazilians with their Portuguese! Which adjective would you use to describe this great expanse? Varied! It's impossible to come up with a generalized composite. The Andes Mountains and volcanos soar grandly with their snow caps, the coasts are hot and sultry, the deserts are arid to the extreme, the jungles are unique in biodiversity, and the lakes in the south are pristinely beautiful. That's the geography, but what about the people? This is the element which so greatly influences each country and dominates its personality and history. In all countries you see the colonial influences of Spain and Portugal, to a greater or lesser degree, depending on the country. In Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, descendants of indigenous peoples provide a rich culture of past significant civilizations. In Argentina, Chile and Uruguay the majority are of European descent which goes beyond

<http://www.southamerica.cl>

<http://www.worldatlas.com/>

[webimage/](#)

[countrys/sa.htm](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

[South America](#)

descent from Spain due to great waves of immigration. The food is varied, the dances unlike each other, appearances dissimilar, ways of speaking Spanish charmingly different, and even personalities unique to each region. It's a rich and tasty stew waiting for you to savor its pleasures in a grand experience.

We hope you enjoyed our news. See us at www.langlink.com. Call us at no cost 800.552.2051, worldwide 309.673.9220. CST 9 to 5 M to F

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