

STUDY ABROAD IN COSTA RICA OR PANAMA

Learn spanish

Immerse yourself in the culture

Enjoy nature

Service learning

Tailor-Made programs



Your Partner
In Professional
Language Training
Since 1987

Costa Rica and Panama:

These two countries are your best option to learn spanish in Central America; both countries are:

-  *Safe*
-  *Accesible*
-  *Affordable*
-  *Stable*
-  *Amazingly beautiful !*



Costa Rica

The country offers a panorama of biodiversity and differing landscapes. There are active volcanoes, mystical rains, cloud forests, and beautiful beaches with velvety sand of all colors. Do you want total relaxation or extreme surfing? It's all here. In Costa Rica, all kinds of animals can be observed in their natural environment: hummingbirds, butterflies, monkeys, sloths, or even jaguars and crocodiles. Always known as a peaceful country, Costa Rica offers an incomparable touristic infrastructure combined with a hospitality that represents their people and will make you feel comfortable and welcome.

Address Costa Rica: South side of Avenida 8 (8th ave.), between calle 1(1st st.) and calle 3 (3rd st), San Pedro, San José.



Panamá

In Panamá, you can find exotic tropical rainforests, beautiful mountain refuges and more than 1,000 islands waiting for you to visit. Speaking of activities in Panama, how about playing some world-class golfing, diving, sport fishing or surfing? Panama City has been ranked as the 8th Wonder of the World and don't forget the impressive Panama Canal that, other than being an obligatory stop in Panama City, is also a source of income and international tourism. Because Panama's economy is dollarized, it makes it really easy to travel around.

Address Panama: Avenida (Ave.) Espinosa Batista, Centrum Tower, 4th floor, Panama City.

ABOUT ILISA:

Since 1987—when ILISA was founded in Costa Rica—our mission has been clear: to help our students reach their learning goals by creating the ideal conditions in which to learn. Since then, we have worked hard to exceed your expectations both in and out of the classroom. In 2012, ILISA opened a new branch in Panama where we offer you the same possibilities, in a country that is now considered an important business hub in Latin America.



LOCATION

ILISA Costa Rica is located in the San Pedro District of the capital city of San José. You can easily reach the city center by bus and several supermarkets are within walking distance. Owing to the presence of university campuses near our school, all necessary facilities like clinics, gyms and specialized shops can be found.

ILISA Panamá is located in the vibrant district of El Cangrejo—an area where most of the hotels and restaurants are offering Panamanian delights and international cuisine. The Banking Area is around the corner and only one block away from the main subway station in Via España. Via España is one of the main streets in Panama City. There you can find everything from restaurants and supermarkets to designer stores.

FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WE OFFER:

- Access to the open terrace cafeteria in Costa Rica
- Free wireless internet
- Use of our computer lab
- Free phone calls to the US (and other countries as well - ask us!)
- Free touristic information
- Student IDs for discounts to museums
- Currency exchange services (Costa Rica only)

STAFF & TEACHERS:

Our bilingual staff will help you plan your itinerary for your stay in Costa Rica or Panama. If you plan to make a weekend trip, a one-day tour or don't know what to do in the evenings, they would be pleased to assist you. Our teachers are the backbone of our program and our "walking credentials". We couldn't be prouder of their skills, their background and their professionalism. At ILISA, we treat our teachers and staff like family and, since we take good care of them, they will take good care of you.



~"ILISA has many strengths, none more important than the flexibility of the teaching staff. Carlos Rojas teaches Spanish, but it's his professionalism and willingness to tailor classes to the needs of the student that makes him and ILISA special. With newcomers to language study, he is most patient and entertaining; with advanced students his attention to detail and extraordinary academic background give him the ability to provide classes based on Costa Rican archeological research, history of language, scuba diving, classic Hollywood movies, world music, or Shakespeare's plays...Whatever keeps the student's interest and provides a basis for learning Spanish."

~ Kay Wineforder, United States

STANDARD PROGRAMS:



You, like most students, are serious about increasing your language skills in the shortest time possible. So you certainly want a language school that uses the most effective and successful methods available.

