

THE Translator



2005 ISSUE XIX

THE OTHER VICTIMS -LATIN AMERICAN CHARITIES

For the past few months, it seems like every organization, website, church and school has been fundraising for the Tsunami victims. AmeriSpan applauds this outpouring of assistance. At the same time, we have grown more worried about a fundraising crisis at charitable organizations throughout Latin America. Here are a few samples of what we have been hearing:



"This year we have received significantly less donations than last year during the same time of the year. This is obviously due to the increased foreign aid directed at Asia after the Tsunami. A country like Guatemala is suffering from this." Zayda Coronado of Proyecto Camino Seguro (www.safepassage.org)

"The Tsunami has impacted the number of donations that we receive. We have seen a significant decrease during the last few months which is normally a time when we receive many donations." Sonia Perez of La Asociación Nuestros Ahijados (www.ana.org.gt)

"The amount of donations has decreased a lot after the disaster in Asia. Hopefully the aid to our hospital will increase again and that the world does not forget us." Carola Ahumada of Hospicio San Jose (www.aidscommunity.org/hivmeds/hospice.htm)

Because AmeriSpan sends thousands of students and volunteers to Latin America, we are in contact with a whole variety of organizations and it seems that every organization has seen a drop in donations this year. As a result, all have been struggling to continue providing support to the sick, hungry and needy. In fact, we know of at least one project that has had to stop its work due to lack of funds. One of the poorest countries in all of the Americas is Guatemala. Here are some facts:

- Guatemala has an unemployment rate of 37%.
- 75% of the country lives in poverty (58% in extreme poverty).

- Almost half the country is under the age of 15, the majority of these will never make it through sixth grade.
- Every year almost 20,000 infants die before their first birthday.

The story is the same in Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador and only a little better in Mexico. Many of us have neighbors, friends and co-workers from Latin America while some of us still have relatives living there. AmeriSpan has long been "Making A Difference in Latin America" through a variety of efforts. In fact, we just sponsored a shipping container full of medical supplies (including five Dialysis machines) valued at nearly \$250,000 that arrived in Guatemala in February. For more information about AmeriSpan's charitable efforts, visit www.amerispan.com/charity.

Make A Difference In Guatemala

In response to these disturbing developments, AmeriSpan has decided to launch the "Make A Difference in Guatemala" donation drive to help organizations avoid a fundraising catastrophe. AmeriSpan will be sponsoring another container of supplies headed to Guatemala in late May/early June. We need the following:

- school supplies (notebooks, pencils, pens, paper, crayons)
- shoes, personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, nail clippers, tooth brushes, tooth paste, diapers for adults and children)
- educational games/puzzles, shoes, mattresses, clothes, computers (used/obsolete by our standards are welcome)

Why not pack a school backpack with some school supplies, some socks, a pair of shoes and some personal hygiene products. Or if you prefer, you can send a monetary donation that will be used toward the cost of shipping and as direct donations to some of the most needy organizations.

Extra Incentive – Win A Free Trip

To encourage donations, AmeriSpan will be holding a contest offering a variety of scholarships, discounts and the grand prize of a two-week trip to Guatemala including airfare, classes and homestay and the opportunity to be present when the donations are being distributed. For more information about "Make A Difference in Guatemala", the contest, and AmeriSpan's charitable efforts, visit www.amerispan.com/charity.

AmeriSpan is working with Volunteers for Inter-American Development Assistance, a non-profit with a long track record of helping Latin America. Checks (made out to VIDA-USA) or in-kind donations should be sent to:

VIDA-USA

AmeriSpan: Make A Difference in Guatemala
6251 Hollis Street
Emeryville, CA 94608

TRAVEL SECRETS & TIPS

GETTING THERE

- **www.flybudget.com** - Most people know how to use Expedia, Orbitz and Hotwire but what you may not know is that many low cost airlines like Southwest aren't included in most of these sites. Flybudget is a site dedicated to providing information about these lesser-publicized airlines and there are many including Easyjet and Ryan Air, which offer inexpensive intra-European routes.
- **Use London as a hub** – Often it is significantly cheaper to fly to London compared with other European cities. You often can save money by flying roundtrip to London and then picking up a ticket from a low cost airline for the trip from London to your final destination (see above tip).
- **Check Train Prices & Schedules Before Leaving** – AmeriSpan's Country Resource pages have links to individual country train websites and Eurail (www.amerispan.com/travel). Often you can even buy your tickets online before you leave home.

