



Language Link Presents A Spanish Learning Adventure

Havana, Cuba

About Cuba

Why Cuba? Because finally everyone, even U.S. Americans, can study Spanish in Cuba through Language Link in a completely legal, approved way. U.S. Americans can now make an independent educational trip under the auspices of Language Link, according to the March 16, 2016, announcement of the U.S. Government.

Not only is Cuba a beautiful country, it also has a population that is very friendly and hospitable in spite of the economic difficulties it has undergone in the past years. It's a country of music, poetry, dance, song and chats. People still have time for each other and for their guests. Cuba is like going back in time to the 50's – vintage cars, a relaxed atmosphere, no hurry. Apart from that, Cuba has a Caribbean climate. All year round you can enjoy its beautiful beaches.

The materialistic climate will take a while to develop, so now is your chance to experience some of the real Cuba before that happens. It is not necessarily the easiest country in which to study Spanish, but you can be assured that it will be one of the most interesting!

About Havana

Havana, or La Habana, is called a city of faded glory, but it is just as much the city of unbridled high spirits. After years of undeniable decline, this impressive metropolis, now included in the UNESCO list of World Monuments, is rising like a phoenix from its ashes. Havana is a city one has to learn to appreciate. It is a melting pot of cultures and races, an open-air museum still under the strict direction of the government. Apart from the picturesque Havana Vieja and the famous Malecón (the immense boulevard that is considered to be the living room of Havana) you should take time to get to know other parts of the city such as Vedado. This is the part of Havana where the host families live and where you will find many art deco buildings that would be considered national monuments in many countries.

Vedado is where all classes and accommodations are arranged. It is a beautiful residential neighborhood and considered as the current Havana downtown, the area of business, commerce and nightlife. It contrasts Old Havana with its cosmopolitan and lively style. The district is very diverse, with a number of cultural centers, restaurants, theaters and parks. There are many opportunities for entertainment. Most banks, airlines and travel agencies are located in this area, making it the most convenient of the city, and it includes the Hotel Nacional, the University of Havana, the National Theater of Cuba and the Colon Cemetery. The distance to Old Havana is just 10 minutes by car (try a vintage car taxi!) or coco-taxi and thirty minutes walking.

OTHER LOCATIONS

Trinidad – Trinidad, due to its history, is a “museum town”, but surprisingly lively place of 50,000 inhabitants. It is the best preserved Spanish colonial town in Cuba and therefore offers a wonderful atmosphere. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its colonial atmosphere, crafts, rustic streets and historical roots transport you to a different time. The town is also close to a beautiful beach and a valley filled with former sugar cane plantations.

Santiago de Cuba – This is the second largest city in Cuba with a population of 420,000 inhabitants. Its large natural harbor has made it an important port for almost five centuries. During the 19th century French settlers arrived and contributed to the melting pot of Haitian, African and Spanish influences that have made this Cuba's most Caribbean city. Santiago represents the origin of all that Cuba means today – revolution, hospitality and music. It is the birthplace of many artists and popular heroes. There are diverse activities combining adventure, trekking and diving with ecotourism.

Why Language Link?

- **25 stellar years of experience in Spanish study trips**
- **A fast, reliable U.S. connection**
- **A safe, legal way to see Cuba**
- **Professional advice from our experienced staff**
- **Arrangements customized to YOUR needs**

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“Cuba is such a beautiful country, and everywhere you go, there's music and people dancing - especially in Havana.”

Julia Sawalha

Travel to Havana

Airport transportation from the Havana airport and return are offered for a fee by the school. Airfare is a situation which is rapidly changing, especially in the area of flights from the U.S. As of March, 2016, U.S. citizens may fly only through Mexico or Canada or on charter flights leaving directly from the U.S., many from Miami. It is quite easy to connect through Mexico City or Cancún. If you prefer to leave directly from the U.S., you will have to directly contact one of the charter companies. They are not always responsive and will only announce their schedule about two months in advance.

About The School

StudyTeam Cuba has offered Spanish courses in Cuba since 1997. Their purpose is to make a Spanish course in Cuba an adventure like never before! Their central office is located in The Netherlands. The programs offered are either intensive mini group classes or individual lessons. All teachers are native Cubans, highly educated speakers and have been well trained in language teaching to foreigners. StudyTeam makes a special effort to have carefully selected host families in the best neighborhoods for a real experience of local lifestyle. There are dance and music classes to be added for a complete immersion in the artistic Cuban culture. Excursions are offered to help make your stay enjoyable and also to directly learn of the rich culture of Cuba.

Style of Teaching: The approach is communicative, with high emphasis on conversational fluency. The cultural level and teaching methods, plus talent and personality, of the teachers have always impressed the most demanding students. Many comment that these are the best teachers they have ever had. Students learn to speak in meaningful, real-life situations.

Levels Offered: All levels of Spanish ability are welcome, from complete beginners to very advanced. You will have an oral and written evaluation at the beginning of your course to ensure proper placement and teacher assignment.

