



*Learn, Travel,
Discover!*

**CPI Spanish Immersion School
Costa Rica**



Dear Student,

Thank you for requesting information about Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI).

CPI was founded in 1991 by Romy Morales and her family in the small town of San Joaquín de Flores. Their mission was to create the best language program in Latin America. Today, with three campuses across Costa Rica, each operating independently with the same high quality service, CPI is working to achieve its mission. We continue to accomplish the following goals year after year:

- To attain academic excellence in our teachers by investing in annual language conferences, providing regular training programs, and consistently updating our teaching materials.
- To provide superior student services by reviewing and incorporating student feedback into our programs, improving our educational facilities, and attending to each student's individual needs.
- To offer high quality education at a competitive price.
- To increase global communication through language immersion and cultural education.

CPI makes every effort to offer its students options that meet their specific needs and interests. In San Joaquín de Flores, where our Heredia campus is located, students learn Spanish in a truly immersive environment - a typical Costa Rican town, with few tourists. A safe and peaceful community, San Joaquín is just a 30-minute drive from San José, allowing students easy access to the activities and nightlife of Costa Rica's capital city.

We opened our Monteverde campus in 1996, largely in response to our students' interest in learning Spanish in the Costa Rican cloud forest. A cherished part of Costa Rica, Monteverde is world-famous for its incredible biodiversity along with its successful efforts in environmental conservation and sustainable development. CPI Monteverde has become an integral part of this unique community through: educational efforts, placing CPI students in volunteer positions with local organizations, as well as supporting small businesses by organizing amazing tours to explore the best of the flora and fauna of the area.

In 2000, CPI opened the doors of its third campus, giving students the opportunity to study Spanish in Flamingo Beach, a beautiful Pacific coastal town in the province of Guanacaste. CPI Flamingo allows students to combine intensive, quality Spanish instruction with a beach vacation as the location affords plenty of opportunities for: swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, fishing, and sailing along one of Costa Rica's most spectacular beaches.

Today, CPI is the only Spanish immersion school in Costa Rica with campuses in three diverse regions of the country. We hope to meet you soon in Costa Rica!



Romy Morales, Director

SINCE 1991

Welcome

Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI) invites you to learn Spanish in Costa Rica, a country full of natural beauty, adventure and friendly people. A small nation that supports over 5 percent of the world's biodiversity, Costa Rica has become a global leader in environmental conservation. Today, nearly one third of the country is protected by ecological reserves, national parks, and wildlife refuges.

Why Costa Rica?

Costa Rica is the safest, most economically and politically stable country in Latin America. The country is often referred to as the "Switzerland of the Americas" because of its vision for peace and neutrality. In 1987, former Costa Rican president Oscar Arias won the Nobel Peace Prize for his continuous work in promoting peace and ending conflict throughout Central America. Costa Rica abolished its army in 1949, re-directing military spending towards national education and health care. Today, Costa Rica's 95 percent literacy rate is among the highest in the world, and its health care system offers accessible, inexpensive medical care. Its people, commonly known as Ticos, are among the kindest in Latin America; their warm smiles and sincere desire to help foreigners has made Costa Rica an ideal place to visit.

Costa Rica also offers visitors an incredible range of adventures and activities. Here, you can find it all: from white water rafting and rain forest canopy tours, to scuba diving, snorkeling, and surfing the longest left in the world, to hiking Volcán Arenal, birding in Monteverde, and turtle watching in Tortuguero. Every week CPI assists students in arranging a variety of afternoon and weekend excursions through local professional tour companies.



CPI Heredia



CPI Flamingo



CPI Monteverde

Why Learn Spanish?

Spanish has become essential for day-to-day business practice, education, international relations, and above all, multicultural awareness. There are 400 million Spanish speakers in the world, and 25 countries where Spanish is the official language. Official population statistics estimate that by the year 2050, 550 million people will speak Spanish, a 64 percent increase over today. As Spanish grows more prevalent, businesses and organizations across the world increasingly demand more bilingual job candidates with multicultural experience.

