



SPANISH & MEXICAN MUSIC

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, MEXICO

PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

CITY AND COUNTRY INFO

San Cristobal de las Casas, with a population of 100,000, lies in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, high in the mountains surrounded by pine forests. With its cobblestone streets and its red-tile roofs, San Cristóbal is a mix of 16th century Spanish influences and a vivid, colorful indigenous culture. Beautiful churches, cathedrals and buildings abound, along with the largest indigenous market in northern America where the indigenous people from surrounding villages come daily to sell their fruits, vegetables and crafts.

The city boasts a variety of vegetarian restaurants and European style cafés, as well as small eateries that serve the local foods. Day visits to indigenous villages are popular and frequently visited by students.

The climate in San Cristobal is particular to its region. During the rainy season (May to October), the climate is mild with usual sunny days, but rainy afternoons. During the dry season (October to May), beautiful, sunny and warm days are common, with the nights being clear and chilly.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM

After participating in this Spanish & Mexican Music program in San Cristobal de las Casas, 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 15 hours per week in a group of 2-5 students per class.
- **Dance Classes:** 2 hour classes held daily Monday-Thursday
- **Lodging:** Homestay
- **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 15 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. Classes are held for three hours from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Groups are organized in a way that will always consist of students possessing the same level of Spanish.

Spanish classes are set up to accommodate individual learning styles, personal interests and preferences. The students who attend the school have varying goals for their Spanish study. Some of students would like to learn "survival Spanish" for their travels, other would like to study the language in all its complexities, others need their Spanish to aid them in their profession, such as bilingual teachers, physicians or other professionals. In order to accommodate this variety, the school doesn't use one particular textbook for all students. A variety of textbooks, exercises, books and other learning materials are used. All these materials are available for students to study outside of their class time and to make copies to study at home.

MEXICAN MUSIC LESSONS

Mexican music features a wide range of musical styles, and this workshop gives students an introduction. Many Mexican songs are well-known worldwide, although much of the time their origins are not known outside of Mexico. "Besame Mucho", "Cucurrucucu Paloma", "Cielito Lindo", "El Rey", "Somos Novios", "Guadalajara", "Cachito", "Maria Bonita" and many others have interesting histories and are an important part of Mexican culture.

The Mexican Music classes will reinforce the knowledge acquired in the classroom and, above all, introduce students to important aspects of the local culture. Classes are 2 hours long and held on Monday – Thursday afternoons.

LODGING OPTIONS

HOMESTAY

Contact with the local people of San Cristobal de Las Casas is an invaluable part of learning Spanish. Homestay accommodation provides students with firsthand experience of daily life, and enables them to practice Spanish. Each student is provided with a private room, usually sharing the bathroom with the host family, and 3 meals daily are also provided. All host families are within walking distance from the center of town.

The school places just one student per family so there is maximum exposure to the language. However, if you prefer to live with another student, the school is happy to arrange that on request. All families are carefully screened and must meet NRCSA's stringent requirements before being accepted as a host family. All host families are middle-class and live in homes and areas that are attractive and safe. Distances from the school vary from a few minutes walk to a 30 minutes bus ride.

PRICE RANGE

Cost of 1 week of Spanish & Music classes, and 1 week of housing ranges from:

\$540 → \$601 **

**Prices range according to housing and board options.

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

San Cristobal de las Casas 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:

- Day trips to surrounding villages – Zinacantan & San Juan Chamula
- Day trips to archeological sites
- Weekend trips to Palenque
- Horseback riding trip to San Juan Chamula
- Huitepec – a natural ecological reserve

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the SPANISH & MEXICAN MUSIC program in San Cristobal de las Casas either follow the link below or call 1-888-678-6211.

<http://www.nrdsa.com/reg/online/regform.html>

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