Intercultura
Costa Rica
Spanish Schools



Spanish Immersion
Beach and City Campuses





Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for requesting more information about our language school. This brochure describes the various Spanish programs and cultural activities available at Intercultura.

We offer our students:

- Internationally recognized school, founded in 1993
- Two beautiful campuses - historic Heredia City and tropical beachfront Sámara
- University qualified professors with teaching credentials
- Diverse student body across ages & nationalities
- Small groups, 6 maximum, or private classes
- Volunteer programs & community service
- Free cultural activities (Latin dance, cooking, conversation hour, yoga, zumba, cultural tours)
- Weekend excursions to volcanoes, beaches and the rainforest
- Multilingual staff speak English, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese
- Free airport pick-up for Heredia campus
- Homestays with local families or student apartments and residences

We look forward to welcoming you to Costa Rica!

Laura Ellington, M.A. and Adelita Jiménez

www.interculturacostarica.com

Heredia +(506) 2260 - 8480 / Sámara +(506) 2656 - 3000

Whats App: +(506) 8330-3555





Our Mission Statement

At Intercultura, we believe that the best way to study a foreign language includes a diverse, fun and professionally-developed curriculum, combined with interactive cultural experiences, opportunities for community integration, and exploration of Costa Rica's fantastic bio-diversity.

Intercultura Costa Rica is a language and cultural center devoted to achieving linguistic proficiency in the context of immersion education. We seek to cultivate global awareness, empathy and empowered communication skills, giving participants effective tools to implement responsible change as they learn to navigate, understand and respect the diverse cultures of our world.



Why Costa Rica?

- One of the safest countries in Latin America, Costa Rica has no standing army, investing in education and the environment instead.
- 25% of Costa Rica's territory is protected in National Parks and private nature reserves, which means stunning travel opportunities in volcanic mountains, tropical jungles, rain forests, waterfalls, and beautiful beaches.
- You will find that Costa Ricans (known as Ticos) are an incredibly friendly people and a willing resource for any adventure you undertake.

The City Campus - Heredia



The Campus

Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Heredia, a charming mountain city where colonial heritage meets modern Costa Rican life. Stay with one of our warm and welcoming homestay families, experience authentic daily "tico" life, and practice Spanish in real-world settings. Heredia offers a perfect blend of small-city charm and easy access to the capital's cultural attractions. Our historic campus, nestled on the outskirts of downtown, is a serene oasis where students instantly feel at home. From the moment you step inside, you'll be greeted by a friendly, familiar atmosphere that makes learning Spanish an unforgettable experience.

Amenities

Intercultura's central location within the city gives students easy access to transportation, shops, and entertainment. At the same time, the tranquility and natural beauty of the mountains is only a few minutes away by taxi or bus. In the downtown area students are usually no more than a 5 minute walk from a variety of services, including: a sports center with an Olympic-size swimming pool, **coffee shops** , gyms, bars, restaurants, and discotheques, the National University's theatre and grounds, health clinics, and travel agencies.

Transportation

Heredia's proximity to transportation hubs like the airport and central bus stations in San José make it an ideal place to stay in Costa Rica. Easily accessible from the city are volcanoes, beaches, national parks, and the country's many other natural wonders and biodiversity.



The Beach Campus - Sámara



The Campus

Our beautiful Sámara campus is located in our custom-designed, beachfront facilities. Classes are held in modern, air-conditioned rooms, all with a view of the ocean. Each is equipped with standard audio equipment, whiteboard, and a communal study space, encouraging didactic activities and easy class participation.

Teachers may take students outside the facilities to hold class in our rancho, or on the beach under a palm tree. Community interviews and other activities help students practice Spanish "en vivo" with local Costa Ricans. Facilities also include a large stage used for dance classes, yoga and special cultural activities, a kitchen for cooking classes, a covered "rancho", a lounge, outdoor showers, and lockers. In our gardens you will enjoy spending time in the hammocks listening to the ocean or participating in one of our many activities. Nearby restaurants and open air café-bars provide ample places to relax and chat with friends, drink coffee, or try the delicious local fresh fruit shakes.



The Beach

The beach itself is situated on a stunning horseshoe-shaped bay protected by a coral reef, which makes for calm waters, safe swimming, and easy surfing and boogie boarding at high tide.It is about 5kms long and lined with palm trees, offering a perfect spot for jogging, walking, biking, and horseback riding.





Spanish Instruction

The Communicative Approach

Our aim is to help students learn to easily communicate in Spanish. Classes provide a balanced immersion experience, including conversation, grammar, reading, writing, comprehension, cultural topics, and idiomatic expressions. In addition to our smartboards and textbooks, we use a wide variety of current materials: newspapers, literature, movie clips, advertisements, music and more. Classes may incorporate out-of-class learning experiences to marketplaces, museums, buses, restaurants, and other areas where communication is a necessity. Classes are designed to be fun and engaging, as well as educational!

Start Dates

Classes start every Monday (see National Holidays for exceptions). Minimum program length: one week.





Levels

Our Spanish program consists of twelve different week-long units, from absolute beginner, high advanced and super levels. The advanced Spanish courses include field projects, literature, current events, linguistics, regional language usage and Latin American cultural and socio-historical themes. We also offer specialized courses in business, medical, **tourism and** media **focused** Spanish.