Our Students

Our students come from all over the world to study Spanish. Since 1991, CPI has taught thousands of students, from four years old to over 90, from Europe to Asia to North America, from college students to CEOs to retirees. CPI provides the best combination of intensive Spanish study, cultural immersion, and easy access to the lush rain forests, tropical beaches and bustling towns of Costa Rica. With three separate campuses, each offering the same first-rate facilities, faculty, teaching methodology, and warm family atmosphere, CPI is your best choice for learning Spanish in Costa Rica.



Academic Staff and Methodology

Romy Morales, founding member and director of CPI, has been a member of the teaching profession since 1967, in both El Salvador and Costa Rica. Accredited by the Costa Rican Ministry of Education, Ms. Morales continues her studies on educational issues through participation in professional programs. She regularly attends those sponsored by the International Testing and Training programs on the administration of the ACTFL exam, accepted by various North American universities, and through the Instituto Cervantes, recognized throughout Europe and North America for the “diffusion of Spanish language and Spanish/Latin American cultures”. Ms. Morales utilizes her qualifications and extensive teaching experience to develop and maintain the highest possible educational standards at CPI, as is revealed through the quality of instructional materials (all texts have been developed at CPI) and effective teaching staff. CPI’s teaching team consists of professionals with university training and experience in teaching Spanish as a second language. All teachers receive intensive training in CPI methodology and have excellent social interaction skills, thereby ensuring high quality instruction in a supportive environment. Teachers are constantly receiving courses and workshops to acquire the most advanced techniques in the teaching of the Spanish language.



**Academic
Administration**



**CPI Heredia
Staff**



**CPI Monteverde
Staff**



**CPI Flamingo
Staff**

Collaborating with Ms. Morales, each campus is overseen by an academic coordinator who ensures that the methods and programs of CPI are properly implemented. The academic coordinator is responsible for placing students in the appropriate level of Spanish through a written exam and oral interview on the first day of class. They then continue to follow the progress of each student, communicating to the professors which materials and methods would be most beneficial to the development of that individual. Students change professors each week to gain exposure to different teaching styles and accents. We recognize that each student learns at their own pace – the academic coordinator is responsible for facilitating the learning process and making any necessary class adjustments.

If a student is going to change campuses, the coordinator sends all pertinent information regarding the level, capabilities and learning style of the student to the next campus, permitting that progress continues without interruption.

This personalized attention and complete connection between our three campuses sets us apart from all other language schools in Costa Rica.

Our academic program is designed to accommodate learners of all abilities and we offer 10 different levels of Spanish. With the understanding that everyone wants to learn as rapidly as possible, beginning on the first day classes are taught entirely in Spanish, utilizing a combination of grammar and conversation, whether the student is a beginner or advanced speaker.



The CPI methodology includes a study of vocabulary, syntax, morphology, verb tenses and conjugations. Students learn through directed conversations, writing, reading, comprehension, and pronunciation exercises. Our teaching techniques, combined with small class sizes (a maximum of 4 students per class, with an average of 2 to 3), ensures that students begin speaking and using Spanish from their very first day.

Spanish Immersion Programs for all ages

By offering both a 4 and 5.5 hour per day group intensive program or private classes available from 2 hours to 8 hours a day, through the CPI Spanish immersion school you may choose the level of intensity at which you wish to study. Our standard Spanish program is available year round, starting each Monday, open to all ages and levels. This flexibility, combined with small class size, allows professors to address individual needs and creates one of the most personalized Spanish immersion programs available in Latin America.

CPI Heredia is a DELE Examination Centre

The Diplomas de Español DELE are the only officially accredited qualifications issued by the Ministry for Education of the Kingdom of Spain that are administered internationally. Recognized worldwide by private companies, chambers of commerce and public & private educational systems, kindly contact us for exam dates and registration details to sit for the DELE Diploma.

As a preparatory step and to solidify your Spanish foundation prior to the exam, you can take the DELE prep course at any of our 3 CPI campuses as an option to practice the specific methodology of this exam.



CPI Heredia
Instituto Cervantes
Accredited Center
diplomas.cervantes.es



Students in class



CPI library



Families



Cultural week



Cooking class

Group Programs and Professional Programs

Are you interested in bringing a group to CPI?

