

Get Crazy for Spain!

AmeriSpan's "Crazy for Spain" promotion (launched July 1, 2002) is one of our biggest ever offered and includes discounted prices (5% off all programs in Spain), special offers, new courses, additional destinations and the AmeriSpan Spain Price Guarantee. Check out our newest "We must be CRAZY" special offer: Get 4 weeks for the price of 3 weeks in Marbella, Granada, or Salamanca Spain. If you are studying for 8 weeks you get 2 free weeks, for 12 weeks you get 3 free weeks. If you've ever wanted to take a language immersion program in Spain, this is the time! Provide specials code AS342002 when registering.

Adios Querido Cusco

By Carol LaMastra, former AmeriSpan employee, currently Director of the Peru school

My two-year commitment running the Academia Latinoamericana / Casa de Lenguas school in Cusco, Peru nears its end. 41 days left as of today, but who's counting! I've been asked by AmeriSpan to share a few of my experiences from my life in Cusco.

Lately on my walk to work every morning I gaze down at the Plaza de Armas, over the tops of the buildings saying to myself that this city is breathtaking (literally! especially considering the altitude and the fumes from cars). Then as I turn the corner I purchase, for about 30¢, two glasses of fresh-squeezed orange juice. I

away with the colonial and Quechua architecture, some of the best examples of the two cultures mixing (or should I say colliding?) in all of Latin America. You take in the alpaca and llamas roaming the Plaza de Armas (after two years I can finally tell the difference), the colorful textiles and the way the city is nestled into the surrounding mountains. Of course, it's a Latin American city and like any good L.A. city there's the incessant honking from the taxis and the exhaust fumes that can make you want to



head for the hills ... good thing you can do just that!

Probably the most remarkable aspect of Cusco is its setting. You can easily escape the city and be on top of the world at Sacsayhuaman, pronounced Sexy

Woman by gringo and local alike, in a mere 5 minutes. Up there you step back hundreds of years. You can take a horseback ride near the ruins or just stroll around taking in the impressive sites.

A surprising number of travelers and language students fall in love with Cusco, ending up staying much longer than originally anticipated. Return flights are extended, itineraries changed. Often, I'll run into former students in the Plaza weeks, sometimes months, after their planned departures. They tell me they've tried to leave several times but the city has seeped into their bones. You see it isn't all alpacas

and cuy (the delicacy of Cusco - fried guinea pig). This place is just plain old fun. With a nightlife that rivals the major capitals of Latin America, there is always something happening at night. Many of the bars and clubs stay open until 12:00 ... in the afternoon that is! The relaxing couch bars offer jazz, some bars offer live music, most clubs have DJs and sweaty dance floors. On most nights in Cusco you can meet people from all over the world, including Peruvians, making the cultural experience that much richer.

The following are a few other experiences from the past two years. Most I've incorporated into our orientation. Some I've omitted ... I don't want to scare the

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get it "to go," meaning in a plastic baggie with a straw.

When our new students arrive to the school, I give them my orientation spiel. I explain all of Cusco's idiosyncrasies, hoping to ease them into the life here. You arrive to this amazing city and you're initially blown

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SALUD

Medical Travel Programs

For the 4th year in a row, we are proud to offer SALUD Medical Travel Programs. These programs are endorsed by AMSA, American Medical Student Association, and are geared towards medical students, pre-meds, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Participants will have the opportunity to learn Spanish while learning about another country's medical system through lectures and hands-on experience. Many past participants on SALUD programs were able to witness surgeries and births, draw blood and suture, give shots, read films, take histories, and witness and help with physical exams IN SPANISH. Due to popular demand, we are offering Summer 2003 SALUD programs in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Spain, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina. Since these programs are so popular, and space is limited, it is best to register as far in advance as possible to ensure your preferred location. Read more about SALUD on this section of our website: www.amerispan.com/salud.

