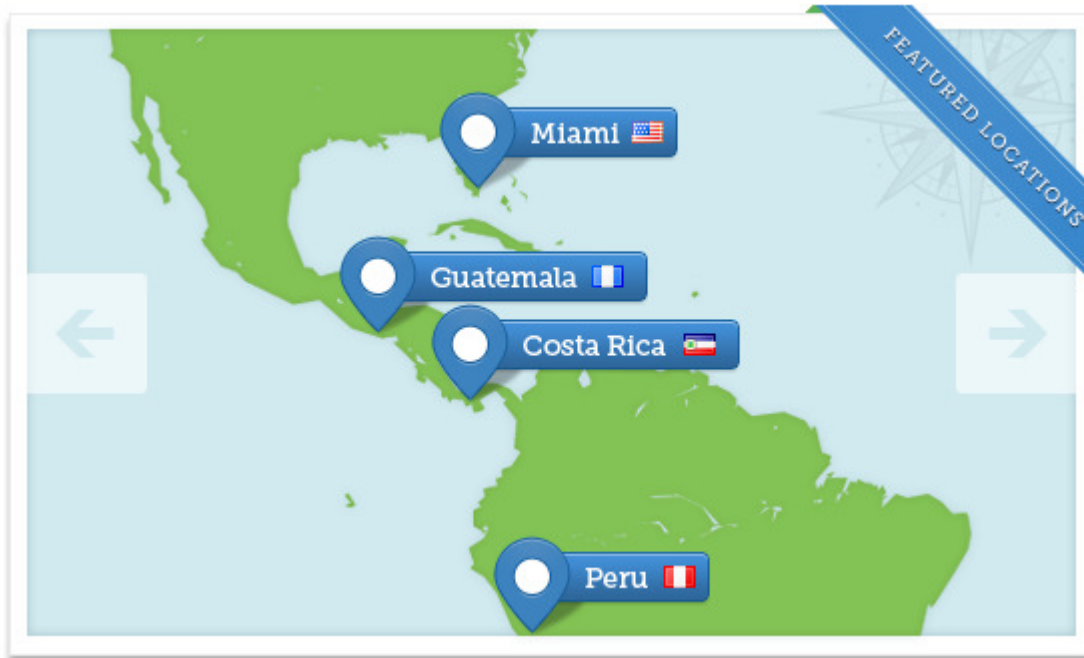


MÁXIMO NIVEL



ADVENTURE & CULTURE PROGRAM 2011

Cusco, Peru
San Jose, Costa Rica
La Antigua, Guatemala
Miami, Florida

For those who live it!



About Máximo Nivel / Máximo Level

Máximo Level was founded as an intensive language institute, and over time has developed its expertise in language immersion, adventure and cultural travel, and teacher training. Máximo Level has grown rapidly since its inception and now offers its Native Spanish Program, international volunteer and internship programs, TEFL/TESOL Certification program, and our Native English Program in Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Our success is based on our commitment to quality and to providing the highest level of service possible to all of our clients

Máximo Level provides a safe and organized environment for travelers and language learners to come and learn about Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala – three of the most diverse countries in the world. During your studies with us, you will have the support and guidance of our Spanish teachers and international staff – they will be your support team and will provide you with 24-hour assistance.

Máximo Level hosts between 30 to 100 international travelers and language learners each week. This means that you will join a lively atmosphere filled with lots of opportunity for cultural exchange and opportunities to make friends from all over the world.

Intensive Spanish Immersion

Our Native Spanish Program appeals to adventure seekers, working professionals, and entire families because we offer the most intensive and professional Spanish programs available. Whether you want to boost your standing at university, add to your career skills, or put your world travels on the fast track, we have a Spanish course and a certified, native, Spanish teacher for you.

Máximo Level's language centers also function as social centers with free snack bar and Internet, office-wide WIFI, salsa lessons, movie night, and our monthly open-bar International Party. We also have a free Tandem Conversation Program offering free conversation practice to supplement your regular classes.

University credit is available for Máximo Level's Spanish language programs. There are three ways to receive university credit:

BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE (United States)

You can receive credit through our affiliation with Brookhaven College, which you can then transfer to your school. How much credit you earn depends on your Spanish level and how many weeks you study with us.

UNIVERSIDAD RURAL (Guatemala)

You can receive credit through our affiliation with Universidad Rural in Guatemala. An official certificate is issued by the University for each Spanish level you pass. To ensure your home country university will honor these credits, please check with your Study Abroad office or Foreign Languages Department.

YOUR UNIVERSITY (Your home country)

We have worked with several universities that grant credit for our courses, and we can provide your school with all documentation needed for you to receive credit. Each university

is different and requires different documentation. This can include a course syllabus, a record of total hours taken, teacher evaluations, attendance reports, curriculum covered, a final exam with letter grade, and other documents. Maximum Level will provide any of these reports or other documentation as needed. Just let us know what your school requires.

Facilities

Máximo Nivel's offices have been designed with the needs of our clients and staff in mind. Every location provides modern computers, high-speed Internet connections including office-wide WIFI access, and a snack bar where every morning the coffee and tea are piping hot and FREE.

Every classroom is equipped with comfortable chairs, an oversized whiteboard, and a cassette and CD player. The common areas have international cable and/or satellite service connected to high definition TVs.

Note: Even though you will find our facilities very well-equipped, we strongly recommend you bring a laptop computer as this makes Internet access even easier and more convenient.