The CPI Groups department and administrative staff have extensive experience in working with middle school, high school and university groups. We customize group itineraries to include the class schedule, volunteer work, cultural activities and excursions to meet the needs and interests of any group.

To view all the universities and high schools that utilize CPI as their Spanish immersion school of choice in Costa Rica, please access this link: www.studyandtravelcostarica.com

Additionally, CPI has custom created a selection of programs to meet the special language needs of professionals working in bilingual and bicultural environments. In each program participants benefit from intensive Spanish language study, visits to local work sites, and lectures from Costa Rican specialists on topics relevant to the course material.



Other Ecxciting Pograms

Learning a language can be more fun if you combine the experience with exciting activities. Take a look at our amazing combinations!

Teen Program

For unaccompanied minors aged 13 – 17, this supervised program blends Spanish classes and excursions, both cultural and adrenaline-inducing.

Family and Teen Program

Over the summer teens 13 – 17 traveling with their parents in our Family Program can join in the week-day fun with our Teen Camp participants, enjoying the same activities and excursions.

Family & Kids Program

CPI offers a family friendly learning environment for parents traveling to Costa Rica with their children. Classes & tours for all age groups and interests!

Dive Certification

Spanish immersion is complemented with an Open Water Diver Certification course along the gorgeous Guanacaste coast.

Retirement Travel

This top notch, innovative program is specialized for mature students combining both Golden Age Spanish classes with professionally guided excursions.



Homestays



Rooms



Accommodations

CPI happily assists students in finding and reserving accommodations within Costa Rica. However, we strongly recommend students take advantage of our homestay family option. By living with a Costa Rican family, students have the opportunity to implement the language skills they learn in the classroom, as well as gain first-hand insight into the culture and daily rhythms of life in Costa Rica.

We place only one student in each family. Couples and families may request the same homestay, if they wish. The homestay family provides students with a private room, breakfast & dinner daily, and laundry service. Each house has an appropriate area for study.

The homestays vary from young couples, to families with young children, to middle aged and retired couples. The food served is the same as eaten by the family – typical Costa Rican fare. If a student has a special dietary requirement (for example vegetarian or low fat meals), CPI and the family work together to meet these needs.

The standard of living in Costa Rica differs from that of North America and Europe. The Central Valley, the most developed area of Costa Rica -where CPI Heredia is located-, has the highest standard of living in the country, with more employment opportunities, universities, shopping centers and high quality medical care. In Costa Rica's rural communities, -like Monteverde and Flamingo areas- the homes tend to be more humble, with smaller and less refined living quarters. The homestay experience is unique and can, at times, be challenging. Yet the benefit of increased language acquisition and cultural awareness outweighs the lack of creature comforts.

CPI homestays are all carefully screened and are chosen based upon a list of criteria – not the least of which is the family's sincere desire to meet new people and assist students in reaching their goal of learning Spanish as a second language.

CPI also offers private, shared rooms and apartments at each of our three locations. In this model students prepare their own meals or dine in local restaurants; food delivery is also available. Laundry facilities are located on-site.

Shared Room: This room is for couples or friends who wish to be placed together. The room has one double bed or 2 double beds along with a private bathroom.

Single Room: Private room with private bathroom.

Private Apartment: Designed for 1 person or couples who are looking for more privacy, this one bedroom (with either a double bed or two beds) includes a kitchen and dining room inside the apartment. Villas with 2 rooms are also available for families.

Apartments



Heredia



Monteverde



Flamingo

More than a language program...

CPI's bilingual office staff are on hand to provide help and assistance in all aspects of your stay in Costa Rica. Our collaborators act as on-site resources for students to: answer questions, resolve concerns, assist in arranging travel, recommend volunteer opportunities, and even act as translators, if the situation requires.

Each CPI campus organizes cultural activities to help students practice and apply the Spanish they learn in class. Every week there are free cooking and dance classes in addition to many other planned activities, such as: hikes, volcano and canopy tours, trips to local artisan centers, tours of museums and theatres in San José, beach excursions, bonfires, barbeques, movie nights and sports activities. Each activity is designed to enhance understanding of Costa Rican culture and Latin America in general.