COMERCIO

Business Travel Programs

AmeriSpan is proud to introduce COMERCIO, a specially designed program geared towards business majors, MBA students, and executives. COMERCIO focuses on international business communication and etiquette in the context of learning Spanish. Our unique program combines an online Business Spanish course developed by the NC Global Center of the Kenan-Flagler School of Business at UNC-Chapel Hill with a specially designed AmeriSpan 10-day or 4-week immersion program. Because of the flexible nature of this program, it is perfect for busy professionals/students who want to improve their language & cultural competency.

Hello Friends,

Welcome to the winter issue of the Translator, a newsletter that is published periodically for the customers and friends of AmeriSpan. This issue is mainly dedicated to "new opportunities." We have been hard at work adding additional locations and specialized programs and getting "Crazy for Spain" to expand our repertoire of Language Immersion programs. We have also expanded one of our Semester Abroad programs to include flexibility to start *any* Monday ... year round!

For those of you who have not yet participated in a language immersion program before, or are thinking of taking a semester abroad but haven't yet, we strongly encourage you to do so. The rewards are tremendous and the memories even more so.

We have some great specials going on so although you may think it's too last minute to plan something, think again! We invite you to view our list of current special offers and special programs here on our website: www.amerispan.com/contests.asp.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to hearing from you!

Elizabeth Gregory
Vice-President

Dorioara Pinku
CEO



Pictures from Guatemala – one of the sites of our popular SALUD Medical Travel Programs!

More Flexibility with Semester Abroad

Our NEW Language and Culture Semester Abroad program allows students to earn 12 credit hours (equivalent to four Spanish classes) in only 12 weeks. In order to put all they have learned about the language and culture to practical use, students may opt to follow this quarter length program with an independent research project, a volunteer/internship placement, or simply travel the country with their new friends. This program differs from other study abroad programs in several ways. We offer flexible start dates (you can start any month – YEAR ROUND), smaller class size (only 4-8 students compared to 12-15), a wide variety of students (not just U.S. college students), and lower prices (we guarantee it!).

We also offer Language and Culture

PLUS Semester Abroad program, which combines the excellent service of our language programs with the additional course work of traditional study abroad



programs. In addition to Spanish classes, student will have a variety of elective courses to choose from in areas such as business, history, ecology, art, and more. In some locations it will be possible to choose an elective in English. In others, students will take electives in Spanish with local students. The programs also feature a special orientation program run by our on-site staff that combines cross-cultural training and excursions. We offer more services for less money than other study abroad programs.

In order to ensure smooth transfer of credits and to allow the possibility for students to apply their FAFSA money to the program, the programs are accredited through U.S. institutions. To help students get the credits they have earned, AmeriSpan handles all the administrative work involved in transferring credits.

Our unique, high-quality programs will provide students with an excellent study abroad experience. We pride ourselves on offering something for everyone, let us help you figure out which program will best suit your needs.

AmeriSpan Welcomes CultureXplorers

We are extremely proud of our passionate team members here at AmeriSpan, even when it means they step aside to pursue their own dreams. Jim Kane, our former director of business development, has done just that; he is busy preparing the launch of *CultureXplorers*, an active travel company with a singular focus on real exchange between travelers and locals.

We caught up with Jim to find out some more details about his project:

AS – Jim, explain to our readers what CultureXplorers is all about.

JK – Our tag line, *get real get close* is at the heart of what we want to accomplish. These trips are all about making real connections between travelers and the people of the countries we visit.

AS – What does that mean in terms of day-to-day experience for your clients?

JK – We focus on three aspects of living in the countries we visit. One: the opportunity to experience the warmth of everyday-living with a local host family. Two: participating in the countries' most unusual and magical festivals. Three: learning about and celebrating the unique, endangered traditions that make each country we visit so remarkable.

AS – Which lands and peoples will CultureXplorers visit first?

JK – In 2003, we will offer trips to Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Thailand, Morocco & South Africa.

AS – How do interested travelers find out more?

JK – We are working hard to complete our web site, www.cultureexplorers.com. Interested travelers can go there and place themselves on an electronic list to receive the 2003 program catalog in February. We will also announce more details in AmeriSpan's upcoming online newsletters.

iBuen viaje!

