



**Learn Spanish
in
Costa Rica**





¡Hola!

I'm Marvin Lopez, founder and director of COSI. I would like to invite you to come to Costa Rica, participate in COSI's programs and explore this beautiful country. I am very proud of our hard-working and professional staff who are eager to help you. Our goal at COSI is to improve your Spanish language skills. I encourage you to contact our former students who can confirm that **COSI is the Wisest Choice!**

¡Pura Vida!



TEACHING SPANISH SINCE 1994

COSI IN SUMMARY:

1. We offer the unique possibility of taking classes in San Jose (the capital city) and at the Manuel Antonio National Park (**beach & rain forest**).
2. We offer personalized attention in a warm, friendly atmosphere.
3. Mini groups of a maximum of eight students.
4. Our teachers are experts at teaching Spanish to students of all levels. Our staff is trained in OPI-ACTFL. We have teachers with testing certifications.
5. We offer **cultural activities and tours** at reasonable prices.
6. COSI is located in very convenient areas with access to a wide range of public services and places of interest.
7. Our modern facilities house cozy and clean classrooms.
8. We are members of ALTO (Association of Language travel Organizations) and FIYTO (Federation of International Youth Travel Organizations) and **meet their quality standards**.
9. We offer a **volunteer work** program.
10. We provide free Airport pick-up.

LOCATION

COSI has two locations: in San José and at Manuel Antonio beach on the Pacific Coast.

- In San José, we are located in a safe, quiet suburb a ten-minute bus ride from downtown. The address is: San José, Zapote, de Radio Columbia 50 metros oeste y 200 metros sur.
- In Manuel Antonio, we are located in a farm with a wonderful view. The address is: frente a la escuela pública de Manuel Antonio.



Our comfortable facility in San Jose and part of our staff.



Our Beach Program facilities and staff.

SPANISH PROGRAM:

We offer group classes, private tutoring, or a combination of group classes and private tutoring in San Jose as well as in Manuel Antonio. Classes emphasize oral communication to enhance Spanish skills. Teachers are rotated to expose the students to various Spanish accents. The pace of the class is set according to the student's progress in improving his/her skills.

Types of Programs:

A. Mini Group:

- Small group format
- Maximum class size of eight students
- 4 hours a day, Monday through Friday
- 8 AM to 12 noon or 1 to 5 PM, depending on group level assignment

B. Private tutoring:

- Designed for students with limited time or who want to work on specific goals
- Recommended for students who are only taking classes for one week
- 4 hours a day, Monday through Friday
- 8 AM to 12 noon or 1 to 5 PM

C. Group 4 hrs. + 2 hrs. private tutoring per day:

- Designed for specific reinforcement of lessons or vocabulary
- Group class from 8 AM to 12 noon, private tutoring from 1:15 to 3:15 PM

D. Beach and Rain Forest Program:

- Same programs as above, but classes take place in Manuel Antonio beach
- Prices are higher because it is a remote vacation area
- Students can stay with a host family in Quepos, a small village near Manuel Antonio or can stay in a hotel



We offer Internet access and many other services.

COURSES:

In addition to the Spanish classes, the following courses are offered throughout the year in a private tutoring session. Also offered as group class if there is enough interest:

- **Business Spanish:** technical vocabulary used in the business world, business letter writing and common business protocol are taught.
- **Medical Spanish:** technical vocabulary to be applied in the health field. This course is for people who work or plan to work in health related fields.
- **Intercultural Communication:** communication in different cultures and contexts. Diversity and similarities in human beings.
- **Spanish American Culture and Civilization:** history and culture in the Spanish American world. Compares values of the Spanish American culture with other cultures.
- **Latin American Current Events:** current news, political and economic trends in Latin America.

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR TEENAGERS:

From June to August, we offer an immersion program specifically designed for high school students. This program includes chaperoned supervision, weekly activities and weekend tours. The week activities include going to the movies, roller-skating, cooking, volunteer work, dancing and art classes. Weekend trips include going to the beach, active volcanoes or canals in the jungle. Students can attend independently or in groups. This program takes place in the facilities of a high school.

OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The staff at COSI is highly trained to provide classes that are relaxing, fun-filled and effective. All the teachers have excellent credentials in the fields of language teaching and linguistics. Our staff is trained in OPI-ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and we have certified testers.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Learning Spanish at COSI is exciting, efficient and yet very relaxed. Our methodology is based on the modern communicative approach emphasizing conversation; however, we recognize each student's particular learning needs. Students learn the language by using it in practical situations, facilitating their ability to think in Spanish. The classes are very well organized and based on lesson plans that follow our effective program.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS

We have published our own grammar books, workbooks and additional materials to be used as reinforcements to what is being taught in class. The books and materials are included in the price of tuition.