CPI also works with local tour agencies to organize a variety of weekend tours to some of the most beautiful destinations in Costa Rica, including: Arenal Volcano, Manuel Antonio National Park, and Tortuguero National Park. Our goal is to provide students with safe, well-organized, high quality tours at reasonable prices. We remain dedicated to Spanish immersion by using bilingual guides experienced in working with language students.

Babysitting services during class time hours can also be arranged for those families traveling with small children. The family is responsible for the costs of these services.

Students appreciate the professional academic campus setting infused with comfortable spaces where students gather to enjoy new friendships, practice Spanish together or relax amidst the lovely gardens, fountains, sport areas, and open air dining facilities. With campuses conveniently located near restaurants, markets and transportation, such as: buses and taxis - our students are able to safely and easily navigate throughout the local community.

In sum, why not enhance your employability and cultural awareness while having a great time learning Spanish with CPI in Costa Rica?



Learn



Travel



Discover



2) CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS/UNITS

a) Master's in Spanish Credits

A summer 2 week session inclusive of cultural immersion, linguistic advancement and classroom application, is facilitated in conjunction with New Mexico State University (NMSU) as the University of Record. Daily course content is complemented by in-community hands-on applications with the week-end dedicated to a cultural and nature oriented excursion to the lush Caribbean coast. Earn 3 Master's level credits; add-on Spanish classes organized by skill level provide the opportunity to earn a total of 6 graduate level credits. At the course conclusion you will be equipped to bring to your classroom improved communication strategies and real-world applications.

For more information: <http://www.cpi-edu.com/pst-ma-credits>



CPI Heredia

San Joaquín de Flores, where our Heredia campus is located, offers students a safer, more peaceful environment to study Spanish than in San José. Here, students can get to know the people and culture of a small, bustling Costa Rican community (about 10,000 inhabitants), relatively free of tourists, while still remaining close to museums, theatres, shopping and nightlife of San José. San Joaquín is about a 30-minute bus ride from the center of San José, and about a 15-minute drive from the Juan Santamaría (SJO) international airport.

The climate is comfortable, although night time temperatures can drop to 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Celsius) due to the altitude (about 3,500 feet), so a jacket or light sweater is recommended. During the rainy season (May through November) an umbrella and/or raincoat is essential.

From the school, there are spectacular views of the Poás and Barva volcanoes, part of the mountain range surrounding the Central Valley. Heredia and its surrounding areas are rich in natural beauty and traditional Costa Rican culture, offering many activities and sight-seeing opportunities.

In the afternoons, CPI organizes trips to the Poás and Irazú volcanoes, Costa Rican festivals and soccer (fútbol) games, local coffee plantations and orchid farms, as well as excursions to the artisan town of Sarchi, white water rafting, hiking in the rain forest, ziplining, and a San José city tour.

Weekend excursions include trips to the spectacular beaches of Manuel Antonio, the Caribbean coast, as well as to Arenal Volcano, Monteverde and Rincón de la Vieja National Park.



CPI Monteverde

Located in the Monteverde zone, a 20 minute walk from the small Costa Rican town center of Santa Elena, CPI Monteverde is a great choice for nature and outdoor enthusiasts. The area has become world-renowned for its outstanding commitment to environmental preservation and sustainable conservation.

Monteverde is popularly known as an area founded by 12 North American Quaker families in 1952, but there was an established Tico presence long before the Quakers journeyed there. Today the large Tico community works in unison with the remaining Quakers toward the goal of sustainable development of the community and the conservation of the cloud forest reserves. Comprised of ten towns with a total of 8,000 people, the region is nestled amidst the heights of the Continental Divide, at an elevation of 5,600 feet. With a quaint, small town feel, it is a popular destination for women traveling alone, as well as families with children or teenagers.

The climate is cool and at times wet, with an average daily temperature of 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit (18 to 24 degrees Celsius). We recommend that you bring pants, long-sleeved shirts, and a light jacket, as well as rain gear and boots during the months of September and October. Monteverde is about three-hour drive from San José and is serviced by regular public buses.