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Spain, Northern Spain, Andalucía, Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid.

www.footprintbooks.com





Country Close-up: Portugal



Public Safety:

Intermediate. Though Portugal has a relatively low rate of violent crime, petty theft in the form of pickpockets and purse-snatchers is

on the rise especially in tourist areas. Lisbon and other cities and sites of interest such as Santa Apolonia and Rosso train stations, the Alfama and Bairro Alto districts, the Castle of Sao Jorge, Belem, Sintra, Cascais, Mafra and Fatima are safe on average, but offer risks when care is not taken into account, especially in crowded, dark and lonely places. Automobile break-ins occur in parking areas at tourist attractions and near restaurants. Special care should be taken in parking at the Moorish Castle and Pena Palace in Sintra; and at the beachfront areas of Quincho, Cabo da Roca, and Boca do Inferno.

Health Risks: Portugal poses no particular health risks to travelers. The public health system in Portugal is quite good.

Travel Costs: Hotels: Luxury/1st Class US\$60 and upward, moderate US\$25-60, budget US\$7-25. Restaurants: Luxury/1st class US\$15 and upward, moderate

US\$26-15, budget US\$4-6. Although costs are beginning to rise as Portugal falls into fiscal step with the EU, this is still one of the least expensive places to travel in Europe.

Weather: Portugal's climate is temperate, and one can find agreeable weather just about everywhere from April to October, and nearly year-round in the Algarve. Exception to this are in the Alto Douro and the Alentejo where summers can be painfully hot and droughts are common. From March to November is the wet season, the soggiest regions are in the extreme north and in the Serra de Estrela mountain region in the country's center. The ski season is from January to March but February is the best.

The Economy: US \$1 = 1.01 Euros. GDP: US\$144.8 billion. GDP per capital: US\$14,600. Inflation: 2.4%. Industry: Main industries in Portugal are textiles, footwear, wood products, metalworking, oil refining, chemicals, fish canning, wine, tourism and agriculture. Annual Growth: 4.2% (figure refers to 2001). Portugal is a member of the European Union and a participant in the Euro zone.

Political Situation: Stable. Portugal is ruled by a parliamentary democracy. A president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or leader of a majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the president. The Legislative Power is based on unicameral Assembly of the Republic, 230 seats and members are elected by popular voted to serve four-year

terms. The Judicial Power is composed of a Supreme Court and judges are appointed for life. The country is divided into 18 single districts and 2 autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira).

After four decades of dictatorship, which sidelined the country from modern progress, today Portugal is restructuring and forging new ties with the rest of Europe. The struggle between the traditional and the modern continues between maintaining what is best in its national culture with the onslaught of international influences yet flowing towards the economic mainstream of the European Union.

More Portugal Facts

Full Country Name: Portuguese Republic

Area: 92,389 sq km (35,672 sq mi)

Population: 10,066,253 (July 2001 estimated)

Capital City: Lisbon (pop 535,740)

People: 99% homogeneous Mediterranean stock; 1% citizens of black African descent who immigrated to mainland during de-colonization.

Languages: Portuguese

Religion: Over 97% Roman Catholic, 2% Protestant, 1% other

Government: Parliamentary Democracy

President: Jorge Fernando Branco de Sampaio

Prime Minister: José Manuel Durao Barroso

Attention Teachers: Get to Know Spain – For a Bargain Price!

We are happy to offer a select number of teachers the opportunity to travel to Spain and experience a slice of Spanish immersion for \$150! (not incl. airfare). This "familiarization trip" is the perfect way to see first hand what great opportunities are available to you and your students. You will visit Madrid, Salamanca, Marbella, and Granada. Cost includes: hotels, meals, internal transportation, and airport pick up. Space is limited. The departure dates for these 5-day trips are January 12, and March 8, 2003. **Sign up at least one month ahead of time.**

The Art of Flamenco Dance

By Anne-Marie Dingemans, Director of AmeriSpan's Europe Office

When I went to Granada for the first time, I of course went to see a Flamenco show, as does every tourist. I did enjoy it, but to be honest, it was because I laughed through the majority of the performance! To me, the singer sounded like he was having a nervous breakdown over some drama (my Spanish was not good enough to understand what he was singing), and the dancers had such stern faces and coupled with their vigorous stomping and clapping they made me giggle. Or did I giggle because their passionate display of emotion embarrassed me a little?