ILISA concentrates on oral proficiency of students that is achieved by using a communicative approach. It pays attention to the functional as well as structural aspects of the language.

In recent years, both schools and universities have changed the focus of their language programs to emphasize communication. This change is in large part due to the fact that, in today's environment, businesses need individuals who can not only read Spanish, but who can speak it as well. ILISA understands that students need to attain oral proficiency. We can help you meet that goal by using a communicative approach which is used in the best language centers around the world.

When can you start your classes at ILISA to try this wonderful methodology? ILISA's starting dates for our standard Spanish programs are now more flexible than ever. No matter what your current level of Spanish is—from complete beginner to advanced—you can start on any Monday of the year that you choose. Please take a look at our standard programs:

• GROUP 4:

This is our most popular program. You will be placed in a class with students of a similar ability level. With a maximum of four students per group, your participation is assured and progress guaranteed. Classes are given from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. with a 20-minute break at 10 a.m.

• GROUP 4 PLUS:

This is a combination of our Group-4 program plus 2 hours of private tutoring in the afternoon (13:15-15:15). In the afternoon classes, special attention will be given to your particular needs and interests. No new grammar structures are presented, but if you wish, old ones are reviewed. The emphasis of the afternoon class lies on improving your proficiency and extending active vocabulary. These classes nicely complement morning classes.



ONLINE CLASSES

Now you can learn Spanish in your home or office, no matter the country you live in. Instruction will be online, live and one-on-one. You will need a computer with broadband internet connection, a headset and the SKYPE software installed (it's free!). We can then communicate with you at no cost via computers. We will use a webcam so that you can see your instructor. If you also have a webcam, your instructor will be able to see you as well.

Instruction is available for all Spanish levels—from beginner to advanced. People with specialized Spanish needs in business, health, law and other areas are welcome to participate.

Language instruction is provided by qualified, native-speaking instructors who make learning a language an enjoyable, stimulating experience.

An online oral test to assess the student's level is included and will be given before instruction begins.



~"Hours and hours I spent talking with Francisco and I enjoyed every single moment, since he's not only an excellent teacher whose explanations are perfectly clear and well-structured, but he also transmits an amazing enthusiasm and motivation, which allows his students to feel and experience the Latin American way of living. During my time with him I learned - besides communicating in Spanish fluently - so much about the country and culture of Costa Rica and its neighboring countries. He is a human encyclopedia!"

~ Marie-Cristine Kaptan, Switzerland

SPANISH FOR YOUR CAREER AND EXECUTIVE PROGRAM:



These days, Spanish is essential to doing business whether in the global economy or right in your own backyard. Bilingual personnel are in demand in nearly every field. Our programs will give you the Spanish skills you need to succeed in your career goals.

We have successfully designed courses for professionals in various areas:

- Executives
- Speech-language pathologists
- Lawyers
- Medical doctors, nurses and assistants
- Educators who need to communicate with Spanish speaking students and/or their parents
- International aid workers
- Dentists
- Psychologists
- Diplomats
- Military officers
- Law enforcement officers
- Social workers
- Physicians
- MBA students
- Others



Linda Tunick
Elementary School Teacher, Arizona

ILISA's expertise lies in the customization of programs tailored entirely to the needs of each individual student. Classes can include visits to organizations of interest (i.e. doctors and nurses can visit a major hospital and/or a private clinic, lawyers can visit a court session and contact local lawyers, and teachers can visit a local school and/or university). You can also study and practice specialized vocabulary and other skills to help you use Spanish in your own particular work environment.

GROUP-4 PLUS PROGRAM

This is a combination of 4 hours of group classes (8:00-12:00) plus 2 hours of private tutoring in the afternoon (13:15-15:15). The morning classes have a maximum of 4 students per group and will focus on Spanish for everyday use. In the afternoon class, special attention will be given to your particular needs and interests. Many students use the private tutoring to improve their proficiency and extend their active vocabulary through conversation and review.

ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTION

If you have very little time available or have specialized language needs, you may prefer to concentrate on Spanish in one-to-one tutoring sessions. We offer private classes for 4, 6 or 8 hours per day. This program is available for every level and follows the same scheduling as the Group-4 and Group-4 Plus programs. Visits to establishments related to a certain profession can be scheduled when you start your study. The emphasis of this program lies on improving general language skills and, depending on your needs, building skills and vocabulary specifically related to your profession. Included is a language competence report covering listening and reading comprehension, writing and speaking skills, and, if applicable, professional speaking skills. US Army Officers and US Coast Guards participate officially in our programs as part of their continuous training.



"I'm back at ILISA for the third time, so no doubt I'm impressed with ILISA. I'm now mastering a language I didn't speak at all when I arrived in 2010. Now, I'm specifically developing the vocabulary necessary for a psychotherapist to practice with a Spanish-speaking population. ILISA professor come from a variety of backgrounds and this permits them to match instructors with knowledge that corresponds to the student's needs and interests. For instance, Esteban, one of my professors, really understands psychology, therapy and mental health; he introduced me to El Instituto Costarricense de Masculinidad, Pareja y Sexualidad (Instituto WEM). I now attend many mutual support groups and started a professional relationship with the clinical director of an inpatient addiction treatment facility here. ILISA's exceptional team of professionals, its ability to integrating my language studies with my professional needs and interests along with the personalized attention to detail from all their staff is the reason I'll keep returning to ILISA again and again..." **Andrew Cline, United States.**



COSTA RICA & PANAMA

Enjoy Nature!



Canopy



Rafting



Surfing

Costa Rica

Panama



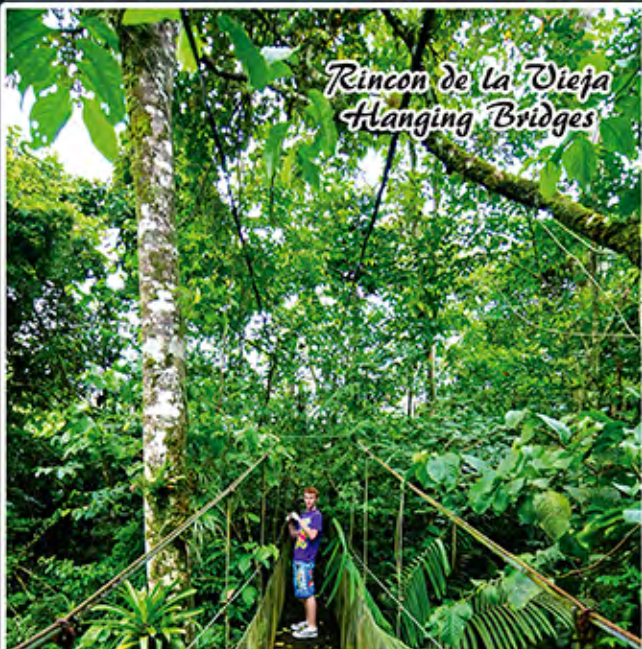
Manuel Antonio National Park



Arenal Hot Springs



La Paz Waterfall Gardens



*Rincon de la Vieja
Hanging Bridges*



San Blas Islands



Panama Canal



Kuna Tribe



Panama City

SEMESTER OF SPANISH:



ILISA offers you the possibility of spending your semester abroad in Costa Rica or Panama. This period gives you more time to get the whole experience of the country and become a “local” for this period.

You will be taking Spanish classes combined with all the cultural aspects of the country, share a living space with a Costa Rican family, attend our cultural activities—from museums to dance classes—and of course, you will have the chance to visit beautiful and exotic places during the weekends. The best part about having a semester is that you will have enough time to enjoy it all.

Also, earn credits for 3 semesters of Spanish in only one semester of classes abroad. This will give you a professional advantage along with being bilingual when you get your degree. Think about it!

Check out the start dates for our semester programs on our website and get ready for an outstanding experience provided by the best Spanish school in Costa Rica and Panama.