Class Placement

Students are given an oral placement interview to determine their level and place them in a class.

Student profile:

Intercultura students are of all ages and nationalities; most are solo travelers; and all quickly find their community here at school.

Our main program is for adults (18+), and we also offer year-round family (min. age 8) & teen immersion programs.

STUDENT REVIEWS:

"I've really loved it at Intercultura, a friend recommended it and I called - all my questions were answered and every time I sent an email they responded right away, and it was just very punctual and professional. From the get-go up until now it's been like that. The classes are excellent, I think structure-wise they're very well done and being a teacher I can relate to how it is structured and I would highly recommend it. There's a really good mix of classroom activities and there is really high-quality instruction, but there's also enough time for students to practice their Spanish and I think that's a really good mix between learning and application of material. Thank you for everything!"
Neveen Sharkawy, 32, USA

"It's my first time learning Spanish and I learned so much in one week. I am very impressed with the instruction, the organization and the quality of the school. Thank you!"
Irina Kourilenko, 48, UKRAINE

"I love it here! It's my second time and I am going to come back once or twice more for sure. I've been here for 3 months and I love all the teachers and administrative staff and Sámara in general because it's just beautiful and there are so many nice people of all ages and so much "pura vida" (pure life)."
Jade Hickey, 26, AUSTRALIA

Teacher Qualifications

All Intercultura professors have university degrees in Spanish and teaching certification, and successful completion of our "Spanish as a Second Language" intensive training course. About 50% have Masters degrees, and our staff regularly attends a variety of national and international professional development workshops including American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and European Association for International Education.

Class structure

Classes consist of groups ranging from 2 to 6 students, and for most of the year the average group size is 3 to 4. The minimum age is 18. In Sámara, schedules alternate in order for students to participate in beach activities related to tides. Our class structure encourages students to speak as much Spanish as possible. For this reason our teachers actively adopt the 80/20 rule. In class, students speak 80% of the time and teachers 20%. If there is only one person at a given level, their group fees will be applied to private classes, approximately 10 hours per week.

Cultural Activities

After classes and on weekends we offer a wide selection of activities conducted in Spanish, enhancing understanding and allowing students to connect and integrate into Costa Rican culture. These include:

- Latin dance
- Costa Rican cooking class
- Culture tours
- Conversation Exchange with local "tico" students
- Local cultural fairs and activities
- Weekend excursions & daytrips (extra cost)

We also offer optional volunteer placements: students pay a daily fee to cover their food, lodging and contribution to the organization. Placements include:

- Public schools
- National parks & reserves
- Turtle Refuge
- **Senior Living Facility**
- Tropical animal rehabilition centers









Homestays

A key part of our program is the homestays we offer with selected Costa Rican families in Heredia and in Sámara Beach. All students are encouraged to participate in this opportunity, as it provides an invaluable source of Spanish practice and a wonderful interpersonal experience. In general, homestays are regarded as the most effective way to put into practice the Spanish learned in the classroom. Living with a Spanish-speaking family, in combination with intensive study, provides integrated exposure to both the language and the culture. This greatly facilitates the learning process and the speed with which fluency is acquired.





Homestays also provide an economical alternative to hotels, as breakfast, dinner, private room, and laundry service are all included in the price. 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 first-hand the famous Costa Rican warmth and hospitality!



Students who choose to participate in homestays will receive specific guidelines and suggestions aimed at facilitating the experience with their new family. For example, it is a nice gesture to give the host family a small gift from home upon arrival.



Sámara Student Residence

For those who wish for a more independent living situation, we offer student housing at both campuses.

SÁMARA CAMPUS:
Located just behind our beachfront campus, the student residence offers a variety of lodging options to suit your needs.

The main house features 7 private double or triple bedrooms, and all are equipped with private bathrooms and AC. Guests enjoy a fully-equipped kitchen and a spacious social area with deck chairs, hammocks, and communal dining tables. For a more hostel-style experience, there is an apartment with two shared rooms, each with 2-3 beds, a shared kitchen, outdoor seating, and a bathroom. Finally, there are two new 2-bedroom apartments at the front of the property, each with a private kitchen, one bathroom, and a terrace. The residence also boasts a large, grassy, fenced-in yard, an outdoor shower, and secure parking.

MAIN HOUSE



- Seven private bedrooms with 2 to 3 beds each
- One apartment with two shared rooms
- Fully equipped
- Private bathrooms
- Shared kitchen
- Air conditioning

PRIVATE APARTMENTS



- Two bedrooms
- One bathroom
- Kitchen
- Fully equipped
- Air conditioning
- Private terrace/ balcony

Heredia Student Apartments

HEREDIA CAMPUS:
We have both one and two-bedroom apartments in our colonial-style building. These are fully furnished and offer free wifi & cable, all kitchen equipment, linens, and towels. There is a shared roof terrace with a view of the city and the mountains, and a shared laundry area.

The student apartments are on the second floor above our classrooms. As such we encourage a quiet, respectful atmosphere, particularly in the shared terrace area and when classes are in session.









Intercultura
Costa Rica
Spanish Schools

www.interculturacostarica.com
Heredia +(506) 2260 - 8480 / Sámara +(506) 2656 - 3000
Whats App: +(506) 8330-3555