



# SPANISH & ARTS AND CRAFTS

## BUENAVISTA, MEXICO

### PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This Spanish and Arts and Crafts program enables you to combine a Spanish course with various arts classes. This unique program offers exciting hands-on music classes, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.

#### **CITY AND COUNTRY INFO**

Buenavista de Cuellar is a village located about an hour's drive from Cuernavaca. It is a charming small town, reflecting the serenity of decades past, with adobe walls and tiled roofs and a population of 9,000 people, nestled in an agricultural valley, just over the state line in the neighboring state of Guerrero. Buenavista is a relatively prosperous community, with cattle raising and production of byproducts (cheese, milk, leather products) of this as primary sources of income. Many of the village's residents live and work in the United States during agricultural production periods and return to their homes for holidays or seasonal work. It is from these rural agrarian communities that many of the immigrants to the United States come, hoping to be able to use their skills in farming and animal raising on US farms.

Living and studying in this village will provide tremendous insight into the problems that force Mexicans to leave their homes to seek a better life and income for their families. Social workers can also learn about the concerns of the family members left behind in Mexico and the family dynamics when the workers return to their homes after a period of living in the United States.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM**

After participating in this Spanish & Arts and Crafts Program in Buenavista, students will gain experience in foreign art programs, greatly improve foreign language abilities, gain personal growth and confidence both nationally and internationally, and combine travel, academics, and passion for art into one incredible life-changing experience.



### *What's Included*

- **Tuition and Class Materials:** Minimum 1 week, Standard Group 20 hours per week with 3-5 students per class.
- **Arts & Crafts Classes:** 4 afternoon lessons per week
- **Lodging:** Homestay or hotel
- **Placement Testing**
- **1-2 Organized Activities Weekly\***
- \*Entrance fees, transportation, etc. may be at additional cost.
- **Access to E-mail**
- **Access to Multimedia Learning Center**
- **Certificate of Completion**
- **Pre-Departure Information**
- **Planning Guide**
- **Medical, Accident and Sickness Coverage \*\***
- \*\* See policy for definitions and exclusions.
- **Medivac Coverage**
- **Other Travel Coverage:** repatriation, baggage, personal effects, accidental death and dismemberment , etc.
- **24 Hour Emergency Multilingual Hotline:** call collect from anywhere in the world

## **FULL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

### **STUDY PROGRAM**

This program places a heavy emphasis on speaking Spanish and developing conversational skills. Classes are held daily, Monday through Friday, for 4 hours. Additional Spanish language study occurs outside of the classroom during the cultural and craft activities. During these activities the instructors will only speak in Spanish to the students. The language classes and seminars are held in a quaint schoolhouse which is typical of most of the homes in Buenavista.

Students are placed in classes according to their speaking proficiency in Spanish, and their language learning ability. Class groupings are refined, and change from time to time as students progress through the different levels. Group classes have 3-5 students per class allowing ample individual attention. The weekly enrollment in Buenavista is monitored carefully to prevent too many students being in the village at any one time.

### **ARTS AND CRAFTS LESSONS**

As with many Mexican villages, crafts play an important role in the economic life of the community. Students are encouraged to work with local people, who give afternoon classes and demonstrations (in Spanish). Each lesson is held once per week, and students can choose from the following:

- Leathermaking: Many of the townspeople raise cattle, providing Buenavista with a large supply of leather for the local leather craftsmen. Students can learn to make hats, belts, bags, or sandals with one of the local leather workers.
- Mexican cooking: The food of Buenavista is the food of rural Mexico. Interested students learn to make the traditional recipe of their choice (e.g., *tortillas*, *tamales*, *salsas*, *moles*, cheese) in the kitchens of some of the best cooks in the village.
- Basket weaving: Students make baskets by weaving palms, a tradition in the neighboring village of Tlmacazapa, by working with a native of that village.
- Embroidery: Home crafts for women are an important part of the Buenavista economy. Students can learn to make napkins, tortilla covers, and rugs.

## **LODGING OPTIONS**

### **HOMESTAY**

Students attending this program are placed in homestays for the duration of their program. Homestays are comfortable, and have the normal amenities that one would expect to find in a typical middle class Mexican's home. Students will receive three meals daily, and will be provided with a double room. Single rooms may be available and are generally at an additional cost. Please inquiry for more details. All homes are within easy walking distance of the school.

### **HOTEL (POSADAS) STAY**

Optionally students can stay in posadas at an additional cost. Posadas are small family run hotels which offer all the basic necessities that a student needs during there stay. Generally meals are not included in the cost.

## **PRICE RANGE**

Available upon request at this location.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES**

U.S. citizens traveling with regular passports for tourism or business do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. Those planning a longer visit must obtain a visa in advance of arrival.

Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Buenvista is full of cultural, artistic and outdoor activities year-round. Participating in these activities is a fun way to learn the language and interact with the locals. Activities students can get involved with include:

- Horseback riding
- Folk Dancing
- Mexican Folk Songs
- Excursion to Teotihuacan and Cuicuilco
- Visit the Museum of Dolores Olmedo and The National Museum of Anthropology
- Folkloric Ballet in Mexico City

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

To register for the SPANISH & ARTS AND CRAFTS program in Buenavista, either follow the link below or call 1-888-678-6211.

<http://www.nrcsa.com/reg/on-line/regform.html>

When you register, \$140 USD is due to secure your place in the program.