Due to the region's unique climate and ecosystem, the activities at CPI Monteverde are more ecologically and environmentally oriented. Students have plenty of time for hiking, bird watching, and exploring the Santa Elena and Monteverde cloud forest reserves. Monteverde also offers many options to do the exhilarating zipline tour through the forest or walk along the hanging bridges high above the cloud forest canopy. There is also a coffee tour, butterfly garden, serpentarium, frog pond, a Trapiche tour where students observe various aspects of a working farm and sample the natural sugar cane in various stages, as well as a variety of art galleries. Take advantage of the weekends to fully explore the Monteverde zone or travel to Volcán Arenal or Manuel Antonio National Park.



CPI Flamingo

The driest province of Costa Rica, Guanacaste is filled with open plains, dry tropical forests, and the occasional Guanacaste tree -- one of Costa Rica's national symbols. The Guanacaste coastal area, replete with pristine beaches and scattered mangroves, is known as the golden coast of Costa Rica.

A five-hour drive northwest of San José, the community of Flamingo consists primarily of stores and hotels. However, the neighboring fishing villages of Potrero, Brasilito, Lajas and Huacas -- where our homestays are located -- offer students the opportunity to experience the traditional Guanacaste way of life.

The climate is warm and humid with an average temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). We recommend summer attire (shorts, short sleeve shirts, tank tops, sandals and other light clothing). The homestays, while safe, clean, and carefully screened by CPI, are smaller and more humble than those typically found in Heredia and Monteverde. If a student is not interested in living with a homestay family, we are happy to make them a reservation in apartments with either single or double rooms.

Flamingo's white sand beaches, clear water, and abundant opportunities for: swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, sailing, fishing, and relaxing are perfect for beach lovers. In the afternoons, students enjoy: sunset sailboat cruises to the Catalina islands, beach bonfires, scuba diving lessons, trips to the neighboring Playa Conchal and Pan de Azúcar, visit Costa Rica's cultural capital - Santa Cruz along with the indigenous pottery center of Guaitil or enjoy horseback riding. On the weekends, students travel to Rincón de la Vieja and Santa Rosa National Parks, as well as to Monteverde, Arenal and Manuel Antonio. Also close by are Playa Tamarindo and Playa Grande, two of the best surfing beaches in Central America. CPI Flamingo gives students the opportunity to combine intensive Spanish study with a beach vacation environment.



Spanish Online Program

The CPI Spanish Online Program provides our students the opportunity to practice conversational Spanish in a live classroom environment with a trained instructor and interactive lessons.

This program offers private classes as well as small group classes; this personalized learning solution is available to students of all ability levels.

Whether you are coming to CPI soon or have just returned home, the online program is a useful tool to enhance the results of your language immersion experience.

Visit our website to see the schedule available:

www.spanishonline-edu.com

Registration Process for Immersion Program

Registering is as simple as register by filling out the on-line application which has been automatized to facilitate easy program booking.

If you have questions during the online registration process, our CPI Admissions office in Costa Rica (English and Spanish) will be available to provide you further information through our online chat.

CPI also has representatives in different countries, you may complete your registration through them:

MAIN OFFICE IN USA:

- Terence Thurston
- Toll-Free 1-877-373-3116
- E-mail: usa@cpi-edu.com
- PO Box 2075 Edwards, Colorado 81632

MAIN OFFICE IN EUROPE:

- Sandra LeRoux
- Phone: (33) 7 82 64 41 23
- E-mail: europa@cpi-edu.com
- Avranches, France
- For service in French, English and

MAIN OFFICE IN THE BAHAMAS

AND CARIBBEAN ISLANDS:

- Phyllis Carey
- Phone: 242-3641484
- E-mail: Phyllis_carey@hotmail.com
- Nassau, The Bahamas

MAIN OFFICE IN CANADA:

- Irvin Boschmann
- Toll-Free 1-888-864-3133
- E-mail: canada@cpi-edu.com
- Manitoba, Canada
- For service in English and Spanish.
- For service in French please contact Sandra Leroux Representative

Registration for online classes:

www.spanishonline-edu.com



Spanish Online



Heredia Typical Town



Monteverde Cloud Forest



Flamingo Beach

Why choose CPI?