It wasn't until I came to live in Spain that I started to actually appreciate Flamenco more and more. To my surprise, I came to learn that there are many forms of Flamenco. For example, the Seguiriyas are a very serious form, talking about pent up hatred of persecution and often themes of death. On the other hand, there are the more light-hearted Sevillanas. These are two of many types of Flamenco music and dance, each having their own artists and peñas (Flamenco clubs).

The more traditional forms of Flamenco were brought to Spain around 1500 by the Gypsies (who emigrated from India). At that time, the Catholics had defeated the Moors and forbade anything which was not Catholic or in tune with Catholic norms and values. When the Gypsies arrived, they were unable to openly express their culture under the Catholic rule. Because of the situation they faced, the Gypsies began to express their suppression and suffering in their songs. This is the reason why traditional Flamenco is so sad and heartbreaking. During the 19th century Flamenco slowly

worked its way into the Andalucian culture. Over time, the Spaniards accepted the art form and began to perform it themselves, which continues on in today's Flamenco dance performances, whose music roots are over 500 years old.

I thought I had Flamenco all figured out. Then one night in a club, dancing to pop music, it all changed. I suddenly noticed every Spaniard in the room throwing their arms up in the air, clapping, and 'eating the apple' (a Flamenco dance arm movement). I didn't know what was happening! My friends explained to me that this was Flamenco-pop, developed during the sixties and seventies. To me, it sounded like 'normal' pop music, but it's based on the rhythms of Flamenco. And the Spaniards can dance some amazing Flamenco to it.

I was determined at that point to learn from my friends to dance Flamenco-pop as

good as the Spaniards!! Much to my dismay, even the basic arm movements (for women) of 'picking the apple, eating the apple, and throwing the apple' are VERY difficult to perform elegantly ... I guess I'll have to take formal classes! My knowledge and appreciation of



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Flamenco has grown so much that now when I go to a Flamenco show, I see that it is not just music, or a dance. It's both and much more! It's an art form, consisting of the "cante" (the song - considered the most important factor, the source which gives inspiration), "el toque" (the guitar playing) and "el baile" (the dance). It is one of the few forms of music where not only the music and the singing interact on the level of improvisation, but so does the dance. A piece won't ever be performed twice exactly the same way. Improvisation and spontaneity is key - reflecting the very essence of the Andalucians! I can't wait to start my classes.

If you are interested in taking Flamenco Dance classes, we have an exciting new combined course available in Madrid, Marbella, and Granada Spain. This course includes Spanish instruction plus Flamenco dance classes. More information is available here on our website: www.amerispan.com/other_specialized_programs

Music Review



Las Ketchup

Have you heard the latest music craze to sweep across Spain? Las Ketchup's self-titled album has taken Spain and Europe by storm. With its spunky rhythms and carefree lyrics, you will be singing along to this album the whole way through.

Lola, Pilar and Lucía are three daughters

of the famed Spanish flamenco guitarist, Tomate. These women are the lead vocalists in Las Ketchup and their dynamic chemistry brings the music to life! Las Ketchup presents a unique style, which can be best described as a blend of Latin-pop, reggae-drum beats, rumba, and even hip-hop. The feature smash hit, "Aserejé," is an energetic number whose cascade of nonsense lyrics and whose catchy tempo render it irresistibly contagious (which may likewise be said for the "hand-jive" dance that accompanies it).

The whole album, with its youthful and sometimes downright silly mood, may be the most infectious music to hit the airways and discotheques this entire year. Listen to it once and you will be hooked.

