



LEARN SPANISH IN COSTA RICA

The wisest choice!



COSTA RICA
SPANISH INSTITUTE



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COSI is a Spanish language Institute in Costa Rica that offers Spanish language education at all levels, Internships and service learning.

Other services we provide are: airport pick up, home stay, cultural activities, field trips, tours, and internet access.

Two locations: San José and Manuel Antonio beach and rain forest. We also offer a Summer Camp for high school students in a separate location in Heredia.

TEACHING SPANISH SINCE 1994

COSI IN SUMMARY:

1. We offer the unique possibility of taking classes in San José (the capital city) and at Manuel Antonio National Park (beach and rain forest).
2. Mini groups to a maximum of eight students.
3. Our teachers are experts at teaching Spanish to students of all levels and they are trained in OPI – ACTFL.
4. We offer cultural activities and tours at reasonable prices.
5. Our modern facilities house cozy and clean classrooms.
6. We offer volunteer work and internship programs.

STANDARDS OF GOOD PRACTICE

We follow the Standards of Good Practice from the Forum on Education Abroad and the Forum's Code of Ethics for Education Abroad.

The program is organized in accordance with ethical principles and welcomes and respects students and staff regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, or national and ethnic origin.

LOCATION:

COSI has two locations: in San José and at Manuel Antonio beach on the Pacific Coast.

In San José, we are located in a safe, quiet suburb that is a ten minute bus ride from downtown. The address is: San José, Zapote, de Radio Columbia 50 metros oeste y 200 metros sur.

In Manuel Antonio, we are located on a property with a wonderful view. The address is: frente a la escuela pública de Manuel Antonio.



SPANISH PROGRAM:

COSI offers group classes, private tutoring or a combination of group classes and private tutoring in San José as well as in Manuel Antonio.

Classes emphasize oral communication to enhance Spanish speaking skills.

TYPES OF PROGRAMS:

A. Mini Group:

Maximum class size of 8 students. Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 12 noon or 1 to 5 PM, depending on group level assignments.

B. Private tutoring:

Designed for students with limited time or who want to work on specific goals and recommended for students who are only taking classes for one week. Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 12 noon or 1 to 5 PM.

C. Group 4 hrs. + 2 hrs. private tutoring day:

Designed for specific reinforcement of lessons or vocabulary. Group classes from 8 AM to 12 noon, private tutoring from 1:15 to 3:15 PM.

D. Beach and Rain Forest Program:

The same programs are offered as above, but classes take place in Manuel Antonio beach. Students can stay with a host family in Quepos, a small village near Manuel Antonio or students can stay in a hotel

COURSES:

In addition to Spanish classes, the following courses are offered throughout the year in private tutoring sessions:

- Business Spanish
- Medical Spanish
- Intercultural Communication
- Spanish American Culture and Civilization
- Latin American Current Events.





SUMMER PROGRAM FOR TEENAGERS

From June to August, COSI offers an immersion program specifically designed for high school students. This program includes chaperoned supervision, weekly activities and weekend tours. Weekly activities include going to the movies, roller – skating, cooking, doing volunteer work, dancing and taking art classes. Weekend trips include going to the beach, active volcanoes or the rain forest.

OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

All the teachers have excellent credentials in the fields of language teaching and linguistics.

Our staff is trained in OPI – ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and some of the COSI staff are certified testers.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Learning Spanish at COSI is exciting, efficient, and yet relaxed. Our methodology is based on the communicative approach emphasizing conversation. Students at COSI are encouraged to carry out actively meaningful tasks and solve meaningful problems in real life situations facilitating their ability to think in Spanish. Classes are very well-organized and based on lesson plans that follow COSI’s proven effective program.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS

COSI has published its own grammar book, workbooks and additional materials to be used as supplements and reinforcements to what is being taught in class. The books and materials are included in the price of tuition.

SIZE GROUPS

Classes are normally small. It is rare that a class size reaches the maximum of eight students. In the event that no group can be formed, the student will receive three hours of private tutoring per day for the same price as the group program.

STARTING DATES

Spanish lessons start every Monday year – round. The home stay can start any day. Students may start later in the week if they are unable to start on a Monday. The minimum length of attendance is one week and there is no maximum.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

The school is open all year except for January 1st, Holy Thursday and Good Friday during Easter, May 1st, and December 25th. The students do not pay for lessons on these days. Classes are made up on other days of the week.

STUDENTS’ NATIONALITIES

Students come from more than 20 countries, but mainly from the USA, Asia, and Europe. Student ages range from 17 to 80. Most of our students are professionals. In our high school program, the student ages range from 13 to 17.