DOCUMENTS

- **Avoid federal & state agencies when possible** – Believe it or not, you aren't the only person who has encountered a grumpy, unhelpful government employee. Nowadays, there are a number of online companies who will gladly request duplicate birth certificates, apply for visas & passports, and even provide foreign driver's licenses. AmeriSpan's travel resource web page has links to all the sites.
- **Email yourself** - Before you go, email yourself a copy of all the important information - airline numbers, credit card phone numbers, passport, travelers check numbers, driving license numbers, and friends' addresses. If your documents or wallet is lost or stolen, all you need to do is log on to access all your details. Don't forget to make sure there are Internet cafes where you are going. Try www.cybercafe.com or www.cybercaptive.com.

• **Bring prescriptions** – Nothing new here but don't forget to bring copies of glasses, contacts and pharmaceutical prescriptions.

ITEMS

- **Duct tape** – A lifesaver whether fixing a suitcase or insulating a window to stay warm.
- **Hardware** – Eyeglass kit, sewing kit, Swiss army knife, rubber bands, resealable plastic bag to put toiletries in and a universal rubber drain stopper if you like to wash or shave with a sink full of water.
- **Combination lock** – Keep your valuables locked in your suitcase to avoid any "mis-understandings". Why a combination lock? Keys get lost.

STAYING IN TOUCH

- **Don't use your usual cell phone** – Great, your cell phone works in Mexico but beware or you'll be spending Mexico's GDP on calls. Look to see if you can buy a SIM card that fits your cell phone and make sure you get on an appropriate calling plan. However, you are better off if you buy a new phone with the correct SIM card because your calls will be cheaper and some plans offer free incoming calls (www.amerispan.com/staying_in_touch.asp). Or if you don't mind short battery life and poor call quality you can buy a prepaid phone after you arrive.
- **Always use a calling card** - Even if you have a great local cell phone plan, use a calling card to get the lowest rates when calling home. Never direct dial from a hotel and avoid the telephone offices which both have significantly higher rates.
- **Use email or Internet chat** – Most of our programs have internet-connected computers for our participants but even if you need to pay at an Internet café, it is likely to be less than using a telephone.

FINANCE

- **Credit/check cards, not a regular ATM card** – Make sure your ATM card has a Visa or MasterCard logo. If it doesn't, get a card that does from your bank or apply for a card from another bank. Those with good credit might want to consider a Signature Visa card tied to the airline you are flying because this allow you to check in at the first class counter and pre-board. Those with little or no credit history can get a prepaid visa card from Visa's website.
- **Check for ATMs before you leave** – Both Visa and MasterCard list their ATMs world-wide online but you can call as well. A nearby ATM will mean that you can reduce the amount of cash/travelers checks you were thinking of taking. If you are a customer at Bank of America, Barclays, BNP Paribas,

Deutsche Bank 24, Scotiabank, and Westpac, you can avoid ATM access charges by banking with a member of the Global ATM Alliance. If an ATM is broken, you can get a cash advance on your credit card at a bank.

- **Bring enough cash for emergencies** Holidays, arriving after hours, expensive ground transportation, missed connections, lost luggage, broken ATM machine, and arrival/exit costs. These are just a few reasons why you should NOT plan to arrive or depart with a few dollars and a credit card. Have enough cash to cover expenses.

AMERISPAN STAFF'S MEMORABLE MOMENTS ABROAD

Everything in Spain seemed so wonderful and different compared to my life back at home. Madrid was a vibrant city with striking contrasts between the traditional and modern. It didn't take long for me to discover the famous nightlife that *madrileños* revel in. One memorable evening, after a long night of dancing, my friends and I decided to end the evening with a trip to a local cafe for *churros con chocolate*. As the sun started to rise over Madrid, we settled into our booth and it was at that moment that I realized that the majority of the people in the cafe were over 60 years old! I was amazed and impressed at the same time. Never before had I seen such a diverse group of people out enjoying the end of a long evening. The people of Madrid definitely know how to have a good time! - Alex

First time in Asia. Considering myself an otherwise courageous person, my friends could barely get me to cross the street in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The traffic with millions of scooters was intense and never seemed to cease. When you do cross, you're supposed to walk in a steady pace and not give in to your natural reflexes of slowing down, stopping or running when the roaring traffic comes right at you (how do you do that!). This is simply what the drivers expect and as long as you go along with it you will not cause an accident. Terrifying. - Dori