Other Programs @ Máximo Nivel

TEFL/TESOL CERTIFICATION

The internationally accredited TEFL/TESOL certification program is designed for people who want a professional, accredited certification to teach English anywhere in the world. The 4-week/150-hour program includes 100 hours of classroom instruction and 25 hours of practical teaching and observation and an additional 25 hours of required self-study and research outside of the classroom. The overall aim of the course is to provide you with a professional graduate-level TESOL/TEFL course, including a balance between the theory and methodology of ESL.

The Máximo Nivel TEFL/TESOL Certification program is your first step toward more travel, more adventure, and better prospects as an English teacher.

VOLUNTEER & INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Máximo Nivel offers volunteer and internship projects in Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. These projects provide the unique opportunity to live and work in Latin America while experiencing the countries' rich cultural diversity and building your proficiency in Spanish. Through the various project opportunities you are able to make a contribution to global society while at the same time bettering yourself.

Projects offer opportunities for international travelers and students to help out, develop skills and even undertake in-depth study of a particular area in an international setting. Volunteer and internship opportunities include: Childcare, Healthcare, Environment & Conservation, International Business, Teaching English, Construction, Not-for-profit/NGOs, Social issues (Poverty, religion, etc.)

NATIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

Máximo Nivel is an accredited English institute and provides both onsite and offsite English classes to Peruvians, Costa Ricans, and Guatemalans. Our English programs range from general English to Business English, and international exam preparation for tests like the TOEFL, Cambridge, and IELTS. We don't just teach you how to be an ESL teacher, we make sure you're trained within a real English language institute where you get to practice teaching real learners.

Adventure & Culture Programs

To complement our Native Spanish Program, Máximo Nivel offers several options that combine intensive Spanish language classes with world class adventure and cultural travel. The Travel & Study, Mini Adventure, and Full Adventure programs are led by licensed, experienced guides, all of whom speak both Spanish and English.

Máximo Nivel's Adventure & Culture programs are excellent alternatives to typical tourism agendas. These programs provide the opportunity to study in Peru, Costa Rica, and/or Guatemala—a full language immersion experience—combined with the chance to really explore the beauty of these amazing countries.

Additional adventure treks and cultural tours can also be arranged, and these programs can be easily extended for people who want to spend more time in-country.

Travel & Study (7-10 days)

- 4-6 days of intensive Spanish language classes
- 3-4 days of adventure and cultural tours
- Accommodation, meals, and transfers (except where noted)

Mini Adventure (14 days)

- 6-10 days of intensive Spanish language classes
- 4-5 days of adventure and cultural tours
- Accommodation, meals, and transfers (except where noted)

Full Adventure Program (28 days)

- 15-18 days of intensive Spanish language classes
- 7 days of adventure and cultural tours
- Accommodation, meals, and transfers (except where noted)

Travel & Study (7-10 days)

Travel & Study - Guatemala Itinerary (8 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of La Antigua. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conversation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 4: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 5: Spanish Language Classes & Volcano Pacaya

In the morning, you will have 2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Then, in the afternoon, you'll set out on a half-day excursion to climb Volcano Pacaya, a fully active volcano and national park where you will witness real lava flows and be able to take amazing photos.

Day 6: Lake Atitlan

You'll take a 1-day tour of Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful lake in the world. Three stately volcanoes—Atitlan, Toliman and San Pedro—rise from the Lake's southern shore. You will take a boat to visit the Maya villages of Santiago and San Antonio, and then visit the Maya town of Panajachel, including Santander Street and the main attractions of this beautiful town.

Days 7 & 8: 2 Days/1 Night in Tikal (airfare to Tikal included)

The adventure starts early with a short flight from Guatemala City to Santa Elena where you will be met by your guide and taken to Tikal National Park to explore the "City of voices." On your tour you will learn about Maya civilization and history, and you will visit the Temple of the Jaguar, Great Plaza, Lost World and then climb Temple IV to look out over the jungle and the rest of the site. The tour will take most of the day and will include a break for lunch in the park. On Day-2 of the Tikal trip, you'll have an early breakfast and then you join the Canopy Adventure tour. All your equipment will be provided and an experienced instructor will be with you at all times while you enjoy a bird's eye view of the jungle as you soar over the trails below. The canopy tour takes about 3 to 4 hours. In the afternoon, you will fly back to Guatemala City. Meals are *not* included on days 7 and 8.

Travel & Study - Peru Itinerary (10 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of Cusco. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conversation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 4: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 6: Cusco City Tour

You'll set out on a half-day excursion to see some of the highlights of Cusco – "the navel of the world" and the center of the ancient Inca Empire. You will visit Q'oricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun and then tour Cusco's 15th century Cathedral.

Day 7: Four Ruins Tour

You'll have a half-day tour of the four primary ruins surrounding the city of Cusco, including Sacsaywaman, Q'enko, Tambomachay, and Puka Pukara.

Days 8 & 9: Machupicchu

From Cusco, early in the morning, you'll depart by train for the village of Aguas Calientes at the foot of the Machupicchu Mountain. You'll spend the night in this small village and you can enjoy shops, restaurants, and the natural hot springs. Early the next morning, you'll travel by bus up to the entrance of the sanctuary-city of Machupicchu and take a 3-hour guided tour of the ancient ruins. At the end of the tour, you can hike to the top of Huayna Picchu, the mountain overlooking Machupicchu, or to the Temple of the Moon. Late in the afternoon, you'll return to Cusco by train. NOTE: Meals are *not* included on days 8 and 9.

