

Heredia, Costa Rica



About Costa Rica

This nation of 3.8 million people has long been popular, 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 than in neighboring nations. 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 encounter a staggering array of biodiversity - plants and monkeys, sloths, armadillos, jaguars, 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. It's a beautiful country with amazing variety. You can spend weekends lounging on beautiful beaches or in tropical lodges in the jungle. Hike through cloud forests, raft wild rivers or mountain bike through lush mountains. Or you may want to see an active volcano spewing fireworks. Most of all, it's the warmth and gentleness of the people which appeals. 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!"

Arrival

Arrive and depart San José, Costa Rica, Juan Santamaría International Airport (SJO). Make sure you are not going to San José, California. If in a homestay your host family provides a complimentary pickup.



Contact Information:

☎ 800.552.2051 or 309.673.9220



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www.langlink.com

Language Link



Heredia, Costa Rica



About The School

Intercultura Costa Rica is a mid-sized Spanish language school which offers intensive Spanish language programs in the friendly university city of Heredia or at its beautiful Pacific beach campus. The Heredia facilities are housed in a renovated colonial home with a custom-built second floor overlooking gardens and mountains. Classrooms are large and airy, and each has full AV equipment. The garden and terrace provide space for activities such as films and lectures.

Intercultura prides itself upon its professional staff and high academic standards. Yet students are also able to enjoy a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere in the school with many opportunities to get to know both staff and other students. Students also enjoy a complete range of cultural activities. It is an ideal learning environment.

Award winning Intercultura is affiliated with many professional development training organizations. 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.

About Heredia

Only 7 miles northwest of the busy streets of the capital San José, is the smaller, less hectic city of Heredia. Located in the central highland region, Heredia is one of Costa Rica's smallest provinces. It is affectionately referred to as The City of Flowers. In the roads above Heredia there are charming little towns surrounded by coffee plantations. Heredia's favorable location provides close access to Juan Santamaría International Airport (even closer than San José), several volcanoes along the Central Volcanic Corridor, and other destinations. Almost everything Costa Rica has to offer can be found nearby.

One of the best places to take in the local culture is the impressive Parque Central. Lined with mango trees, it dates back to the 18th Century. El Fortín, a remarkable brick tower built by the Spanish, stands high over the city with a glimpse into Costa Rica's past. It is common to find locals sitting around the unique park socializing and enjoying the pura vida. You might even bump into one of the thousands of students who attend the Universidad Nacional which is just blocks away.

Starting a trip from Heredia provides great access to several natural attractions. Nearby is the dormant Barva Volcano, located inside Braulio Carrillo National Park. This gorgeous area has hiking trails that will take you all the way to the top of the inactive volcano. To the west you can arrive at Poás Volcano National Park. In both parks you can see the resplendent quetzal bird, along with the flora and fauna for which Costa Rica is famous.

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Students

The minimum age for formal classes is 18, although there is an unaccompanied Teen Program in summer and a Kids Camp for younger accompanied students in the summer months. We also welcome teens in organized groups, and Languae Link has arranged many of these. 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.



Activities

You 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),

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 in the mornings from 8:30 to 12:30.

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

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

2026 School Holidays: January 1, 2; March 30 - April 3; May 1; September 15; December 1; December 21 to January 1, 2027



Osa Peninsula Volunteer Project

A One of A Kind Placement

Exclusive for students at the Heredia Campus, for any ages 18 and up

As a unique opportunity you can participate in Community Outreach & Education, Regenerative Agriculture and Turtle/Environmental Protection programs in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. You will see amazing wildlife, make a real impact in rural communities which truly need your help, and all while you live in a fun, welcoming hostel close to the beautiful beach of Drake Bay. You will also have plenty of free time to explore with your local hosts and new friends, visiting Corcovado National Park, kayaking, biking, horse riding, hiking, or just hanging out in a hammock under a palm tree by the ocean! Corcovado has been named by National Geographic as "the most biologically intense place in the world".

Participants must be 18 years of age and up, be in Heredia studying for at least one week prior and have a basic grasp of the language.

There is a placement fee for volunteering. Volunteers must pay a fee for lodging and board.

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
- Kids and Teens Program (8-12 years) & (13-17 years) For family or adult accompanied with in class learning and outdoor activities based on the group level for 4 hours per day. Active and lively classes. Mini excursions to places around town. Expect sports, arts and crafts, storytelling, outdoor games, treasure hunts, environmental hikes and more. See cost sheet (does not include lodging, but host family stays available)
- SPANISH SUMMER CAMP – TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMP Heredia and Sámara Beach Campus (ages 13-17) For independents, supervised and all inclusive Cross-cultural, communication skills, social responsibility, use of technological tools as an agent for positive change. Fee includes Spanish immersion classes, homestay, hotels on excursions, meals, workshops and activities. This program always fills to capacity every year.
- Academic Teen Immersion (ages 16-17) Independent, supervised, any summer date start customized classes, depending on level in either private or group setting, host family with board with teen of similar age, round-the-clock chaperone support, volunteer program, one weekday cultural tour and all school extra-curricular activities.

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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. If you want to be the only student with the family, we can arrange this upon request. There is limited availability of private bathrooms, but these can be requested at additional cost.

Apartments

The apartments are fully furnished and offer free wifi, all kitchen equipment, sheets and towels. There is a shared roof terrace with a view of the city and the mountains. Also there is shared laundry area. The student apartments are on the second floor above our classrooms.

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2026 Price List

HEREDIA, 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 **\$330**
- GROUP COURSE PLUS 1 HOUR DAILY PRIVATE **\$555**
- GROUP COURSE PLUS 2 HOURS DAILY PRIVATE **\$780**
- KID'S & TEENS SPANISH CAMP **\$345**
- TEENS LEADERSHIP CAMP (JULY) **\$2,790**
- ACADEMIC TEEN IMMERSION
(EXCURSIONS CAN BE ADDED ON) **\$590**
- VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT FEE **\$99**

ACCOMMODATIONS

- HOMESTAY 2 MEALS, PRIVATE ROOM PER WEEK **\$225**
- HOMESTAY 3 MEALS, PRIVATE ROOM
(PRIVATE BATHROOM) PER WEEK **\$295**
- STUDIO APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE BATH,
KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM AND WIFI PER WEEK **\$308**

AIRPORT PICKUP

- ONE PERSON, HOMESTAY FREE **\$0**
 - PRIVATE TAXI TRANSFER FROM SJO AIRPORT TO
ACCOMMODATION IN SÁMARA (4-5 HOURS) **\$300**
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