



STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

PROGRAMS START EVERY MONDAY



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This Study & Volunteer program combines a Standard Group Study program combined with a volunteer placement in the community for a total minimum time commitment of 4 weeks. Participants can take classes and volunteer simultaneously. All opportunities will work in partnership with local people in a variety of community-based projects. This unique program offers exciting hands-on volunteering opportunities, meaningful cultural immersion, and an enriching language program.

CITY AND COUNTRY INFO

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, is a veritable paradise on the Pacific coast. Tucked into a niche in the West Sierra Madre mountain range, it can be reached in 30 minutes from Guadalajara by air or in four hours by road. It is a city of contrasts, where natural beauty blends with modern tourist development. Although it has luxury hotels and innumerable services for tourists, it is still pleasant to stroll down its cobble streets and enjoy the charm of an old-style country town.

The bay that Puerto Vallarta lies in the center of is Bahía Banderas (the Bay of Flags). Most of the north side of the bay lies in the neighboring state of Nayarit while Puerto Vallarta, is in the state of Jalisco, the home of Tequila and the Mariachi. The whole bay is developing rapidly, with Nayarit developing faster than Vallarta. Unlike Cabo San Lucas and Cancún, Vallarta is ringed with jungle covered mountains. In many places the jungle is footsteps from the beach. Numerous year-round rivers feed the Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM

After participating in this Study & Volunteer Program in Puerto Vallarta, students will gain experience in foreign poverty and need first hand while helping others in severe need, greatly improve foreign language abilities, gain personal growth and confidence both nationally and internationally through service, and combine travel, academics, and community service into one incredible life-changing experience.



What's Included

- **Tuition and Class Materials:** 4 week minimum-group 20 Spanish 50 minute lessons per week in group of 2-5 students per class.
- **Volunteer Placement:** in local organization
- **Lodging:** In a Homestay or Apartment
- **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 Program includes 20 hours per week of Group Spanish classes. 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.

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

Classes are 55 minutes in length. Students may enroll for as many weeks as desired. In order to make sufficient progress and gain the maximum benefit from the course, the following program duration ranges are recommended: Beginner (4-12 weeks), Intermediate (2-12 weeks) and advanced (2-12 weeks).

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Students will be placed in a volunteering position in community in the afternoons after classes for a minimum of 4 weeks.

The NRCSA school in Puerto Vallarta works with the organization called PEACE. PEACE works hand in hand with communities in Mexico to provide holistic education combined with community action programs that enable people to improve their quality of life as well as their financial stability. Volunteers will volunteer with PEACE in the afternoons after Spanish courses.

Guiding Principals:

- **Protection:** It is essential to protect animals, culture and the environment by conserving and celebrating the many facets of life, while instilling individual and communal responsibility.
- **Education:** An integral part of promoting positive change is providing quality education that encompasses all realms of life, therefore creating a lasting effect on both the collective and individual conscience.
- **Animals:** Living beings are an inherent part of our existence and survival, and we have the responsibility to serve as their protectors and ensure that they and their habitats are respected.
- **Culture:** Valuing diversity and culture is essential in fostering positive social change as well as promoting global awareness.
- **Environment:** As stewards of the natural world it is our duty to conserve and respect the environment and its resources while creating consciousness and awareness that will endure for generations.

LODGING OPTIONS

HOMESTAY

Students staying in a homestay will be able to practice their Spanish and be exposed to local culture. Middle class families (by local standards) are carefully selected and provide each student with a private room. Do not assume that you are too old for a homestay as many of our students are older than their host "parents". For many of our students, their homestay is one of the most rewarding experiences.

APARTMENTS

Private accommodations such as apartments, condominiums, houses and hotel rooms are also available. Prices of such accommodations vary and do not include meals.

PRICE RANGE

Cost of minimum 4 weeks of classes combined with volunteer placement, and minimum of 4 weeks total of housing ranges from:

\$1,659 → \$1,855**

**Prices range according to housing and board options.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

U.S. citizens traveling on 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.

Participants must have an intermediate level of Spanish to participate in the volunteer program.

Minimum age of 18 unless accompanied by an adult. Volunteer positions on a space available basis. These are unpaid positions and there is a limited number of positions every month.

ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

Students enjoy a great variety of cultural and recreational activities with excursions in Puerto Vallarta which may include:

- Walking and hiking
- Scuba diving and snorkeling
- Bird watching
- Motorcycling
- Windsurfing and kite surfing
- Horseback riding

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the STUDY & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM in Puerto Vallarta, 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.