Day 10: Spanish Language Classes and Traditional Markets

Day 10 includes another 2-4 hours of intensive Spanish in the morning. In the afternoon, you and your Spanish teacher will take a tour through three traditional markets around Cusco, including both open-air vegetable and food markets and traditional handicraft markets where you can buy souvenirs.

Travel & Study - Costa Rica Itinerary (7 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of San Jose. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conversation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes and San Jose City Tour

You will start the day with 2-4 hours of intensive Spanish. Following a brief pause, you'll set out on a half-day excursion to see some of the highlights of San Jose – The National Museum, the National Theatre, San Jose's famous Central Market, and the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Day 4: 4-in-1 Tour

Day 5 begins early as you'll be seeing the best highlights of Costa Rica. On this awesome tour, you will visit coffee fields, Poas Volcano National Park, Botos Lagoon, and La Paz Waterfall Gardens. You'll also take a jungle ride on the Sarapiquí River, visit a butterfly garden, and do some sightseeing at Braulio Carrillo National Park. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Days 5-7: 3 Days/2 Nights in Manuel Antonio Beach

You will travel by bus to the beautiful resort village of Quepos and Manuel Antonio. This is *beach time* at one of the best beaches Costa Rica has to offer. Manuel Antonio also has good shopping and restaurants and there is an excellent national park too. You'll spend the night at a small hotel right on the beach. Extra spending money is strongly encouraged. On the last day, you'll travel back to San Jose by bus. NOTE: Meals are *not* included on days 5, 6, and 7.

Mini Adventure (14 days)

Mini Adventure - Guatemala Itinerary (14 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of La Antigua. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 4: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 6: Volcano Pacaya

You'll set out on a half-day excursion to climb Volcano Pacaya, a fully active volcano and national park where you will witness real lava flows and be able to take amazing photos.

Day 7: Free Time

Days 8 & 9: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Days 10 & 11: 2 Days/1 Night in Tikal (airfare to Tikal included)

The adventure starts early with a short flight from Guatemala City to Santa Elena where you will be met by your guide and taken to Tikal National Park to explore the "City of voices." On your tour you will learn about Maya civilization and history, and you will visit the Temple of the Jaguar, Great Plaza, Lost World and then climb Temple IV to look out over the jungle and the rest of the site. The tour will take most of the day and will include a break for lunch in the park. On Day-2 of the Tikal trip, you'll have an early breakfast and then you join the Canopy Adventure tour. All your equipment will be provided and an experienced instructor will be with you at all times while you enjoy a bird's eye view of the jungle as you soar over the trails below. The canopy tour takes about 3 to 4 hours. In the afternoon, you will fly back to Guatemala City. Meals are *not* included on days 10 and 11.

Days 12-14: 3 Days/2 Nights in Semuc Champay

After Tikal, you will travel by bus to Alta Verpaz. You'll spend 2 nights in the beautiful Hotel Big Tower and make a wonderful tour of Semuc Chamnpay—a jewel of stunning natural splendor; truly one of the loveliest spots in Guatemala. In Semuc Champey, the Cahabon river flows underground, and has formed a natural limestone bridge, which is home to a series of pools fed by creeks and waterfalls. Join the locals for a swim in the crystal clear water. Semuc Champey is part of a National Park that was established to protect the pools and the surrounding terrain. On Day-14 you head back to La Antigua by bus. Meals are *not* included on days 12-14.

Mini Adventure - Peru Itinerary

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of Cusco. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Days 2-5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours per day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program or use the free tutoring service Monday-Friday.

Day 6: Cusco City Tour & The Four Ruins

You'll set out on an excursion to see the highlights of Cusco – "the navel of the world" and the center of the ancient Inca Empire. You will visit Q'oricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun and then tour Cusco's 15th century Cathedral. You'll also visit the four primary ruins surrounding the city, including Sacsaywaman, Q'enko, Tambomachay, and Puka Pukara.

Day 7: Sacred Valley of the Incas

You'll take a beautiful driving tour of the ancient agricultural center of the Incas. First, you will travel by bus down into the lush, green Sacred Valley. The first stop is a unique arts and crafts center and petting zoo where you can feed the alpacas and vicuna. Next, you travel to the pueblo of Pisac, and then onto Urubamba and Ollantaytambo.

Days 8-11: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Days 12 & 13: Machupicchu

From Cusco, early in the morning, you'll depart by train for the village of Aguas Calientes at the foot of Machupicchu. You'll spend the night in this small village and you can enjoy shops, restaurants, and the natural hot springs. Early the next morning, you'll travel by bus up to the entrance of the sanctuary-city of Machupicchu and take a 3-hour guided tour of the ancient ruins. At the end of the tour, you can hike to the top of Huayna Picchu, the mountain overlooking Machupicchu, or to the Temple of the Moon. Late in the afternoon, you'll return to Cusco by train. NOTE: Meals are *not* included on days 12 and 13.

Day 14: Free day to pack up and head home

Your last day in Cusco, you can sleep in, enjoy breakfast, stop by our office to say goodbye. From here you head home or to your next destination. We hope to see you again!

