



Sámara Beach, Costa Rica



Airport

Fly into Liberia International Airport. Pickup is available at a cost for the two hour drive to Sámara Beach. An alternative is to fly into the San José International Airport. There is shuttle service and a public bus between San José and Sámara Beach (4.5 hours). The school provides a variety of transport packages including an overnight stay in San José.

About Costa Rica

This nation of 3.8 million people has long been popular with Spanish students, thanks to its outstanding natural beauty and political stability. The friendliness of the Costa Rican people and the clarity of their accent make this lovely country a particularly good choice to explore a Spanish-speaking society.

Since dismantling its army in 1948, Costa Rica has turned its resources toward developing a peaceful and healthy society. Known as the "Switzerland of Latin America," Costa Rica continues to invest in democratic institutions and lead peace initiatives. It boasts one of the highest literacy rates in Latin America, and its people enjoy greater life expectancy and health care than those in neighboring nations.

Geographically, Costa Rica is slightly smaller than the state of West Virginia. Costa Rica supports nearly 5% of the species known to the world and has converted nearly one-quarter of its land to protected conservation areas. Within the thirteen national parks and six biological reserves, you can encounter a staggering array of plants and animals, including monkeys, sloths, armadillos, jaguars, and tapirs, vast numbers of amphibians and reptiles, and more than 800 different species of butterflies. Costa Rica is the ideal spot for students interested in outdoor adventure or conservation.

The country's extraordinary emphasis on the value of education means that it has some of the best teachers available in Latin America. The high standard of living brings you safe drinking water, and reliable and easily accessible communication. It's a beautiful country with an amazing natural variety. You can spend weekends lounging on beautiful beaches or in tropical lodges open to the sounds of the jungle. Or you can try something more active like hiking through cloud forests, rafting wild rivers or mountain biking through lush mountains. Or you may want to see an active volcano shooting lava into the night.

Most of all, it's the warmth and gentleness of the people which appeals to travelers and students. The local people are called ticos, and the national slogan is Pura Vida. That says it all, as the closest equivalent is "This is the life!"

Contact Information:



800.552.2051 or 309.673.9220



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Sámara Beach, Costa Rica

About The School

Intercultura of Sámara Beach is a mid-sized Spanish language school established to offer all the advantages of an intensive Spanish language program at a beautiful Pacific Costa Rican beach campus. The administration and staff have many years of experience through the sister campus of Intercultura in Heredia, Costa Rica.

The school prides itself upon its professional staff and high academic standards. Sámara Beach students are also able to enjoy the school's relaxed and pleasant atmosphere with a variety of opportunities to meet and interact with the diverse staff and student body. The school gives students a challenging academic program while also offering a complete range of daily cultural activities.

Intercultura of Sámara Beach offers a wonderful destination for Spanish language enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds who want to experience Latin American and Costa Rican culture to the fullest in a beautiful beach environment.

The school building itself is newer, and your Spanish course breaks will be enhanced by the sound of the ocean waves, as you are directly on the beautiful beach. Classes are held in the custom-built campus close to the town center and services. Each large, airy classroom offers a view of the ocean and has full audio-visual equipment. The school building also offers tropical gardens leading to the sand, hammocks, social areas, TV lounge, kitchen, and study rooms. There is an adjoining large terrace for outdoor activities. The beach provides an ideal place for a quick swim during your break. Occasionally, teachers take students outside the facilities to hold a conversation hour in the tropical garden or on the beach under the shade of a palm tree.

Intercultura is affiliated with many professional development training organizations and has received several professional awards. It is the only school in Costa Rica certified to be part of the UN Global Compact initiative, which includes adherence to guidelines on human rights, environmental, labor and anti-corruption. It has a close association with the non-profit CREAR Association which provides free supplementary education to local school children.

REGISTER EARLY, THIS PROGRAM FILLS UP FAST AND OFTEN HAS A WAITING LIST IN THE WINTER AND SUMMER MONTHS. JANUARY THROUGH MARCH AND JUNE THROUGH AUGUST BOOK MONTHS IN ADVANCE!

About Sámara Beach

In the area of Guanacaste on the sun-drenched Pacific coast of Costa Rica, the sleepy town of Sámara Beach or Playa Sámara is a horseshoe bay boasting what Frommer's calls "the most beautiful beach in the Costa Rica." It is the perfect long white sand beach with shallow, gentle waters and sheltered by palm trees. The seemingly endless beach affords excellent swimming in an ideal warm temperature, surfing, kayaking, snorkeling, birdwatching, and beyond the coral reef - fine deep water fishing. CNN proclaimed: "Forget Disneyland! Costa Rica is the happiest place in the world."