For semesters we have the following courses available:

- Spanish I (SPN 1120)
- Spanish II (SPN 1121)
- Spanish III (SPN 2200)
- Spanish IV (SPN 2201)
- Conversation I
- Conversation II
- Advanced Conversation
- Culture through Films
- Culture and Civilization
- Latin American Literature
- Latin American Current Events



“Staff in general, from the receptionist to the teachers are devoted to make sure that you have a rewarding experience in both Costa Rica and the school. They are available to provide information and organize trips often going the extra mile so you can make the most of your time in the country.”

Alexandre Bourque, England.

HOMESTAY:



Mary Anne & David

We encourage you to take advantage of our homestay program because it both reinforces classroom instruction and motivates you by offering the opportunity to communicate in real life situations. This type of interaction will help you learn Spanish faster and more easily than would be possible if you were to stay in a hotel. It's also an economical option.

Our selected families are excellent hosts who love to receive visitors and will take pride in making you feel at home. Some of these families have been working with ILISA for more than 10 years and have received hundreds of students in their homes.

Most importantly, we look for families who are interested in providing you with more than just your meals and a room. Our families are concerned about your well-being and are interested in sharing their culture and learning about your own. Many students ask their host families to help them with homework and to correct their speaking errors.

In order to ensure that students have a great experience with their families, our homestay coordinator has a thorough screening and training program for families, which includes an application, site inspection and interview.



Sonia Zúñiga

LOCATION:

Normally the families are located within a 3-mile (5 km) distance from the schools and the city center and any sightseeing points can easily be reached by bus/metro.

Costa Rican and Panamanian Diet:

A typical breakfast and dinner will be cooked by your family for you; for example, "Gallo Pinto" in Costa Rica: a dish consisting of rice and beans. Laundry service and room cleaning are also included.

Also, if you decide to stay in a hotel or apartment we will help you with finding suitable options and making necessary reservations.

DESCRIPTION OF A FAMILY

Mary Anne Soto and her husband David have been working as a host family for us for over 10 years now. They started participating in the program because they love to get to know a lot of people from all over the world and their house is really suitable for visiting students. There are different areas where the students can be alone or can be around the family. To help students improve their Spanish, Mary Anne tries to come up with interesting topics during dinner to make the students motivated to talk.

"Last, but certainly not least, I must emphasize that the host family has been wonderful. My host family provides us with delicious, healthy meals and makes sure that we are comfortable and happy. They are warm and caring people and I appreciate all they have done for me. Also, it's been nice to get to know the other students at the school in the homestay program. I've had the opportunity to travel around Costa Rica with several of my housemates and I've made some wonderful friends from all over the world in just four short weeks."

- Laurie Noe, United States.



BRING A GROUP! TAILOR-MADE PROGRAMS



Program directors from Butler University and Valdosta State University

Studying abroad is a wonderful experience from a personal and professional point of view. It's a way to excel beyond hundreds of professionals that graduate every year and the perfect opportunity to learn a new language. That being said, we encourage faculty members all over the world to participate in these priceless programs. Besides the language portion, there are several advantages that can be mentioned for studying abroad that you, as a teacher, don't want your students to miss:

- The opportunity to travel and the chance to know another culture first-hand.
- Facilitation of developing skills and growth experiences that a classroom setting will never provide.
- The opportunity to make new friends from around the world.
- Self-discovery: Students learn about themselves in ways they never could otherwise.
- Expansion of their worldview and changes in their perspective.
- Enhancement of the value of their degree.
- The chance to experience a different educational system.

BENEFITS OF STARTING A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Besides all the benefits we know that relate to study abroad experiences for students, we can mention very good reasons for you as a professor to start your program abroad. For example:

- Professional growth and international experience that can help you to improve your resume by showing how responsible and innovative you are.
- Exposure to a new culture, even if you are from a Latin American country.
- Visiting beautiful tourist destinations.
- Take a break from the academic routine.
- The development of new skills.
- Getting to know your students better before and during the trip, personally and academically.
- Improving your knowledge of your own institution and how different areas of education work—from the provost to marketing.
- Leading a project that is very notable for all the institutions.
- Learning a lot from your students and their interactions with host families and teachers from the host institution.

ADVANTAGES OF COSTA RICA AND PANAMA FOR IMMERSION PROGRAMS

In order to have a successful program, it is important to consider external aspects of the program and not only academic ones.

