



# SPANISH & ART WORKSHOPS

## OAXACA, MEXICO

### PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This Spanish & Art Workshops program enables you to combine a Spanish course with the option of several art workshops in the afternoons including ceramics, weaving, painting, and kite, mask, piñata, and alebrije making. This unique program offers exciting hands-on art classes, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.



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

Oaxaca is an enchanting colonial town, where you will discover both a modern Mexico and ancient indigenous culture. The indigenous groups who once inhabited the nearby archaeological sites of Monte Albán, Mitla and Yagul continue to influence the language, lifestyle, and art of the area. The heart of the city of Oaxaca is the zócalo, or main square, which is surrounded by a mix of colonial architecture and an indigenous marketplace. The zócalo, just a short walk from the Institute, is host to concerts, parades, and sidewalk cafes that provide a comfortable setting for relaxing after class.

At the center, you can study Spanish while enjoying one of Oaxaca's many charms: the climate. The abundant gardens invite you to study, converse, or relax among the plants and palm trees of the Institute's lush grounds. Absorb the midday sun or hide yourself in the shade of a palm frond as you bask in the year-round comfort of Oaxaca's beautiful weather. Thanks to Oaxaca's location in the state's central valley at 5,000 feet above sea level, the city enjoys pleasant weather during all seasons. The NRCSA center's vibrant gardens are the perfect place to take advantage of the ideal climate found in Oaxaca.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM**

After participating in this Spanish & Art Workshops Program in Oaxaca, 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:** 1 week minimum-group 20 Spanish 45 minute lessons per week in group of 5- 12 students per class.
- **Art Classes:** 8 hours of workshops per week
- **Lodging:** In a Homestay with meals
- **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**

The study portion of the program includes 20 hours per week of Group Spanish classes with a 1 week minimum. Maximum number of students per class is 5, with the average being 2 students. Groups are organized in a way that each will always consist of students possessing the same level of Spanish.

All of our teachers are native speakers with university educations and are very experienced teaching Spanish to foreigners. Most have learned a second language themselves and understand the student's perspective.

The method is based on the 4 language skills: listening, grammar, oral and written comprehension. No English will be used in class. Classes are 45 minutes in length.

### **ART WORKSHOPS**

- **Ceramics**
  - Taught by a local female artisan, this class encourages you to be creative and learn some of the traditional techniques in the creation of vases, pots and other decorative items. Each participant will make one or two items that the teacher will fire and that you may then take with you as a reminder of Oaxaca.
- **Weaving**
  - A local weaver will teach you some of the techniques of traditional back-strap weaving.
  - Using the same method as the master weavers of Oaxaca, you will make a small piece of your own design and color choice that you can take home with you at the end of the program.
- **Alebrijes**
  - Have you seen the brightly-painted, wooden carvings of fantastical creatures that Oaxaca is famous for?
  - In this workshop you are taught the traditional styles of painting and design to make your own Alebrije. You get to select your own wood carving and then paint it according to your own design and color preferences. Purchase of the wooden figure costs from 50 Mexican pesos.
- **Painting**
  - In the Oaxacan Painters workshop, you get to study the pictorial phenomenon in the state of Oaxaca and the most important artists from the pre-Hispanic world through colonialism, the 19th century, and modernity.
- **Mask Making-Day of the Dead**
  - In this workshop created specifically to complement the Day of the Dead program, you will learn how to make your own mask to wear at the Institute's parade through the nearby streets. After making a plaster cast mold of your face, you are then taught simple techniques to enable you to decorate your mask as you wish, incorporating themes that surround the Day of the Dead.
- **Kite Making**
  - During the autumn months, you have the opportunity to learn how to construct kites with traditional materials, to fly them in various locations around the city.
- **Pinata Making**
  - In this workshop, we teach you how to make piñatas with sheets of clay and colored paper, with the traditional motifs of the Christmas celebration. Each year during our Christmas celebration, our blindfolded students and staff have a great time trying to break the piñatas to get at the candy inside.

## **LODGING OPTIONS**

### **HOMESTAY**

Living arrangements are an important factor in the cultural immersion process. For many students, a private bedroom in a carefully chosen Mexican home is the ideal accommodation option. Living with a local family provides students the opportunity to practice Spanish while learning about Mexican family life. The cost includes breakfast daily. Students may choose to take comida, the main midday meal, and/or cena, the light evening meal, with the family at additional cost.

## **PRICE RANGE**

Cost of 1 week of classes, 8 hours of art workshops, and 1 week of housing ranges from:

**\$694 → \$810\*\***

\*\*Prices range according to housing and board options.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES**

U.S. citizens do not require a visa for travel to Mexico for less than 180 days. Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult.

## **ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS**

- Intercambio Language Exchange
  - A conversation exchange in which students meet for one hour daily with native speakers to practice speaking Spanish.
  - The conversation partners are university students or professionals who are eager to help students speak Spanish in exchange for a chance to practice their English language skills.
- Excursions- These tours are optional and available at an additional cost. The Institute's bilingual guide takes students to archaeological sites, indigenous markets, artisan villages, and numerous other destinations. Some examples are:
  - Monte Alban
  - Mitla
  - Tlacolula
  - Tule
  - Teotitlan

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

To register for the SPANISH & ART WORKSHOPS program in Oaxaca, 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.