Class Size and Hours: The maximum number of students per class is THREE! There is a minimum of 2. Private classes are available, and Language Link encourages them, as the cost is only slightly more than a group. Group or private classes begin at 8:30 a.m. There is also an afternoon schedule available.

Materials: It is important to note that provided materials are simple, as this is characteristic of the chronic shortages of Cuba. Grammar books are only available during class hours. Students are advised to bring their own pen, paper, the grammar book or other materials of their choice, and a simple small dictionary.

Calendar: Classes can be started any Monday, year round. Any number of weeks is possible, from one to four. To study longer than 30 days requires a visa extension. Please note that only private classes are permitted if your stay is only of one week. Group lessons have a minimum of two weeks.

National Holidays: Jan 1 – Liberation Day, Mar 8 – International Women’s Day, Good Friday of Holy Week, May 1 - Labor Day, Jul 26 – National Revolution Day, Dec 25 – Christmas Day Classes will not be provided on these days, and classes will not be made up (except private classes).



“One of my favorite places I've visited is Havana, Cuba. On my way home from Costa Rica, I did a week in Havana. The colors, the music, the beautiful men and the cars! I love vintage and antique cars and own a couple myself.”

**Megalyn
Echikunwoke**

Academic Credit: This may be available and is in the approval process.

Students Statistics: Remember that this school is just being opened to a U.S. market so we don't have any data to release yet on U.S. citizens. Although people of all ages come to study, the average age of current students is 30 years. They mainly come from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Great Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Japan. There is no maximum age limit. The minimum age is 18, although younger students may study if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Activities

Please note that under the program descriptions, you can do add on programs of cultural and social visits. These are scheduled in the weekday afternoons. There are also dance and music (guitar) classes offered.

- Welcome Meeting – 8:30pm of your first Monday. There will be a general orientation meeting where you will be given much practical information such as where to change money into pesos convertibles (CUC), information about taxis, buses, trains, international phone calls, internet use, nightlife and excursions.
- Every Thursday – 8:30pm. All students gather to make plans for the weekend and to share excursions in taxis.

Because excursions will only take place with a minimum number of participants, Language Link can arrange day tours for you through another contact. These can be arranged and paid ahead of time through Language Link or you contact this agency once in Havana. A few sample excursions are:

- Private full day city tour of Havana (no lunch), \$75 US per person (We recommend arriving on a Saturday and doing this excursion on your first Sunday when it is pre-arranged and prepaid.)
- Shared full day tour to Viñales Valley including lunch, \$85 per person (two hours + each direction)

Other possibilities are: (we can quote a price upon request)

- Pinar del Río
- Soroa
- Las Terrazas
- Rural Outing Sustainable Agriculture
- Local Communities
- Flora and Fauna
- Cigars, Rum and Coffee
- Hemingway's Presence
- Cuba Afro-Cuban Religion



Cuba's capital is known for its many statues, some of which might be unexpected. In the center of John Lennon Park is a bronze likeness of, yes, John Lennon. It was unveiled in 2000 after Fidel Castro declared the former Beatle to be a "true revolutionary."

Courses and Descriptions

It is important to note that classes are always held at a LOCAL HOME, either in the teacher's home or in the house of a host family. Students are informed about the location of their classes upon arrival. In Havana all are in the Vedado area. There is a designated meeting point at Avenida Universidad 456 entre J y K, Plaza de la Revolución, Vedado, Ciudad Habana.

- Group lessons with three participants maximum (minimum of two) of 20 lessons per week, 4 lessons daily. Each lesson is 50 minutes and includes other students at your same level. There is a minimum of two weeks of study for group classes.
- Group Plus, lessons as above, but with two added hours of private classes daily.
- One on one private classes, four hours daily. If you are studying only for one week, this is the required class. You can also add more weeks of private classes.

ADD ONS per week – the following may only be booked with a language course

- Language and Social Projects in Havana – Three visits to provide you with a close encounter with Cuban reality and community projects. Projects can include such as an organic, collective farm, a local artist studio, public hospital, recreational centers, etc. Visits include either social interaction or hands-on experience. Projects to visit are assigned according to availability and are usually held in the afternoons. Your three visits will be spread over two weeks. IMPORTANT—the Social Projects has a minimum stay of two weeks, and an intermediate level of Spanish is required.
- Dance Classes (salsa, son, rumba, mambo) – 1 hour daily, total of 5 hours per week. Teachers for these classes are qualified through the Escuela Nacional de Arte.
- Music Classes (percussion or guitar) – 1 hour daily, total of 5 hours per week. In Santiago voice lessons are possible. The instruments taught are percussion and guitar, depending on the interest of the student. Please contact us with interest for other instruments. The music lessons are in the house of a host family or in the house of the music teacher (because of the instruments). Please note that there might be a small fee for rental of musical instruments. This is paid locally.