SIZE OF GROUPS

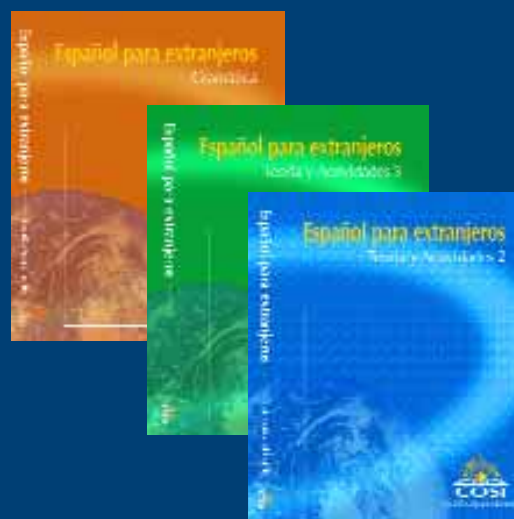
Classes normally are small. It is rare that a class size reaches the maximum of eight students. In the event that no group can be formed, the student will receive three hours of private tutoring per day for the same price as the group program.



Our staff is trained in OPI-ACTFL .



Students enjoy classes on the tranquil oceanside!



We have published our own books.

LEVELS

Our teachers are experts at teaching Spanish to students who range from beginners to those with "near native" competence. We also work with visiting Spanish teachers who want to refresh their language skills.

STARTING DATES

Spanish lessons start every Monday year-round. The home stay can start any day. Students may start later in the week if they are unable to start on a Monday. The minimum length of attendance is one week and there is no maximum.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

The school is open all year except for January 1st, Holy Thursday and Good Friday during Easter, May 1st, and December 25th. Students do not pay for lessons on these days. Classes are made up other days of the week.

STUDENTS' NATIONALITIES

Students come from more than 20 countries, especially from the USA, Asia & Europe. Students' ages range from 17 to 80. Most of them are professionals or adult students. In the high school program, the student age ranges from 13-17.

HOME STAY

COSI offers the opportunity to live with a Costa Rican host family. The home stay includes:

- private room
- keys to the house
- breakfast and dinner
- laundry service



You can live with a friendly, Costa Rican host family.



Class groups are small.

The host families are middle class. We choose the families according to their interest in sharing with foreigners and according to evaluations we receive from previous students.

APARTMENTS

We rent fully furnished apartments one block away from our San José facilities. Each apartment includes:

- computer with internet access through cable modem
- refrigerator, stove, microwave oven, cooking utensils
- cable TV in each bedroom
- cleaning service

Each apartment has three bedrooms and each bedroom has a double bed. It is possible to rent the apartment or just one room. There is a 30% surcharge if there are two people in one room.

HOTELS

Staying at a hotel near COSI is also an option. Please ask for a list of the hotels that we recommend.

CULTURAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Lectures on Costa Rican history and culture are given regularly. Students can also do community or volunteer work, visit museums, the Supreme Court or the nearby universities. Meringue and salsa dance lessons are offered once a week. Most of the cultural activities are included in the cost of tuition. At COSI, students can send faxes, mail or surf the Internet at a minimal cost.

For making international calls, we provide a list of numbers to call collect or students can pay at COSI or buy international calling cards.

TOURS

COSI students receive discounts on tours to many of Costa Rica's main attractions. Our staff will be pleased to help you with hotel, tour or rental car reservations and transportation arrangements.

VOLUNTEER WORK

There are opportunities to do volunteer work in national parks, public schools, Habitat for Humanity and with other organizations.

AIRPORT PICK-UP

No matter what time students arrive, we pick them up at the airport and take them to the host family or hotel at no extra cost. When leaving Costa Rica, students make their own transportation arrangements to the airport at their own expense.

HEALTH INSURANCE

We recommend getting insurance in the students' home country.

PAYMENT

To enroll, please send a US\$150 deposit with your enrollment form. If your enrollment is done through an agency, payment can be made directly with them. Students can pay their remaining balance on the first day of class with traveler's checks, personal check, major credit cards or cash.

TIME TO ENROLL

It is better to enroll at least 4 weeks in advance. If this is not possible, we can make arrangements with just a few days notice.



White water rafting is only one of many of the exiting tours that COSI organizes.