The most important aspects are:

- Safety and low criminality rates
- General political, social, and economical situations
- Hygiene conditions, potable water and access to hospitals and clinics
- Flight costs and frequency
- A variety of cultural and touristic activities that can be included in the package for students
- Distances for visiting tourist attractions
- Weather during the time of the program
- Spanish to use in real-life situations with all the Latinos living in USA
- Soft-spoken Spanish: clear pronunciation and neutral accent
- Stable relationships with USA: There are no warnings to visit Costa Rica or Panama from the government

ADVANTAGES OF ILISA

Since our inception, ILISA's approach has been to offer the highest quality service to our students by making things smooth and easy because setting up a study abroad program shouldn't be a painful process; it must be a project full of enthusiasm and excitement.

ILISA will be your companion and your advisor in this process. Not only do we provide services, we take care of all the details from preparing proposals that meet your university requirements to designing a program to fit your budget. Our years of experience are reflected in our customizable programs. The fact that we have long-lasting relationships with all the universities that we work with is just proof of this. We don't believe in a one-program-fits-all format. Each organization has its own needs and we have always been able to exceed their expectations because of our flexibility and ability to adapt.

From the moment you arrive until the moment you leave with your students, you will receive 24/7 support from our staff—guaranteed. You and your students deserve the best of the study abroad program and we will exceed your expectations.

Contact us to get references from current program coordinators and to know more about our benefits for groups: groups@ilisa.com

SUMMER & WINTER PROGRAMS:



If you are planning your next study abroad program to a new exotic destination for the summer or a get-away from winter trip, consider the following options that ILISA has for you.

From May until August, ILISA has some start dates defined for students who want to participate in these summer program sessions that include:

- Transportation from the airport.
- Homestay for students in houses including breakfast, dinner and laundry.
- Coordination meeting at the school to give a brief introduction to our program and a cultural orientation.
- Spanish classes at ILISA (4 hrs of group classes per day).
- Internet lab, social areas, cafeteria.
- Weekend excursions, including accommodation, transportation and breakfast.
- Farewell dinner at a typical Costa Rican/Panamanian restaurant.
- 2-3 complementary cultural activities per week: dance classes, cooking classes, soccer match, movie night, visiting museums, central market or other important sightseeing points.

On the other hand, our winter program starts at the end of December and lasts for 2/3 weeks. It includes the same package of tuition, homestay and excursions as the summer program.

Either for summer or winter, students will be enrolled in language classes from Monday-Friday for four hours per day plus multiple activities around the country in the afternoons and weekends. Classes will be determined by the student's level of proficiency. Spanish classes are offered at all levels.



TEEN PROGRAM

This program covers Spanish for everyday use. It emphasizes oral proficiency and provides a solid foundation of the language. It is intended for teenagers who will be traveling by themselves, with a friend or sibling.

It is a special program full of activities and special care given during students' stay in Costa Rica. In the morning, teenagers visit the city of San José and its surroundings with an expert guide and private transportation. While in the afternoon, they learn Spanish. Parental authorization is required regarding curfew hours and possible weekend trips.



~"I had the time of my life here! The activities and tours we did were amazing. I also learned so much! The first week was hard but it got easier with time. The staff and teachers are so great and they really care about us as a group and me as an individual. Staying with a host family was amazing too! It was great to have a place to call home"

~ *Holly Palmer, Weber State University*



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND WEEKEND EXCURSIONS:

As part of our standard and special programs, between two and four weekly activities will be included. The activities change every week and we post them on our bulletin board. You can have a lot of fun! We offer cooking and dance classes at our school, but there are also plenty of activities outside of the school; for example, visiting the National Theater, Central Market, Jade Museum, National Museum, Children Museum, the zoo, the Panama Canal Museum, the canal, happy hour, movie nights, soccer matches and more. Entrance fee cost to all these activities is included in your program as well as airport pick-up!



"I would definitely recommend ILISA for my friends. I had a great experience going to the excursions and participating in the activities. The staff really cares for their students and it is sad for me to leave."

Stephanie Czarkowska, West Carolina University, USA