Lodging

Your best choice for lodging is a host family stay. Because of the high demand and cost for hotel rooms in Cuba just now, alternative housing is very difficult to arrange. Your Cuban experience will be much more authentic with selected host families who live in spacious homes with some of the highest standards possible. A host family can be an elderly couple, a younger couple with children, a single mother with children, a widow etc. All families have an official license to welcome foreigners into their homes. No family address is provided before arrival, but will be given to you at the meeting point. (This is why we encourage you to do the airport transfer arranged by the school, as your driver will take you directly to this point.)

- Single, double (and twin) rooms, (double rooms must be booked together at the same time)
- Half board (breakfast and dinner) included
- Dinner served 6:30pm – 8pm
- All rooms have air conditioning or a fan
- Most rooms have a private bathroom. We can request, but not guarantee.
- Towels and sheets are provided.
- Laundry is not included, but families will take care of it for a small charge.
- All homes are in the same area and within walking distance to class and from Each other.

As a special Language Link bonus, PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU BOOK CLASSES PLUS LODGING, we have negotiated €25 EUROS deducted from your balance due! This will be clearly shown in your confirmation.

Fees 2016

PLEASE NOTE that fees are given in EUROS. Except for your deposit paid to Language Link, it is not possible to pay in U.S. dollars. Because of the constantly changing exchange rates, we feel it most fair to quote fees in euros. Your deposit will be charged in U.S. dollars at the exchange rate of the day in which we receive your registration. See xe.com for the current euro-USD rate. Your balance is due at least two weeks before arrival. You must do a wire transfer in euros to the school with an account in Spain. We will send full information with your confirmation.

Your deposit is 25% of the registration fee, Spanish classes, dance, music. The school registration fee is €60. This is added to class costs and is part of 25% your deposit.

Your lodging deposit is 10%.

PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DEPOSIT A Language Link RECORDS FEE OF €25. This is necessary due to the administrative cost of a Cuba program.



Cubans refer to the island of Cuba as El Cocodrilo, which translates into the word crocodile. This is because from an aerial view, the island resembles a crocodile.

Language Link Records Fee	€25		
School Administrative Fee	€60		
Course Fees	First Week	Second Week	Add'l Week
Group classes, 4 hours daily, max size 3, 2 week minimum	N/A	€415	€120
Group + 2 hour private	N/A	€585	€180
PRIVATE CLASSES (Recommended by Language Link) Minimum of one week of classes			
All private (4 hours daily)	€325	€475	€150
All private (6 hours daily) package	€385	€595	€210
Add Ons (25% part of your deposit calculation)			
Spanish and Social Projects – 3 visits (do not add 25% deposit for this course.) Can be repeated for more weeks or the 3 visits spread over two weeks		€70	
Dance – 5 hours per week, repeatable per week	€78		
Music – 5 hours per week, repeatable per week	€97		
Lodging			
Single room (by the week, extra night costs €49), 2 meals	€394	€637	€343
Double room (by the week, extra night costs €36), 2 meals	€216	€468	€252
Other Fees	Havana	Trinidad	Santiago
Airport Pickup each way	€39	€10	€20

Registration Form for Havana, Cuba

To register online through our server please go to this school's section at www.langlink.com

You can also email the following information to info@langlink.com. or send by mail to Language Link, PO Box 10633, Peoria IL 61614. You then pay your deposit by check sent to the address above or you can call us with credit card information at 800.552.2051, worldwide 309.673.9220.

Register through Language Link, and you benefit from our professional expertise. You also enjoy fast, easy, knowledgeable communication, as well as a U.S. connection. It's easy. Just complete the registration form, make required deposit with a credit card or send a check. Please contact us at 800.552.2051 if you need help with the form or want to register by phone. You will receive a prompt confirmation and full information with details of your course and all costs. It will also include what you will need to take with you, including all contact information, phone numbers, lodging information and airport pick up instructions. **You will need to wire your entire balance due two weeks prior to your arrival.**

REFUND POLICY—If you have to cancel before your arrival, Language Link will reserve your deposit. We will hold this for a period of one year and apply it toward your next registration. After that it will be forfeited. Once the course has begun, there are no refunds given for courses or lodging except under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the school.

We will contact you within 3 days of receiving your registration, and we will confirm the deposit amount with you before making any charge. Thank you from Language Link for your registration and congratulations on an excellent choice in learning Spanish.

Full Name
Email
Address
City, State or Province, Postal Code
Country
Telephone
Cellular phone
Date of birth
Profession
Emergency contact with email, telephone
Spanish level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)
Arrival Date
Departure Date
Start Date for Classes
Total number of weeks
Course Choices If combining courses or add ons, indicate number of weeks and dates of each
Full day City Tour of Havana before the start of classes? \$75 USD payable directly to the tour guide in Cuba: Yes or no
Lodging
Type (Single or Double Room)
If sharing a room, name of roommate
Special requests for lodging (vegetarian diet, allergies etc.)
Number of weeks of lodging
Number of additional nights
Airport pickup requested – yes or no
If yes, arrival day and date, arrival time with am or pm, airline, flight number and departure city of last flight leg
Calculate your total cost of courses and lodging
Calculate your required deposit as stated at the beginning of the fees page
Indicate how deposit will be paid (check mail in or call in credit card)