Mini Adventure - Costa Rica Itinerary

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of San Jose. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes and San Jose City Tour

You will start the day with 2-4 hours of intensive Spanish. Following a brief pause, you will set out on a half-day excursion to see some of the highlights of San Jose – The National Museum, the National Theatre, San Jose's famous Central Market, and the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Days 4 & 5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 6: 4-in-1 Tour

Day 6 begins early as you'll be seeing the best highlights of Costa Rica. On this awesome tour, you will visit coffee fields, Poas Volcano National Park, Botos Lagoon, and La Paz Waterfall Gardens. You'll also take a jungle ride on the Sarapiquí River, visit a butterfly garden, and do some sightseeing at Braulio Carrillo National Park. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Day 7: Catamaran Island Cruise

Day 7 begins very early in the morning as you depart by private van for the coast to take the Catamaran Island Cruise—a one-day boat tour in the calm waters of the Gulf of Nicoya. Once on board the 71-foot Catamaran, you'll cruise past 23 islands on route to Costa Rica's famous Isla Tortuga. At Isla Tortuga you can sunbathe, swim, snorkel, play volleyball, kayak, or just relax in a hammock. A wonderful gourmet meal is elegantly served accompanied with chilled white wine and live music. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Days 8-12: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Days 12-14: Free Time

Your last two days in Costa Rica are for you to plan and enjoy—take a zip line tour through the jungle, go relax at the beach, or do some shopping.

Full Adventure Program (28 days)

Full Adventure - Guatemala Itinerary (28 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of La Antigua. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Day 2: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 3: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 4: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 6: Volcano Pacaya

You'll set out on a half-day excursion to climb Volcano Pacaya, a fully active volcano and national park where you will witness real lava flows and be able to take amazing photos.

Day 7: Free Time

Days 8-12: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Days 13 & 14: 2 Days/1 Night in Tikal (airfare to Tikal included)

The adventure starts early with a short flight from Guatemala City to Santa Elena where you will be met by your guide and taken to Tikal National Park to explore the "City of voices." On your tour you will learn about Maya civilization and history, and you will visit the Temple of the Jaguar, Great Plaza, Lost World and then climb Temple IV to look out over the jungle and the rest of the site. The tour will take most of the day and will include a break for lunch in the park. On Day-2 of the Tikal trip, you'll have an early breakfast and then you join the Canopy Adventure tour. All your equipment will be provided and an experienced instructor will be with you at all times while you enjoy a bird's eye view of the jungle as you soar over the trails below. The canopy tour takes about 3 to 4 hours. In the afternoon, you will fly back to Guatemala City. Meals are *not* included on days 10 and 11.

Days 15-17: 2 Days/1 Night in Semuc Champay

After Tikal, you will travel by bus to Alta Verpaz. You'll spend 2 nights in the beautiful Hotel Big Tower and make a wonderful tour of Semuc Chamnpay—a jewel of stunning natural splendor; truly one of the loveliest spots in Guatemala. In Semuc Champey, the Cahabon river flows underground, and has formed a natural limestone bridge, which is home to a series of pools fed by creeks and waterfalls. Join the locals for a swim in the crystal clear water. Semuc Champey is part of a National Park that was established to protect the pools and the surrounding terrain. On Day-17 you head back to La Antigua by bus. Meals are *not* included on days 15-17.

Days 18-20: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 21-23: 2 Days/1 Night in Lake Atitlan + Panajachel

You'll take a 2 day tour of Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Three stately volcanoes—Atitlan, Toliman and San Pedro—rise from the Lake's southern shore, You will take a boat to visit the Maya villages of Santiago and San Antonio, and then visit the Maya town of Panajachel, including Santander Street and the main attractions of this beautiful town. Also on this special tour Atitlan, you will visit the village of Panajachel—an 800 year old pueblo of about 14,000 people, most of them Cachikel Mayas living inside the "rainbow of Atitlan." On Day-23, you will take a bus back to La Antigua. Meals are *not* included on days 21-23.

Days 24-27: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers.

Day 28: Free day to pack up and head home

Your last day in La Antigua, you can sleep in, enjoy breakfast, stop by our office to say goodbye. From here you head home or to your next destination. We hope to see you again!

Full Adventure - Peru Itinerary (28 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of Cusco. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Days 2-5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 6: Cusco City Tour & The Four Ruins

You'll set out on an excursion to see some of the highlights of Cusco – "the navel of the world" and the center of the ancient Inca Empire. You will visit Q'oricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun and then tour Cusco's 15th century Cathedral. You'll also visit the four primary ruins surrounding the city of Cusco, including Sacsaywaman, Q'enko, Tambomachay, and Puka Pukara.

Day 7: Free Time

Days 8 – 12: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 13: Sacred Valley of the Incas

You'll take a beautiful driving tour of the ancient agricultural center of the Incas. First, you will travel by bus from Cusco down into the lush, green Sacred Valley. The first stop is a unique arts and crafts center and petting zoo where you can feed the alpacas and vicuna. Next, you travel to the pueblo of Pisac, and then onto Urubamba, and the archeological ruins at Ollantaytambo.

Day 14: Free Time

Days 15 – 19: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Days 20 & 21: Machupicchu

From Cusco, early in the morning, you'll depart by train for the village of Aguas Calientes at the foot of the Machupicchu Mountain. You'll spend the night in this small village and you can enjoy shops, restaurants, and the natural hot springs. Early the next morning, you'll travel by bus up to the entrance of the sanctuary-city of Machupicchu and take a 3-hour guided tour of the ancient ruins. At the end of the tour, you can hike to the top of Huayna Picchu, the mountain overlooking Machupicchu, or to the Temple of the Moon. Late in the afternoon, you'll return to Cusco by train. Meals are *not* included on days 20 and 21.

Days 22-24: Spanish Language Classes

Days 20-23 are spent in intensive Spanish language classes. Classes can be scheduled for the morning or afternoon to suit your needs. Weekends are free to do as you wish.