- 1. Flexibility:** CPI offers students the flexibility to customize programs to meet their specific needs. Students can combine the 5.5 hour program & 4 hour program at different campuses or select a combination of morning group classes complemented by afternoon private lessons where they can cover materials specific to their own learning requirements.
- 2. Individual attention:** The CPI experience guarantees successful linguistic advancement thanks to the fact that we only have 2-3 students per class (4 maximum) which affords a high level of individual attention and student-teacher interaction -- all in a very welcoming and encouraging atmosphere.
- 3. Students travelling alone to Costa Rica:** Our program is the perfect option for those travelling alone; students feel comfortable under the protective umbrella of CPI as they explore their surroundings and participate in school organized activities. Lifelong friendships are established with students meeting on campus in classes, during the break or while participating in the many planned tours and activities.
- 4. Beautiful, custom built schools:** Each remarkable CPI facility has been custom designed and built to serve as a Spanish immersion school.
- 5. Three Campuses:** Divide your studies among three fully staffed, completely unique locations - the city life of Heredia, the cloud forest of Monteverde, and the tropical beaches of Flamingo. This allows students to experience more of Costa Rica, and save time and money by not having to adjust to a new program with each location change.
- 6. Several Lodging Options:** Students can alternate accommodation options by living with a host family in one location and choosing an apartment in another location.
- 7. Academic Coordinator:** Each campus has

an academic coordinator to ensure the highest quality of instruction, supervised learning, and smooth changes among campuses. Our teachers are experienced and native speakers.

8. **Support Services:**

- Extensive orientation to Costa Rica.
- Bilingual office staff and student coordinators to assist not only with travel arrangements by providing educated advice but in all levels of support.
- Wireless internet and free international phone calls.
- Library: Books and high speed internet service.
- Volunteer work: Available at the 3 CPI campuses.
- Free airport pick-up and drop off for students living in home stay or apartment in Heredia. Emergency number is available 24/7.
- Modern didactic materials, including smart boards.

9. **Extensive Activities:** Each campus organizes free weekly cooking and dance classes, as well as many other afternoon and weekend excursions throughout the country.

10. **Academic Credits and Affiliations:** CPI works with New Mexico State University, Brookhaven College and the University of Southern Mississippi to assign Transfer Academic Credits for those who travel without a professor. Additionally, CPI works closely with many institutions and universities which award credits when students travel in a group with a professor. For instance Texas A&M, Arkansas State University, UNCG, UNCW, St. Francis University, etc.; find a complete list on our website.

11. **Pricing:** CPI offers a premium language program at a great value.

12. **Customer Satisfaction:** CPI strives to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction; this is proven by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we receive from our students, many of whom return to study with us year after year.





Costa Rica

- . - . Province Boundary
- Road
- Protected Wildlife Area

Pacific Ocean

Interesting facts about Costa Rica, this country:

- Is rated in the top 20 countries for biodiversity in the world
- With a land mass of 51.100 km², claims only 0.03% of the total land surface of the planet
- Is home to 4% of the total species classified in the world
- Proudly protects 25% of the entire national territory



www.cpi-edu.com

info@cpi-edu.com

Main Office in Costa Rica

Office hours Monday to Friday : 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (cst).

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www.facebook.com/cpicostarica



www.twitter.com/cpicostarica



www.youtube.com/cpicostarica



www.pinterest.com/cpicostarica



www.instagram.com/cpicostarica

Campus Contact Information

CPI Heredia

Phone: (506) 2265-6306
Address: 150 meters east of the entrance to the cemetery in San Joaquín de Flores, Heredia

CPI Monteverde

Phone: (506) 2645-5441
Address: 75 meters before arriving at the gas station, Monteverde, Puntarenas

CPI Flamingo

Phone: (506) 2654-5002
Address: In front of the Flamingo Marina, Flamingo, Guanacaste