The town of Sámara Beach itself is tranquil and easy-going, but it has everything a visitor could want: a well stocked supermarket, regular vegetable and fish marts, pharmacies, a variety of restaurants, convenience stores, bars, hotels, gym, spa, and two banks with ATMs. The town is not only a charming beach resort, but it is also a thriving fishing and farming community. There are cowboys, and cattle drives, fishing boats returning at sunset, exotic fruit harvests, organic farming, and tree nurseries.

Sámara's laidback vibe allows for rest and relaxation, an almost universal characteristic of the Nicoya Peninsula. There is magic in every sunset when you can sit under a palm tree, feel the ocean breeze and hear the sound of the waves. On some clear evenings there is a small green light, which shows for an extremely short moment, just before the sun disappears. A very short instant that you will remember for a long time. It is an everyday, but unique sunset show.

It is the perfect example of Pura Vida, the Costa Rican phrase which expresses a philosophy of strong community, good spirits, enjoying life slowly, and celebrating good fortune, whether small or large. Sámara Beach is a quiet place where the traditional culture of Costa Rica is not lost, and it is a perfect place to relax and study Spanish.

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Samara Beach, Costa Rica

Students

The minimum age for formal classes is 18, although there is a teen program in summer and a kids camp for younger students in the summer months, and we also welcome teens in organized groups. Coming from all over the world, students' ages are in a complete range, with the majority of older students coming in fall and winter months.



All students receive a free tour as part of your welcome to Intercultura. There are also many complimentary activities included in the cost of your study. These include: Latin dance, yoga, crafts, Zumba, weekly cooking class, weekly music class, lectures and tertulias (informal gatherings), and twice a month film nights.

There are also half day tours and full weekend excursions tours offered for a fee.

Style of Teaching

The primary goal of Intercultura is to teach you the Spanish language in a warm yet intellectually challenging environment. Classes are conducted entirely in Spanish, providing students with a complete and intensive learning experience. Intercultura's professors have advanced university degrees and teaching certification, as well as being native Spanish speakers. The Communicative Approach which is used actively engages the learner in the class-room. This system of teaching puts the focus of learning on the learner, meaning that he or she is an engaged and active participant in the language acquisition process. 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 both a written and speaking evaluation at the beginning of your course to ensure proper placement.

Class Size and Hours

The maximum number of students per class is 6. Private classes are available except for summer months. Classes are held on an alternating morning-afternoon schedule to allow you lots of beach time!

Materials

Materials are provided by the school and are available for purchase. Intercultura uses its own language textbooks, videos, plus supplementary texts, current events materials, newspapers, films, news programs, literature, interviews.

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Calendar

Start classes any Monday year round. No makeup days or classes held on official holidays.

2024 School Holidays: January 1; March 25-30; April 10; May 1; July 25; August 15; September 15; December 1; December 22 to January 3, 2025



Study Spanish and volunteer at our beach campus in Sámara

If you are interested in less structured volunteering or only wish to study at the beach campus, you can inquire after arrival about opportunities that may arise while you are here, such as: beach & town cleanups; adoption events at the local humane society; kids camps, etc.

These options cannot be pre-booked, as they vary throughout the year depending on what is going on in the Sámara community at any given time.

VOLUNTEERING WITH ANIMALS

Wildlife and Conservation

Work at a turtle refuge, volcano national park or animal rescue center.

Experience Costa Rican nature by working and living in a remote but beautiful area, where life is simple and your memories priceless. We have several placements in stock and many of them are offered year-round.

Please note that you must study at least one week prior to volunteering, have a basic grasp of the language and there is a placement fee.

COURSES

- Group – four daily hours M-F in group of maximum 6
- Group Plus One – 4hours daily of group + 1 hour daily of private, not available May through August
- Group Plus Two – 4hours daily of group + 2 hours daily of private, not available May through August
- All Private Four – 4 hours daily of private classes, content can be adapted to specific needs, not available May through August
- Children's Program for minors travelling with guardian: Indoor-Outdoor Spanish Camp Classes, 4 hrs/day, M-F. Dynamic, Active Learning Program
- Teen Summer Camp (13-17 years) 20 hrs group or 15 hrs private Spanish classes, homestay w/ 2 meals, volunteer placement, student advisor, cultural activities. Optional: tours (extra cost). All inclusive and supervised program.