NOTE: Days 25–27 are programmed to include a tour of Peru’s Tambopata Reserve in the Amazon Rainforest. However, this may vary depending on time of year, weather conditions, and availability of tours. Other tours which may be substituted without prior notice include: 1) Lake Titicaca and 2) Peru’s world famous Nazca Lines.

Tambopata Reserve

The Tambopata Reserved Zone is the most preserved area of the Amazon rainforest and it covers an area of approximately 1.48 million hectares/3.66 million acres. It is in this amazing biological reserve that three ecosystems converge resulting in an astounding variety of flora and fauna. Among this incredible variety, there are a number of endangered species including the jaguar, the giant otter, and the harpy eagle.

Day 25: Transfer Cusco – Tambopata (Flight tickets included)

Early in the morning you will take a 25-minute flight from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado – the biodiversity capital of Peru. From there, you’ll take a 3-hour boat ride from Puerto Maldonado along the Madre de Dios River to a beautiful jungle lodge, where they’ll welcome you with a refreshing traditional drink and lunch. You’ll have some time to settle you’re your bungalow and then later in the afternoon, a specialized jungle guide will take you through Monkey Island in the heart of the Madre de Dios River. Lunch and dinner included.

Day 26: Lost Cocha

After a very early breakfast, you will set off on a jungle adventure. A local guide will lead you through the depths of the rainforest to the Lost Cocha – a shelter and food source for a variety of animals such as giant otters, crocodiles, turtles, sachavacas, colorful birds, the majestic jaguar, and tropical fish.

Along the way, you’ll trek to the famous Amazonian Viewing Point, built on the top of a Shihuahuaco tree. From there, you’ll be able to fully appreciate the magical jungle in all its splendor. In the evening, if there is time, the guide will take you across the river to visit a local native family living in the jungle.

Day 27: Transfer Tambopata - Puerto Maldonado

On your final day in the jungle, you’ll enjoy an early breakfast and then travel back along the Madre de Dios River to Puerto Maldonado and make your return flight back to Cusco.

Day 28: Free day to pack up and head home

Your last day in Cusco, you can sleep in, enjoy breakfast, stop by our office to say goodbye. From here you head home or to your next destination. We hope to see you again!

Full Adventure - Costa Rica Itinerary (28 days)

Day 1: Orientation and Spanish Placement Exam

You will start the day with a full orientation about Maximum Level's institute, services, and the city of San Jose. You'll also take a 30-minute placement exam to determine your Spanish level. The placement exam tests your listening, reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. If time permits, you'll begin your Spanish classes on the first day.

Days 2-5: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. It's your choice if you want to study 2 or 4 hours each day. You can also join our free Tandem Conservation Program and we also have free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Days 6-7: Free time

Day 8: Spanish Language Classes and San Jose City Tour

You will start the day with 2-4 hours of intensive Spanish. Following a brief pause, you will set out on a half-day excursion to see some of the highlights of San Jose – The National Museum, the National Theatre, the Central Market, and the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Days 9-12: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Day 13: Catamaran Island Cruise

Day 7 begins very early in the morning as you depart by private van for the coast to take the Catamaran Island Cruise—a one-day boat tour in the calm waters of the Gulf of Nicoya. Once on board the 71-foot Catamaran, you'll cruise past 23 islands on route to Costa Rica's famous Isla Tortuga. At Isla Tortuga you can sunbathe, swim, snorkel, play volleyball, kayak, or just relax in a hammock. A wonderful gourmet meal is elegantly served accompanied with chilled white wine and live music. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Day 14: Free Time

Days 15-19: Spanish Language Classes

2-4 hours of intensive Spanish language classes with our professionally certified native-speaking teachers. Remember to join our free Tandem Conservation Program and to take advantage of our free Spanish tutoring Monday-Saturday.

Days 20-22: 3 Days/2 Nights in Manuel Antonio Beach

You will travel by bus to the beautiful resort village of Quepos and Manuel Antonio. This is *beach time* at one of the best beaches Costa Rica has to offer. Manuel Antonio also has good shopping and restaurants and there is an excellent national park too. You'll spend the night at a small hotel right on the beach. Extra spending money is strongly encouraged. On the last day, you'll travel back to San Jose by bus. NOTE: Meals are *not* included on days 20, 21, and 22.

Day 23: Free Time

Days 24-26: Eco-Lodge and Rafting

You'll begin early in the morning with a two-hour bus ride to Siquirres. From there, you'll take a journey on the wild side, exploring some of Costa Rica's most biologically diverse

rainforests. The Pacuare River adventure offers the perfect combination of river rafting, rainforest hiking, and gourmet food in a beautiful, exotic, and stress-free environment.

The adventure begins with a white water rafting trip down one of the world's most scenic rivers, passing below tumbling waterfalls, impenetrable rainforest and through water that alternates between foamy white and placid green. The rapids range from Class I to Class III along the river (NO previous rafting experience is required)

At the lodge, you can bird watch, hike, swim, fish, explore the rainforest, visit a traditional indigenous community, or simply relax. The lodge's eco-friendly bungalows are surrounded by tropical foliage, nestled between the river and a private nature reserve. Each bungalow combines sustainable practices such as solar-heated water and low-impact septic systems with comforts such as orthopedic mattresses and spacious bathrooms.

Day 27: Transfer back to San Jose

Early on Day 27, you'll enjoy a nice breakfast and travel by bus back to San Jose.

Day 28: Free day to pack up and head home

Your last day in Costa Rica, you can sleep in, enjoy breakfast, stop by our office to say goodbye. From here you head home or to your next destination. We hope to see you again!