This CD and others are available in our online store at www.amerispan.com/store. Other suggested artists: Paulina Rubio, Los Hombres Calientes, Juanes, Manu Chao – *Recommended by Liz Cleveland, AmeriSpan's Volunteer/Internship Program Director*

(CUSCO – continued from page 1)

students on their first day.

Forget culture shock, how about showers that shock! Not bad shocks, just quick nips. You learn to only touch the electrical tape. Actually I spend quite a bit of time explaining about plumbing in general. Of course, don't flush the toilet paper ... or in the case of my apartment, you can't flush the toilet ... at least not without it making horrible shrieking whirly noises. I've been waiting for the plumber since last week to come fix the toilet. He promised to be there at 7pm when I got off work. I guess he meant 7pm some time in November when my assignment in Cusco is over!

Spare change. There is a lack of change in this city. I've been denied movie tickets when I tried to pay for a 10 sol flick with a 100 sol note. You can't even think about getting into the taxi, which costs 2 soles, with anything bigger than a 5 sol coin. Even

then you sometimes have to wait around while the taxi driver finds someone kind enough to change his coin. We explain to the students that when changing money at the casa de cambios to insist on smaller notes and coins. Having a 100 sol bill is usually like having no money at all. One time I was buying a hat, and gave the señora a 50 sol note and then waited around for 15 minutes while she ran all over town to get my change. Other customers had come into the store and started asking me questions about merchandise. She had left me all alone to run her business!

So ... I drink my OJ from a plastic bag, I get into a shower that shocks me, and I am still waiting to flush my toilet properly. All this, you ask, and I can still recommend Peru with a smile? Would I commit to two years in Cusco knowing now what I didn't know back then? ABSOLUTELY – I wouldn't trade my last two years here for anything!

Caldo Verde

(Portuguese Kale Soup)

Considered by many to be Portugal's national dish, you can find caldo verde almost anywhere from the dining rooms of first class hotels in Lisbon to the humble kitchens in the countryside. This versatile dish can be served as a one-course meal at lunch or as a light supper in the evening. The kale is what gives this soup its distinctive taste and quality.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 large Spanish onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 10 ounces sliced chourico (Portuguese-style sausage)
- 6 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- 8 cups cold water
- 1 pound kale or collard greens, cut into very fine julienne (very important)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onions and cook until they are translucent. Add the garlic and half the chourico and cook for 2 minutes. Add the potatoes. Cover everything with the water and bring to a boil. Once boiling, reduce the heat and simmer until the potatoes are almost done, about 15 minutes.

When the soup is cool enough to handle, purée it in the food processor and return to the pot. Add the greens, bring everything back to a boil and simmer for 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Ladle into bowls and garnish with the remaining cubes of chourico. Serves 4-6.

Program Profile: San Sebastian, Spain



School:

Lacunza / International House

Country:

From its dazzling beaches to its ancient castles, Spain is a country as diverse as the cultures which have influenced its art, architecture, music and lifestyle. It is a land where cathedrals and castles are interspersed with skyscrapers, where modern rock mixes with flamenco guitar and nightclubs compete with cozy "tapas" bars. Spain offers some of the world's most famous museums, resorts, and festivals, making it a unique and enchanting destination. AmeriSpan offers programs in: Barcelona, Granada, Madrid, Marbella, Salamanca, Sevilla, Valencia, and San Sebastian.

City:

Northern Spain's Pais Vasco is a region of the country that celebrates its distinct culture, varied landscape and specialty cuisine. San Sebastian, the region's capital, is perched on the glittering shores of the Cantabrian Sea and at the base of the majestic Pyrenees Mountains. San Sebastian (population 180,000) boasts tree-lined boulevards, magnificent architecture, chic restaurants, boutiques and of course spectacular beaches. Despite the vast array of upscale dining and shopping possibilities, the city's atmosphere is quite relaxed and friendly - visitors and locals mix in many of the hangouts throughout town.

School Atmosphere:

The school campus is located just outside the center of town on a quiet street directly across from a tree-lined park. The recently remodeled facilities are beautiful and have a professional feel. There is a terrace, a library, a multimedia room, and a common room. Several computers with Internet access are available for student use. The school is air-conditioned and is within easy access to shops, restaurants and other places of interest.

Most students who attend this school are from Europe and North America. There is a wide mix of ages, from young children to retirees. The majority of participants are university students, especially during the summer.

Language Program:

Specially designed to meet the needs of foreign students, the Spanish courses address every important aspect of language learning. Participants will focus on conversation and grammar while also improving writing and reading skills. In accord with the communicative approach, you learn the language within a practical context and use only Spanish in the classroom. Teachers are native-Spanish speakers and are trained in teaching Spanish to foreigners. Textbooks developed by the school staff are used for all levels, from complete beginner through advanced, and a variety of supplemental materials are used to keep the learning process interesting and current. Classes are organized such that students will be with other students of the same Spanish level. Participants experience a team of two teachers who provide variety in speech, focus and approach. Private classes are available as well.

A note about the Basque language: Basque is heard on street, seen on signs/ menus, etc. but everyone also speaks Castillian (Spanish) and that is the normal language for business and public affairs. Not a problem for Spanish language learners!

Homestays and Residences:

Program participants can either choose to live with a local family or in student residences. Both options can be as close as 5 minutes walking distance to the school but are no more than a 30-minute public transportation ride away. In the homestay, a private room and two meals per day are included. In the residence, both private and shared rooms are available. No meals are provided as there is a kitchen for the students to share and use to cook meals.

Activities/Excursions:

At least 3 activities per week are organized. These include: Visits to museums, churches or typical areas, films, lectures, tutoring sessions, soccer/volleyball on the beach. Some activities may involve a small entrance fee. Most activities are conducted in English. Language exchange with Spaniards is also available.

Excursions are not arranged June-September. During the rest of the year, they are available based on interest. All are two-day, one-night trips, including hotel, guide and transportation. Some of the most popular trips are to: Port Aventura amusement park, Cabárceno Natural Park in Santander, Ski trip in the Pyrenees, and trips to Barcelona or Madrid.

Festivals:

San Sebastian annually hosts two spectacular events: a Jazz Festival that is one of best in Europe and an International Film Festival, deemed one of the four most important in the world. Many other cultural fests celebrating dance, Basque folklore, sports, music and food, make San Sebastian a colorful and fascinating place to be year-round.

Some general festival information is listed below:
International film festival – mid-September.
International Jazz Festival – end of July.
Running of the bulls in Pamplona – 50 minutes away, July 6-14.



AmeriSpan: Off The Wire

Gift Certificates

AmeriSpan now offers gift certificates good towards any of our programs (including volunteer and semester abroad). These are the perfect gift for any occasion. They are available in any amount starting at \$100. Please call us for an order form, or place your order directly online at <http://www.amerispan.com/giftcertificates.asp>.

Specialized Programs

We currently offer specialized Spanish programs for healthcare students and professionals as well as business executives and social workers. Check out our website for more information on these programs: <http://www.amerispan.com>

Lisbon and Faro, Portugal

In 2000, AmeriSpan offered its first Portuguese immersion program in Brazil. Now, we are thrilled to be able to offer two great destinations for Portuguese in Portugal: Lisbon and Faro. You can

combine your trip and do a few weeks of Spanish in Spain followed by a few weeks of Portuguese in Portugal.

Denver, Colorado

We are happy to add Denver, Colorado, USA to the list of locations where our Spanish Executive Intensive program is offered. Yes, a domestic location for those not able to go abroad! The Executive Intensive Program is for participants who need to learn a great amount of Spanish in a limited time, or for those who have a specific vocabulary needs for their profession.

Volunteer Program Expanded!

Based on popular demand, we have expanded our volunteer/internship program to include Chile, Spain, and Brazil. More information on specific placement information will soon be coming to our website. We will offer positions in social work, education, and other areas. You can also participate in volunteer or internship programs in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.



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For complete program descriptions,
applications, prices and more, visit
www.amerispan.com