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Accommodations

Host Family

Homestays with selected Costa Rican families from Heredia are highly recommended as the most effective way to practice your Spanish. Even if they know English, they are committed to not speaking it to you, and you will be fully integrated in both the language and the culture. In this way your progress toward fluency will be greatly accelerated.

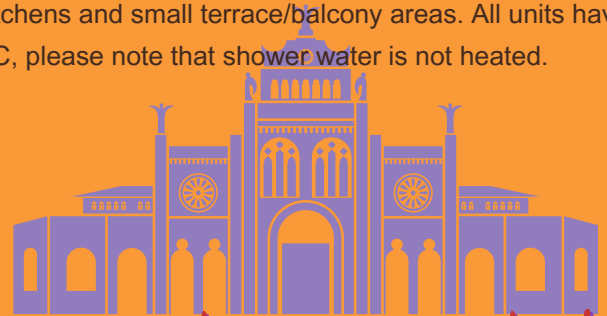
Your homestay includes two meals daily of breakfast and dinner, and laundry service is included. Probably the most valuable aspect of the homestay experience, however, is the opportunity to really get to know a Costa Rican family, making many new friends and experiencing firsthand the famous Costa Rican warmth and hospitality!

All homes are within walking distance, and you will have a private bedroom. Special diets such as vegetarian can be accommodated.

There is limited availability of private bathrooms, but these can be requested at additional cost during low season only.

Residence Hall

Private rooms and private bath & some with private kitchens and small terrace/balcony areas. All units have AC, please note that shower water is not heated.



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2024 Price List

SÁMARA BEACH, COSTA RICA

YOUR DEPOSIT IS 20% OF COURSES AND LODGING (EITHER HOMESTAY OR HOTEL). YOUR DEPOSIT IS PAYABLE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION AND IS DEDUCTED FROM YOUR TOTAL COST.

COURSES

- GROUP COURSE 20 HOURS PER WEEK M-F **\$350**
- GROUP COURSE PLUS 1 HOUR DAILY PRIVATE **\$500**
- GROUP COURSE PLUS 2 HOURS DAILY PRIVATE **\$650**
- KID'S & TEENS SPANISH CAMP **\$365**
- ACADEMIC TEEN IMMERSION
(EXCURSIONS CAN BE ADDED ON) **\$590**
- VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT FEE **\$99**

ACCOMMODATIONS

- HOMESTAY 2 MEALS, PRIVATE ROOM PER WEEK **\$205**
- HOMESTAY 3 MEALS, PRIVATE ROOM
(PRIVATE BATHROOM) PER WEEK **\$266**
- RESIDENCE HALL PRIVATE ROOM WITH
PRIVATE BATH, SHARED KITCHEN **\$406**
- RESIDENCE HALL PRIVATE APARTMENT WITH
PRIVATE ROOM, PRIVATE BATH, PRIVATE KITCHEN **\$580**

AIRPORT PICKUP

- ONE PERSON, LIBERIA AIRPORT (2 HOURS) **\$130**
- PRIVATE TAXI TRANSFER FROM SJO AIRPORT TO
ACCOMMODATION IN SÁMARA (4-5 HOURS) **\$250**

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Fillable Registration Form Language Link Spanish School Registration

We are always available for your questions by email or phone message.
Enter information in each space below. TWO PAGE FORM

Location where you want to study

Arrival date

Departure date

Full name

Email

Address

City, State or Province, Postal Code

Country

Cellular phone number

Date of birth

Profession, current or past if retired

Emergency contact with email and phone

Spanish level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)

Start date for classes

Total number of weeks

Course Choices If combining courses or add ons, indicate number of weeks and dates of each



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PAGE TWO OF SPANISH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Academic credit requested: Yes or No

Lodging (host family w/single or double, residence hall w/private or shared, apartment, own plan)

If sharing a room, name of roommate

Special requests for lodging (vegetarian, food or pet allergies, etc.)

Number of lodging weeks

Number of any additional nights

Airport pickup requested for cost: Yes or No

If yes, arrival day and date, arrival time with am or pm, airline, flight #, & departure city of last leg.
(This information can be provided later if not available now.)

Calculate your total cost of courses and lodging (or let us do it for you)

Calculate your required deposit (or let us do it for you)

Deposit can be safely paid with credit card. MC, Visa, Discover, AMEX or Zelle.
Not every course and lodging option available at all locations.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO info@langlink.com

We will contact you as soon as we have confirmation of your study from the school.
(usually 3—7 days). Once payment is received we will send you full confirmation details.