Native Spanish Program

In three of the world's most cultural cities—Cusco, Peru, San Jose, Costa Rica, and La Antigua, Guatemala—Máximo Level offers its unique Native Spanish Program for intensive language training or extended study of the Spanish language. Máximo Level offers all levels of Spanish instruction, as well as special Medical and Business Spanish classes.

Máximo Level is not a typical Spanish School. We are an executive language center offering the most intensive and effective Spanish courses in Latin America. Máximo Level employs only the most experienced native Spanish instructors, all of them actual teachers—either certified in teaching Spanish as a foreign language or with their Bachelors and/or Masters in Education. We offer an incomparable service to improve your Spanish, whether you are looking for a 5-day crash-course or a 6-month extended program.

Máximo Level also offers our well-known Native English Program to Peruvian, Costa Rican, and Guatemalan learners. Via our optional Tandem Conversation Program, our Spanish clients can join free conversation practice when we team them up with local residents who are studying in our intensive English programs. This "tandem" conversation practice is an excellent addition to regular Spanish classes.

Program Summary

On your first day, you will participate in a brief orientation, take a language placement test, and then be placed at an appropriate level. Throughout your language training, the teacher will continuously assess your ability in the four language skills – Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing; and the four language systems—Grammar, Vocabulary, Phonology, and Function.

BASIC

Basic classes are for learners with no previous experience in Spanish. Learners will be taught basic grammatical structures, vocabulary, and will immediately begin speaking in Spanish, thereby gaining a concrete foundation in the language.

HIGH BASIC

For learners with an elementary knowledge of the Spanish language, these classes focus on reinforcing grammar, teaching new vocabulary, and increasing speaking capacity, enabling you to express yourself clearly in daily situations.

PRE-INTERMEDIATE I & II

These classes build on learners' previous experience with Spanish, reinforcing all areas of the language, with an increasing importance placed on speaking, reading, and vocabulary.

INTERMEDIATE I & II

At this point, learners likely speak Spanish, but are still struggling with the more difficult grammar points. These classes focus primarily on conversation, reading, and vocabulary; as well as on increasing your grammatical accuracy by reinforcing areas such as the use of the 'subjunctive' and 'indefinite past'. Focus is on the ability to express yourself spontaneously and to interact across a variety of social situations with increasing accuracy.

HIGH INTERMEDIATE I & II

These classes build on learners' conversational base in Spanish, and begin to more finely tune communicative competence by building vocabulary and introducing students to idioms,

slang, and points of 'common usage' in Spanish. High Intermediate classes also include emphasis on written expression.

ADVANCED I & II

Advanced classes at the first and second level continue to fine tune learners' Spanish skills. Emphasis is placed on advanced communicative competence – the ability to communicate completely in the Spanish language, across all kinds of situations. Classes emphasize oral skills, sophisticated vocabulary, and increasing learners' understanding and ability to use idiomatic Spanish.

The Native Spanish Program Includes:

- Official Spanish program certification
- Certified, native Spanish teacher
- Spanish placement exam
- Free Spanish textbook and materials
- Free Tandem Conversation Program
- Free access to high-speed Internet and computers
- Office-wide WIFI access
- Free Salsa lessons
- Monthly International Party with open bar
- Emergency contact number 24/7
- A toll-free emergency hotline in the U.S.

We Take Good Care of You

Máximo Nivel offers you a wide range of services to help make sure your program is both comfortable and enjoyable. We advise you on what to bring for your trip; what airlines to fly; what type of accommodation best suits you; how much money you need to bring; visa requirements (if any); and all of the ins and outs of day-to-day life in Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala.

From the moment you arrive, we put all of our efforts into making your stay enjoyable. We meet you at the airport and take you to your family-stay or other accommodation. We provide you with all the information you need regarding cash machines, shopping, trekking, sightseeing, and nightlife.

Every month our international program participants are invited to our monthly International Party including open bar and salsa dancing!

Every program participant is provided with an emergency telephone number to reach a member of the executive team 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Accreditation

As an internationally accredited institute, Máximo Nivel must adhere to strict codes of practice and maintain the highest professional standards.

Accreditation by an external educational body is vital if you wish to receive a certification that is recognized worldwide.

Our programs are accredited by the Peruvian Ministry of Education and by the Guatemalan Ministry of Education. As well, Máximo Nivel maintains close ties with colleges and universities in the United States, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. We work with Brookhaven College in the United States, Universidad Juan Pablo II in Costa Rica, and the Universidad Rural in Guatemala in order to help provide university credit for our programs.



Beware of Unaccredited Courses!

Certificates from unaccredited programs do not carry the same weight as those that are recognized on an international level. Be sure that the course you attend is accredited by an officially recognized accrediting agency.

Housing Options

The Family House (Peru only)

The Family House bed and breakfast offers accommodations similar to a traditional family-stay, but with more independence and privacy. Volunteers stay in shared rooms with one, two, or three other volunteers. Your stay includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Sunday. Guests are given a key to their room and to the house and are free to come and go as they please. Laundry services are available for a small extra fee. The Family House is within walking distance (15-30 minutes) from Máximo Nivel's offices.

Traditional Family-Stay

Family-stays are all with pre-approved families and include breakfast and dinner Monday through Sunday. All of our host families are middle-class and live in homes and areas that are attractive. Most family-stays include a shared room and shared bath. Many of the families have been hosting international travelers for years. Guests are given a key to the house and are free to come and go as they please, but they must respect the routine and rules of the family. All family-stays are within walking distance (10-30 minutes) or within a 5-15 minute bus or taxi ride from Máximo Nivel's offices.

