Antigua, Guatemala

About Guatemala

Guatemala, in Central America, is a fascinating mix of ancient cultures, indigenous color, colonial history and impressive volcanoes. It is a rich country for language learning. Experts believe Guatemala is an excellent country in which to learn Spanish because the speech and writing have fewer adopted English words and slang.

A magical place, Guatemala is sure to please. If you're curious about the Maya, the mountains, the markets or a million other things, you're bound to be captivated. People come and they stay. Or they leave and return. There's almost too much going on here, and even the shortest trip takes you completely different places, with new challenges and surprises.

Although it's the largest country in Central America, the fact that Guatemala is no bigger that the U.S. state of Tennessee means that you can see the best of what the country has to offer in one study trip. However, with its warm indigenous culture and its range of breath-taking settings, many Language Link students return for seconds and even thirds and more.

Arrival

Fly into Guatemala City airport, we recommend that you take the school's airport pickup which takes you directly to your accommodations.

Contact Information:

Language Link

309.673.9220

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SPANISH SCHOOL
PROYECTO LINGÜISTICO
FRANCISCO MARROQUÍN

Kakaw

PLFM Fundación Proyecto Lingúístico Francisco Marroquín

PLFM was founded in 1969 and was the first and oldest Spanish language school in Antigua. It has an excellent reputation for quality and outstanding teachers. The non profit foundation's board of directors are 100% Mayan. All profits from the Spanish school are given to the production of dictionaries and grammars of the many Mayan languages which are spoken in Guatemala. Many of these languages have never previously been in written form in Spanish or English.This is an important way of preserving the Mayan culture. Language Link has been serving as a U.S. office for PLFM for over 30 years, and we proudly serve its cause by having sent several thousand students from all over the world to study in Antigua.

About Antigua

Antigua is a small, charming cobblestoned Spanish colonial city, once the capital of New Spain. Impressive ruins of churches, palaces and other buildings make it the only city of its kind in Latin America. In 1965 it was named a "Monument of the Americas". Situated at 5,000 feet and ringed by volcanoes, it has a perfect climate, never overly warm or unusually cold. The volcanoes are named Agua, Fuego, Acatenango and Pacaya, and it's a special ad-venture to climb them with a secure group. In the town and the surrounding villages, you will find a variety of stimulating places to visit, both during classes and weekends. It is one of Guatemala's top visitor destinations and has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Known around the world as one of the most interesting places to experience Semana Santa (Holy Week), Antigua becomes filled to capacity during this week. There are many processions through the streets of large andenes bearing revered statues from the churches. Streets are blocked off and filled with carpets made of flowers and colored sawdust, a stunning and memorable experience to observe the making of these fleeting objects of beauty. On other days of the year Antigua is a completely walkable small town with an intimate atmosphere and a central population of about 30,000. It is a wonderful place to learn as a beginner or to continue learning Spanish in a great climate.

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Location of the School

The school is located very near the church of La Merced. Because all the classes are one on one, there are many open air cubicles where a teacher sits at a table across from his or her student. There is a main office building and reception area, as well as a large open air court-yard. Because Antigua is a small town, the school is within walking distance of all lodging.

Style of Teaching

The Spanish program is all private classes, one teacher to one student. Classes are conducted completely in Spanish. Teachers are experienced with all levels, including beginners, and all students benefit from the complete immersion techniques. The aim of complete immersion is to enable you to speak Spanish from the first minute. The all private classes allow you to work at your individual level. Flexibility is vitally important. You can pick the area you wish to emphasize such as conversation, comprehension, writing, or specialized fields such as medical or business terminology. The courses are designed to begin with mini-dialogues as a total system for learning grammar, vocabulary and survival skills. Course work focuses on daily life, and your assignments might include reading the local paper, listening to the news, or discussing politics, local entertainment or current events. To ensure quality, all Spanish teachers are native Guatemalans who have taken courses in education. All teachers receive 100 hours of intensive training in teaching Spanish as a second language, and the training is updated every six months. In a one-on-one learning situation, the skill and ability of the teacher are of utmost importance, and PLFM's teachers are highly regarded.

