

Gap Program in Cuernavaca, Mexico

Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a home-stay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can join workshops on traditional folk medicine, add a rural studies course in Buenavista, or get involved with a volunteer project. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday of the year. Academic credit is available.

2009 Cost Estimate: \$6,700 for a 12-week program
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

Cuernavaca

Known as the "City of Eternal Spring", Cuernavaca is a pleasant town with beautiful parks and gardens, colonial architecture, and a mild climate. You will find many Mexicans coming here for a retreat, as well as students from around the world. Don't miss out on a visit to the studio home of Frida Kahlo and the gorgeous murals by Diego Rivera!

The Language Institute

For your classes, you will come to three villas in the Las Palmas neighborhood, surrounded by tropical gardens. It features comfortable classrooms, a comprehensive library, and a swimming pool. Nearby are a bank, a post office, a bakery, some sidewalk cafes, a pharmacy, and bus stops. The language institute offers excellent programs for specific students groups such as health care providers, social workers, education professionals, and homeschooled students.

The Classes

Classes are usually held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each weekday and are taught by native speakers. With no more than five students per class, you will have plenty of opportunities to practice and participate. The emphasis is on the development of communication skills, but grammar topics are also being covered. During your course, you will already start taking your Spanish outside the classroom and train in real-life situations.

Cultural Activities

Cuernavaca is a great place to learn about Mexican culture and traditions. You can dive into workshops on topics like "Women of Mexico", "Current Events in Mexico", or "Folk Medicine and Traditional Healing". If you want, try your hands at crafts like backstrap weaving or study folkloric dances at a nearby studio. Join excursions to the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, the silver city of Taxco, or the Templo Mayor to gain insight into Mexico's fascinating history! Many of these activities are included in your program. You may want to budget a little extra for entrance fees and transportation cost.

Special Option: Spanish for Health Care Professionals

Develop specific medical vocabulary and learn about Mexico's health care system, its social realities, and its healing tradition! This course is designed for medical students and health care professionals and includes language classes as well as special workshops and hospital visits. Contact us for details!

Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Cuernavaca. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. Three meals per day are included.



Photo by martintoy



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ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the cost estimate include? Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with three meals per day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Cuernavaca. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

Can I study if I am a beginner? Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

When will I receive my host family placement information? You will receive host family details and contact information in the week prior to your arrival date.

Will I receive any orientation materials? Yes. Once you are accepted into the program, we will send you comprehensive orientation materials that cover everything from packing suggestions to dealing with culture shock.

Will I have access to email? Yes. Internet access is available at the language institute .

Will the institute be closed for any holidays? Yes. The institute is closed for all national holidays in Mexico.

Can I get credits for studying abroad? Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit www.westudyabroad.com for details.

Do I need travel insurance? We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

Will I need a visa? That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Mexican consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Mexico. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

Can I speak to people who have participated in the program before? Definitely! Please contact our office and we can provide you with the emails of students who have participated in this program.

How do I apply? To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$300 deposit. You can download an application at www.andeo.org. Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

What is your cancellation policy? If you cancel your program more than 45 days prior to your start date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please feel free to ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made less than 45 days prior to your program start date, your \$300 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If ANDEO cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in France, please contact ANDEO at info@andeo.org, 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



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Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!

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