Private Apartment

Our private apartments are all modern, very comfortable, and fully furnished. Apartments come with equipped kitchens including plates and utensils required to live comfortably and cook for yourself. All apartments are centrally located and are within easy walking distance or a short taxi ride to the Máximo Nivel's offices.

Shared Apartment

Like our private apartments, our shared apartments are all modern, comfortable, and fully furnished. Shared apartments all have 2 private bedrooms, though the bath is usually shared. The apartments are fully furnished with equipped kitchens including plates and utensils. All apartments are very centrally located and are within easy walking distance or a short taxi ride to the Máximo Nivel's offices.

Hostel

There are also many inexpensive hostels available and you may elect this option if you want to save money while still remaining 100% independent. Máximo Nivel works with several different hostels, all of them clean and safe with excellent service and amenities including TV rooms, 24-hour kitchens, and more. All hostel accommodations include private rooms with private bath. All hostels are a 5 to 15 minute walk from Máximo Nivel's offices.

Hotel (3-Star)

Cusco, San Jose, and La Antigua have a great deal to offer in terms of hotels, ranging from 1-star to 5-star accommodations. Máximo Nivel works with several 3-star hotels, which are modern and comfortable with all the necessary amenities plus breakfast included. All hotel rooms are private with a private bath. If you desire more luxurious accommodations please request the hotel option when you register.

Programs & Tuition - 2010

The following prices apply to Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. When registering, please specify if you plan to study in our Peru, Costa Rica, or Guatemala office.

Prices *include* accommodations, meals, and transfers except where noted in the itineraries above.

Guatemala

PROGRAM	Travel & Study	Mini Adventure	Full Adventure
Spanish Classes			
2 hours/day	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,400
4 hours/day	\$850	\$1,100	\$1,600

Peru

PROGRAM	Travel & Study	Mini Adventure	Full Adventure
Spanish Classes			
2 hours/day	\$900	\$950	\$1,800
4 hours/day	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$2,000

Costa Rica

PROGRAM	Travel & Study	Mini Adventure	Full Adventure
Spanish Classes			
2 hours/day	\$800	\$900	\$2,800
4 hours/day	\$950	\$1,100	\$3,200

Also, all Máximo Level Adventure & Culture participants receive the following:

- Official Spanish program certification
- Certified, native Spanish teacher
- Spanish placement exam
- Free Spanish textbook and materials
- Free Tandem Conversation Program
- Free access to high-speed Internet and computers
- Office-wide WIFI access
- Free Salsa lessons
- Monthly International Party with open bar
- Emergency contact number 24/7
- A toll-free emergency hotline in the U.S.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I study at Máximo Level?

Máximo Level is not just an average Spanish school - it is an executive language center offering the Native Spanish Program, TEFL/TESOL Certification, Volunteer & Internship Program, and the Native English Program. We provide you with the most intensive and effective Spanish learning environment in Latin America.

How long are your programs? When can I start?

Máximo Level is unique in offering flexible programs in order to accommodate your travel and trekking schedule. Our clients can choose to study 1 to 4 hours or more each day. Most programs are 1 to 4 weeks long. However, Máximo Level also offers long-stay programs of 3 to 12 months for people who wish to build full Spanish proficiency. Group classes begin every Monday, and private classes can begin any day of the week.

How many hours of instruction do you recommend?

That depends on your individual goals for learning Spanish. You may study for as little as one week; however, we recommend a minimum study period of two weeks. We normally do not recommend more than 4 hours per day of study. However, for clients who want to study 5, 6, or even 8 hours a day we will happily tailor your program to your needs.

Who typically attends Máximo Level?

People of all ages come to Máximo Level, from young adults to retirees. The majority of our clients are travelers ranging in age from 20 to 55. Máximo Level attracts people from many different backgrounds and parts of the world, including the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel, and Canada.

What levels of Spanish are offered?

Máximo Level offers 8 levels of Spanish: Basic, High-Basic, Pre-Intermediate I, Pre-Intermediate II, Intermediate I, Intermediate II, Advanced I, and Advanced II.

Do I have the same teacher every week?

Yes. In our short-term classes (<1 month), consistency, trust, and chemistry between the client and teacher are critical components of the learning process. Clients studying Spanish 4 hours per day are usually teamed with two teachers - one for the first 2 hours and the other for the next 2 hours, but even then these teachers remain consistent throughout the program of study.

Clients studying long-term at Máximo Level (2 months>) are encouraged to change teachers after 2 months, as the change in teaching style and accent are also important components to building Spanish proficiency.

Can children study Spanish?

Yes. Máximo Level offers a family friendly environment for families traveling to Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. We are happy to provide classes for your children or for the whole family together. However, for younger children, a different schedule may be

recommended. Máximo Nivel has experience teaching children as young as five years old. Babysitting service can also be arranged at an additional cost.

What Should I Bring?

The key to packing for a trip to Peru is to pack for a variety of conditions. The best way to deal with the extremes that Peru has to offer – the intense sun during the day, the cold mountain nights, and the heat and humidity of the Amazon Basin – is to dress using layers.