HOME STAY

COSI offers the opportunity to live with a Costa Rican host family. The home stay includes private room, keys to the house, breakfast and dinner, and laundry service.

APARTMENTS

COSI rents fully furnished apartments with WIFI one block away from the San José facilities. Each apartment has three bedrooms and each bedroom has a double bed. It is possible to rent the apartment or just one room.

HOTELS

Staying at a hotel near COSI is also an option. Please ask for a list of recommended hotels.

CULTURAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Lectures on Costa Rica history and culture are given regularly. Students can also do community or volunteer work, visit museums, the Supreme Court or the nearby universities. Meringue and salsa dance lessons are offered once a week. Most of the cultural activities are included in the cost of tuition. At COSI, students can send faxes, send and receive mail, or surf the Internet at a minimal cost.

For making international calls, we provide a list of numbers to call collect, or students can pay at COSI, or buy international calling cards.

TOURS

COSI students receive discounts on tours to many of Costa Rica’s main attractions. Our staff will be pleased to help you with hotel, tour or rental car reservations and transportation arrangements.

VOLUNTEER WORK AND INTERNSHIPS

There are opportunities to do volunteer work and internships in different organizations and companies.

AIRPORT PICK UP

No matter what time students arrive, COSI will pick them up at the airport and take them to their host family or hotel at no extra cost. When leaving Costa Rica, students make their own transportation arrangements to the airport and at their own expense.

HEALTH INSURANCE

COSI recommends getting insurance in the students' home country.

TIME TO ENROLL

It is better to enroll at least 4 weeks in advance. If this is not possible, arrangements can be made with just a few days notice.

PAYMENT

To enroll, please send a US \$100 deposit with your enrollment form. Students can pay their remaining balance on the first day of class with traveler's checks, personal checks, major credit cards or cash.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a peaceful country in Central America. It has no army. 33% of the land is devoted to national parks or reserves. In a country with a population of four million people, Costa Rica's literacy rate is 97 percent. This is among the highest in the developing world. The country has an incredible variety of climates, vegetation, wildlife and topography. The climate of San José is pleasing to most people, ranging from 22° - 32° C (72° - 90°F). Visitors can enjoy many activities such as hiking in rainforests and mountains, going to the Caribbean or the Pacific beaches, visiting active volcanoes, bathing in hot springs, white water rafting, cruising to islands, canyoning, diving and much more.

TRANSPORTATION

In Costa Rica, transportation includes buses, taxis and small planes. Train system is limited to a very few areas. There are public buses that go everywhere.

MANUEL ANTONIO

This park includes one of the best beaches on Costa Rica's Pacific coast for swimming and snorkeling. The park is also wonderful for short walks or full – day hikes. This park is a combination of rainforest, beautiful white sand beaches abounding in flora and fauna and great views. You can see howler, squirrel and white-faced monkeys, two – toed sloths, coatimundis, raccoons, iguanas, over 184 species of birds and others. In Manuel Antonio, the mountains meet the ocean. It is paradise!

TRANSPORTATION TO MANUEL ANTONIO

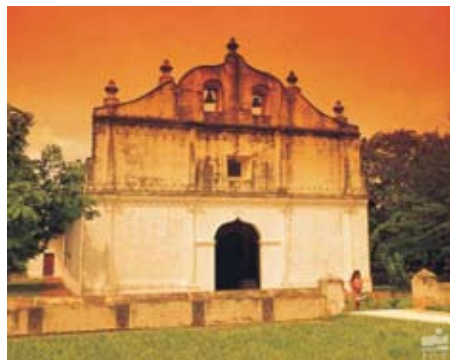
COSI students travel to Manuel Antonio by public bus. Buses leave San José every day at 6:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 2:30 PM and 6:00 PM. There are also tourist buses with A/C. It is a 3.5 hour bus ride. If you choose to fly into Manuel Antonio or to rent a car, we will be happy to assist you in making any arrangements. It is recommended that participants arrive in San José on, or before, the Saturday prior to the start of classes, stay the first night in San José and travel the following day to Manuel Antonio.



"Organized, friendly, attentive, Spanish immersion School. Tries to ensure perfect environment for learning Spanish." - John Peterson.

"Friendly and efficient with good attention to detail. I also like the fact that the people of COSI feel like friends or family." Melinda Jackson

"A relaxed and productive environment. A school with a lot of courses to learn about Costa Rica and the language." Katie Smith



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