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Known around the world as one of the most interesting places to experience Semana Santa (Holy Week), Antigua becomes filled to capacity during this week. There are many processions through the streets of large andenes bearing revered statues from the church-es. Weighing up to a ton, these are carried by brotherhoods in a cooperative effort. A most interesting sight is that the streets are blocked off and filled with carpets made of flowers and colored sawdust. It is a stunning and memorable experience to observe the making of these fleeting objects of beauty.

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Materials – Textbooks used have been developed by PLFM and are available on loan with a deposit.

If you need documentation of your study including contact hours, the school will be pleased to do this upon request. They can grant a letter grade if necessary and provide a written evaluation of your skills and areas of study. PLFM is an accredited school with the Ministry of Education of Guatemala.

Levels offered – All levels of Spanish ability are accommodated. After an orientation on Monday morning, you will be given a brief oral exam by your teacher to determine your strengths and weaknesses.
Class size and hours – All classes are private. Classes are held for 7 hours daily Monday through Friday (a 4 hour daily program is available in the mornings), from 8:00 am to noon, and then again from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. There are two 30 minute breaks.

Students - Our participants are of all ages, ranging from college age to retirees. Younger children and high school students can also take classes if they are traveling accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Participants come from all over the world, are at all levels of Spanish, and there are many purposes for study. The majority travel alone, although we also have couples, families and organized groups. If traveling alone, it is very easy to meet other students and have a full range of social activities.

The minimum length of study is one week and classes must start on a Monday (if you study less than that you will still pay for the entire week of classes.) Classes are paid for by the week (no pro-rated days for missed classes).

Calendar
Classes start every Monday throughout the year for any number of weeks. If an official holiday falls on Monday, classes will start on Tuesday. These holidays are prorated only if two occur in a four week period of study. There is no makeup given if a day is missed due to an official holiday, nor reduction in tuition.
National Holidays Holidays falling on Saturday or Sunday are sometimes celebrated on the Friday or following Monday.
2026 Holidays: January 1; April 2 (half day), April 3; May 1; June 30; September 15; October 20; November 1; December 25.

Activities: PLFM offers weekly activities for reasonable fees. These include visits to nearby villages, Guatemala City museums, San Antonio weaving cooperative, a coffee museum, a museum of indigenous musical instruments among others, and full day trips to Chichicastenango and Lake Atitlán. and trips to Tikal can be arranged through a travel agency that the school works with and highly recommends.

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Courses and Descriptions

All classes are one on one. If a full day seems too much for you, please remember that you can use the afternoon sessions to walk around and explore Antigua with your teacher as your guide. It's a perfect way to increase your vocabulary and see the town. There is a half hour break in the morning and another in the afternoon. Class choices include:

1. Full day (7 hours) private Spanish, 8 am – noon, 2 – 5 pm
2. Half day (4 hours) private Spanish, 8 am - noon
3. Full day (7 hours) private Mayan language (of your choice), 8 am – noon, 2 – 5 pm

Please note that half days in Mayan depending on availability of teachers. The rarer dialects are not offered for half days.

Accommodations

You can choose to live with a Guatemalan family in Antigua. This gives you an additional opportunity to practice your Spanish and to participate in the culture. It is typical in Antigua for host families to have several rooms for students. All families are within walking distance of the school, have been carefully screened and are constantly evaluated. The accommodations are modest and simple, but each student has his own room, sharing a bath with other students or the family.

Arrangements can be made for families and couples. The cost per person is the same, whether a private or shared room.

All meals are served except on Sunday where no meals are served. Most students arrive on Sunday, but if you need to arrive earlier or stay a day or so later, you will just pay for the additional homestay days on a pro-rated basis.

• Homestay 7 nights, private bedroom, shared bath or private bathroom (extra cost per week), 3 meals daily except no meals on Sundays

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2026 Price List

ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

COURSES

REGISTRATION FEE	$75
FULL DAY 7 HOURS ONE ON ONE PER WEEK	$225
FULL DAY MAYAN CLASSES	$270
HALF DAY CLASSES 8AM TO NOON	$175

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOMESTAY 3 MEALS, EXCEPT SUNDAY	$140
HOMESTAY 3 MEALS, EXCEPT SUNDAY PRIVATE BATHROOM	$160
EXTRA HOMESTAY NIGHTS	$23/ $26

AIRPORT PICKUP

ONE PERSON, ONE WAY	$40
TWO PERSONS, ONE WAY	$55

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