The key to packing for Costa Rica and Guatemala is to prepare for a warm and sometimes humid climate. The coastal areas are steamy and hot with lots of sunshine; and San Jose and La Antigua are warm by day and cool by night with intermittent sunshine and rain.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST – PERU

- Day pack
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Hiking boots
- 2 pairs of pants
- 2 T-shirts
- 2 long-sleeved shirt
- 1 pair of shorts
- Thermal underwear
- Fleece jacket
- Hat or cap
- Towel and personal bath kit
- Sun block, lip balm, sun glasses
- Camera

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST – COSTA RICA

- Day pack
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots
- Sandals
- 2 pairs of pants (lightweight)
- 2 T-shirts
- 3 short-sleeved shirts
- 1 long-sleeved shirt
- 3 pairs of shorts and bathing suit
- Hat or cap
- Towel and personal bath kit
- Sun block, sun glasses
- Camera

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST – GUATEMALA

- Day pack
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots
- Sandals
- 2 pairs of pants (lightweight)
- 2 T-shirts
- 3 short-sleeved shirts
- 1 long-sleeved shirt
- 3 pairs of shorts and bathing suit
- Hat or cap
- Towel and personal bath kit
- Sun block, sun glasses
- Camera

STUDY MATERIALS

- Laptop computer (if possible)
- Notebook and pen
- Spanish-English dictionary

How much extra money should I bring?

Extra money depends on your personal spending habits. You will likely want extra money for personal expenses, sight-seeing, souvenirs, etc. Generally speaking, we recommend bringing about \$ 250.00 (USD) per week, or just bring your credit card. Note, travelers checks in Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala tend to be problematic to use and are NOT recommended.

The best method for getting money is to simply use ATMs. Most banks in Latin America offer 24-hour ATM access.

Do I need a Visa to enter Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala?

Depending on where you are from you may or may not need a special visa. Most people, including those from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe, automatically receive a 90-day tourist visa when entering Costa Rica and Guatemala, and receive up to 183 days when entering Peru.

Will I have phone and Internet access?

Máximo Nivel's offices have international phone and fax service. As well, our clients and students have free access to our computer centers with high speed internet and WiFi connections; and all the computers run Windows and Microsoft Office. Access to our offices and Internet facilities are available 7 days a week.

What should I do in case of an emergency?

If there is an emergency, please contact Máximo Nivel immediately. If your family needs to reach you they can do so via the following numbers:

Máximo Nivel (Peru Office): +51 84 58 1800

Máximo Nivel (Costa Rica Office): +506 2253 9220

Máximo Nivel (Guatemala Office): +502 7932 1500

Máximo Nivel (USA Message Center): +1 877 433 4141

Is the water safe to drink?

Tap water in Peru and Guatemala is NOT safe for drinking, but water straight from the tap in Costa Rica IS safe to drink. Tap water can be purified by boiling it or adding purification tablets, such as *Micropur*, which can be purchased at most pharmacies. Generally speaking, bottled water is easy to buy in stores. Showering and brushing your teeth with water is rarely a problem.

Do I need vaccinations?

It is recommended that travelers to Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala have vaccinations for Hepatitis A and Tetanus. Typhoid and Yellow Fever are sometimes recommended, but are not necessary. Malaria is not a threat in Peru, Costa Rica, or Guatemala. Other immunizations may be necessary depending upon the circumstances of your project and personal medical history. You should visit a travel-health clinic or your physician at least four weeks before traveling.

Should I bring any medicine?

It is recommended that you bring medications for travelers' diarrhea. The best way to prevent traveler's diarrhea is to be careful of the food and water that you eat and drink. *Ciprofloxacin* (Cipro) or *Levofloxacin* (Levaquin) are good choices for treatment of traveler's diarrhea.

In Peru, *Acetazolamide* is the drug most often used to prevent altitude sickness. The usual dosage is 125 milligrams or 250 milligrams two or three times daily starting 24 hours before ascent, and continuing for 48 hours after reaching altitude.

See your physician for specific recommendations.

Are Peru, Costa Rica, and Guatemala safe countries?

Yes, and you can relax while you are here.

That said, it's still important to use common sense.

- Be careful if traveling on buses, as petty theft is common.
- Ask for a receipt when you store your backpack or luggage.
- Do NOT carry your passport or any credit cards and cash that you will not need.
- Use only registered taxis.
- Do not walk into unknown areas by yourself at night.
- Avoid any contact with drugs, as laws are very strict.

Contact Máximo Level

Please contact us with any questions.

We are dedicated to making your volunteer and travel experience a great intercultural experience.

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V-mail: +1 (877) 433 4141

E-mail: International@maximonivel.com

CUSCO, PERU

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Cusco, Perú

Tel: +51 84 58 1800

E-mail: International@maximonivel.com

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

del Antiguo Higueron 100 meters south and 50 meters east
San Pedro-San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel: +506 2253 9220

E-mail: International@maximonivel.com

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

6a. Avenida Norte #16 & 16-A

La Antigua, Guatemala C.A.

Tel: +502 7932 1500

E-mail: International@maximonivel.com

Payment Options



THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING SPANISH

SPANISH IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

By population, Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world, second only to Chinese. (Summer Institute for Linguistics, 1999)

There are 332 million native Spanish speakers in the world.

15% of the population in the U.S. speaks Spanish as their native language.

LANGUAGES MAKE YOU MORE VALUABLE

A person who knows 2 languages has the value of 2 people.

After English, Spanish is the most valuable language to know.

Your salary and your career opportunities increase when you speak a second language

START LEARNING SPANISH TODAY!

Studying Spanish shows you are committed to bettering yourself and your career.

Studying Spanish shows you are educated, knowledgeable, and worldly.

Studying Spanish today is a commitment to yourself, to your career, and overcoming procrastination.