On a clear night, you can see red lava flowing from the Arenal Volcano.



COSTA RICA

Costa Rica is a peaceful country in Central America. It has no army. The territory is 51,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles) similar as West Virginia. 33% of the land is devoted to national parks or reserves. In a country with a population of four million people, Costa Rica's literacy rate is 97 percent. This is among the highest in the developing world. The country has an incredible variety of climates, vegetation, wildlife and topography. The climate of San José is pleasing to most people, ranging from 22° - 32° C (72 - 90° F). Visitors can enjoy many activities such as hiking in rain forests and mountains, going to the Caribbean or the Pacific beaches, visiting active volcanoes, bathing in hot springs, white water rafting, cruising to islands, canopying, diving and much more.

SAN JOSÉ

The capital of the country has many museums, theaters, international restaurants, clubs and bars.

TRANSPORTATION

In Costa Rica, transportation includes buses, taxis and small planes. There is no train. There are public buses that go everywhere. From COSI, buses run to downtown San José every ten minutes between 5 AM and 11 PM. After dark, it is easy to take a taxi for about US\$2 from downtown to home.

“COSI provides absolutely superb teaching with amazing cultural and general educational experiences. The personal attention and support in and out of the classroom were top-notch. I want to return soon!”

Lynne Bond, Ph.D

“Excellent personal attention both academically and in terms of services for students”.

David Bosco, Student

MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH

This park includes one of the best beaches on Costa Rica's Pacific coast for swimming and snorkeling. The park is also wonderful for short walks or full-day hikes. This park is a combination of rain forest, beautiful white sand beaches abounding in flora and fauna, and great views. You can see howler, squirrel, and whitefaced monkeys, two-toed sloths, coatimundis, raccoons, iguanas, over 350 species of birds and others. In Manuel Antonio, the mountains meet the ocean. It is paradise!

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN MANUEL ANTONIO

COSI can make hotel arrangements at the best available prices. Please note that the busy season is from December to April and that prices are higher during this time.

TRANSPORTATION TO MANUEL ANTONIO

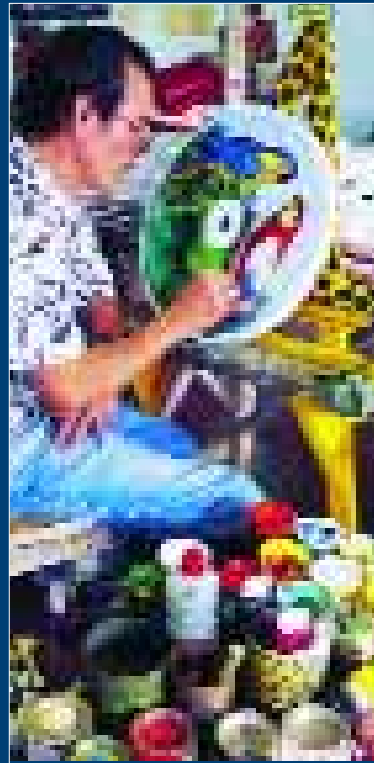
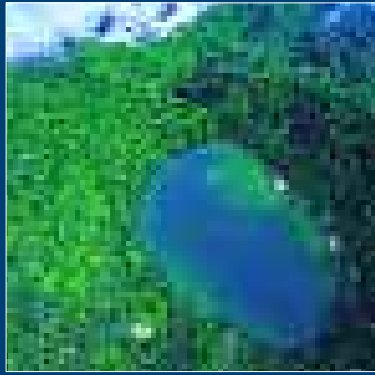
Our students travel to Manuel Antonio by public bus. Buses leave San José every day at 6 AM, 12:00 noon and 6 PM. There are also tourist buses with A/C. It is a 3.5 hours bus ride. If you choose to fly into Manuel Antonio or to rent a car, we will be happy to assist you in making any arrangements. It is recommended that participants

arrive in San José on or before the Saturday prior to the start of classes, stay the first night in San José and travel the following day to Manuel Antonio.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IN MANUEL ANTONIO

There are stores, hotels, restaurants and access to the Internet, telephone and fax in Manuel Antonio. Buses and taxis are inexpensive. It is also possible to rent a car. Activities available include fishing, snorkeling, diving, renting boogie and surf boards, white water rafting, sea kayaking, jet skis, dolphin watching, sunset cruises, horseback riding, canopy tour (an exciting cable ride through the tree tops) and many more adventures.





Costa Rica Spanish Institute

PO Box 1366-2050 San Pedro, San José, Costa Rica

Member of:

