

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador



Program Purpose

AmeriSpan's Program for Spanish Teachers in Quito, Ecuador aims to provide Spanish teachers a chance to refine their Spanish skills, learn about the history, culture, and literature of Ecuador, and help them find way to bring their new and improved knowledge back the classrooms and students at home. Participants will be exposed to a variety of cultural and academic settings and will have the opportunity to meet local teachers.

Program Highlights

- **Spanish Classes** – During the 1st week of the program, participants will study Spanish in small group classes. Classes are held for 4 hrs/day in groups no larger than 6 students. Students are placed in classes based on oral and written tests taken on their 1st Monday at school.
- **Lectures** – In the second week, teachers will be given the chance to choose from 2 specialized courses on local topics. Participants can choose either Andean Indigenous Cultures or in Latin America Literature depending on personal interest. These courses will be taught entirely in Spanish, allowing teachers to further work on Spanish skills while allowing participants to gain a deeper insight into these areas.
- **Activities and cultural visits** – Through daily activities, teachers will get to know Quito and it's surrounding areas and have an opportunity interact with locals. A local guide and local students accompany the group allowing participants to practice Spanish in everyday situations.
- **Weekend Excursions** – each weekend participants will travel to an area outside Quito to explore all the Ecuador has to offer. Excursions include a local guide and private transportation.
- **Homestay** – lodging with a local Ecuadorian family allows teachers constant opportunity to practice Spanish and gain insight into Ecuadorian culture. The homestay includes a private room, breakfast and dinner daily, and laundry service once per week.

Who May Participate?

This program is open to Spanish teachers or education students planning to teach Spanish with an Advanced language level.

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador

Sample daily schedule

(subject to change)

Day	Time	Schedule
Sunday		Arrive in Quito Time to get to know your Ecuadorian host family.
Monday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Welcoming and placement tests
	9:30	City tour of Quito and learn how to use bus public system (ecovia). Walking tour around the center of Quito. Independence square, with the Presidential Palace and the Cathedral. Visit the church and monastery of San Agustin (1580) and San Francisco (1535) with its breathtaking gilded altars, considered the finest example of baroque art n America. General orientation.
	13:15	Lunch break
	15:00	General orientation about the school and Ecuador trip
	16:30	Return to host families for supper
Tuesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Visit to Vivarium (See toads, snakes, etc.) Dinner with host family
Wednesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break and free time (check email, do homework, play sports, walk around town, etc.)
	18:30	Meet at school to go for Jacchigua: Quichua term that means “the infinite joy of the harvest”. It gathers the richness of our popular culture, showing the world the ancestral traditions and customs of Ecuador. Ninety dancers, musicians to show the past and present splendor of the people of Ecuador.
Thursday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Visit a Volunteer Project for unprivileged children Dinner with host family
Friday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	17:00	Make your favorite food and enjoy a wonderful afternoon Dinner with host family

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador

Saturday	8:00	Early wake up and after breakfast, departure to Otavalo Indian Market. All over the Andean highlands, scattered in the valleys and mountains, you will find numerous markets displaying everything from wool textiles, native fruits and fresh vegetables to jewelry, ceramics, baskets, wood carving, native paintings, embroidery, tools and even animals! The market in Otavalo is one of the most well known markets in the country. It is a rich cultural site where locals meet with their friends and relatives to catch up on news and practice the ancient art of bargaining. It will capture your senses making you feel as if you've stepped back in time.
	14:00	Lunch at the indigenous home of Antonio Quinotoa and have the opportunity to try "cuy" (Guinea pig)
	16:00	Small hike to visit the sacred waterfall of Peguche
	16:30	Visit to San Antonio de Ibarra (woodcarving)
	18:30	Enjoy the countryside of the Imbabura province. Dinner at a private Hacienda in Urququi. Overnight at a hotel in Imbabura province
Sunday	8:30	Breakfast at the hotel
	9:00	Visit and hike around the lake & volcano of Cuicocha
	11:30	Visit the town of Cotacachi, world renowned for the quality of leather goods.
	13:30	Lunch in San Pablo lake (we will enjoy the best view of the lake and Imbabura volcano in Puerto Lago restaurant) Return to Quito
Monday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Visit to the Government House Dinner with host family
Tuesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Visit to the fruit market with a fruit tasting Dinner with host family
Wednesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:30	Wally ball game Dinner with host family
Thursday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	17:00	Salsa & Merengue class Dinner with host family

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador

Friday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break and free afternoon Dinner with host family
Saturday	7:30	Meet at the school promptly for departure. From there you will head south to Cotopaxi National Park, home of the highest active volcano on earth! You can explore the Andean moorlands with highland birds, or hike up to the snow line and rest at the shelter. (4.800 meters above sea level)
	14:00	Lunch in a beautiful hacienda El Porvenir in the middle of the four volcanoes
	15:00	Horse back riding dressed like a "chagra or Andean cowboy" with poncho blankets, scarf, hat and leather zamarros (chaps).... great fun with easy adventure! Or you can hike around the waterfalls in the Pasochoa biological reserve.
	19:00	Dinner Over night at Hacienda El Porvenir
	Sunday	8:00
	13:30	Lunch, Taste the wonders of the Andean cuisine.
	17:00	Estimated time for return to Quito
Monday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:30	Visit to the handy craft market Dinner with host family
Tuesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:00	Learn how to make Bread Dolls at school Dinner with host family
Wednesday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:20	Visit the monument at <i>Mitad del Mundo</i> . We will start at the northern part of the city heading up to the "Middle of the World," where the monument that divides the Northern Hemisphere from the Southern Hemisphere will be visited. It was built during the 17 th Century when a French expedition defined the precise location of the equatorial line. A fabulous museum there will help you understand the great diversity of cultures and indigenous groups in Ecuador. You will see how water spins, how

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador

you can stand an egg on a nail, how you can lose pounds in seconds - all at Latitude O. Just 30 minutes north of Quito is the monument that celebrates the measurement of the earth, just as important the Equator line determined the meaning of the country of Ecuador that could of also had the name of Reino de Quito (Kingdom of Quito).
Dinner with host family

Thursday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:30	Typical ice cream "Helado de paila" (unforgettable new flavors!) Dinner with host family
	Friday	7:30
8:30		Spanish classes
10:30		Break
11:00		Spanish classes
13:00		Lunch break
14:00		Cooking class: learn to make <i>empanadas</i> Dinner with host family
Saturday		8:30
	13:00	Lunch in Tanadayapa
	14:30	Trek into the Bellavista trail, ideal for seeing incredible diversity of birds
	16:00	Dinner Overnight in the Could Forest
	Sunday	8:30
	9:30	Trek into the cloud forest and discover the plants and flora of the region with your naturalist guide.
	13:00	Lunch
	17:00	Estimated time for return to Quito
Monday	7:30	Breakfast with host family
	8:30	Spanish classes
	10:30	Break
	11:00	Spanish classes
	13:00	Lunch break
	14:20	Visit Pichincha Volcano. Quito, Ecuador's capital of 1.5 million people lies at the eastern foot of Mount Pichincha (15,360 feet). Take the cable car or <i>teleférico</i> on the Av. Western, to enjoy the beauty of the city, valleys, and snow-capped mountains (Cotopaxi, Cayambe, Antisana, Rumiñahui, Cotacachi and Pichincha), named by Alexander Von Humbolt in 1802 as the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Dinner with host family
	Tuesday	7:30
8:30		Spanish classes
10:30		Break
11:00		Spanish classes
13:00		Lunch break

Program For Spanish Teachers

Quito, Ecuador

14:00 Ice skating
Dinner with host family

Wednesday 7:30 Breakfast with host family
8:30 Spanish classes
10:30 Break
11:00 Spanish classes
13:00 Lunch break
14:30 Visit a local orphanage
Dinner with host family

Thursday 7:30 Breakfast with host family
8:30 Spanish classes
10:30 Break
11:00 Spanish classes
13:00 Lunch break
14:30 Visit to Guayasamín Museum
Dinner with host family

Friday 7:30 Breakfast with host family
8:30 Spanish classes
10:30 Break
11:00 Spanish classes
13:00 Lunch break
14:20 Graduation ceremony and awarding of certificates
Dinner with host family

Saturday Breakfast with host family
Departure from homestay