At the roulette table in a fancy casino (in Baden-Baden, Germany), where you are not allowed to place your own bets, I asked the croupier to place my bet on "vierzig." I was so proud of myself for being able to gamble in a foreign language. The next thing I knew, he started screaming at me in German, pointing at the table and then at me over and over again. I had no idea what to do. All I could think was that he thought I had counterfeit chips. I finally realized he was telling me I should place my bet on "vierzehn" not "vierzig. They mean 40 and 14 respectively but can sound similar in

German. Any good roulette player knows that 36 is the highest number. I apologized and quickly changed my bet to "vierzig." After that, I stuck to red and black bets. - Elizabeth

My girlfriend and I were staying in some bungalows on Montezuma beach in Costa Rica, about a 25-minute walk on the beach from the town center. We had to take an early morning two-hour bus ride to catch a two-hour oil-smelling ferry ride to catch another bus to get to San Jose to catch a taxi to the airport to catch a plane... well, you get the idea. Anyway, I said something about carrying our luggage on the beach in the dark before dawn to the owners of the Bungalow (who also owned a restaurant in town). They told me I could leave the luggage in their restaurant overnight, gave me a set of keys, and said to just lock the keys inside the restaurant when I was done. The next morning we ran along the beach in the pitch dark in a torrential downpour, through two small rivers. We were completely soaked. Upon arriving at the restaurant we were able to change into dry clothes and continue our journey. The owners barely knew me but totally trusted me. What a difference their gesture made. - John

During my semester in Granada, Spain I joined a gym with my roommate. Everyday we would go after siesta to Miguel's step aerobics class. We would change in the locker room to a T-shirt and shorts. Most of the Spanish women would change into leotards and pantyhose! Although we were aware daily how under-dressed we were compared to the Spaniards, we couldn't



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wrap our minds around the pantyhose thing. One woman actually put make-up on everyday before participating in class (yes, eyeliner included). We never did ask why despite being very curious. - Elizabeth

I had the pleasure of riding around Guatemala several times on their "chicken buses". I was really amused by these brightly painted, recycled U.S. school buses with religious embellishments and lively music. Stopping anywhere people wanted to get on or off, there were people always crowded in the seats and aisles. A couple of times I found myself actually having to climb on top of the seats to get out of the aisle so someone could pass through on their way to the back of the bus. That experience never fails to make me smile. - Sue



Some find it amusing, some find it disgusting. Walking around in a zoo somewhere near Mendoza in Argentina, I almost tripped on a big hoof. Half a leg or so...don't ask me what kind of animal. It was laying around on the ground as if this was the most normal occurrence in the world. - Dori

Last summer traveling around Europe, partaking in one of those 3 countries in 2 weeks deals, had me and my travel companion utterly exhausted by the time we arrived to Florence after many hours on the train. We proceeded to get ourselves lost in Florence. After about an hour, we finally found our tiny bed & breakfast. It was a tremendous surprise. Our room was filled with flowers, fresh fruit, chocolate, cookies and sparkling wine, which we happily popped open while relaxing in our private garden. It was an oasis, a piece of heaven in the desert of our travels in Europe. - Beth

MOVIE REVIEW DIARIOS DE MOTOCICLETA (MOTORCYCLE DIARIES)

Based on the true story of two college friends, Alberto Granado and Ernesto "Che" Guevara, this insightful biography describes their inspiring and life-altering journey through South America in the early 1950's.

Starting out in Buenos Aires, Argentina on January 4, 1952 on a rickety motorcycle, optimistically nicknamed "The Mighty One" ("La Poderosa"), the youths' goal was to travel 8000 kilometers in 4 months ending in Venezuela to celebrate Alberto's 30th birthday.

While the landscapes changed and they met the disadvantaged along the way, so did their ideals and attitudes towards justice and human rights of their indigenous neighbors. A quote from the then 23 year old Ernesto Guevara describes it best, "As we left Chuquicamata [Chile] we could feel the world changing, or was it us?"

I thought this film was a delightfully fun and engaging look into the journey of this future Cuban revolutionary, "Che" (Argentinean slang for 'friend'), brought to life through his journals. As viewers were guided along the beautiful landscapes of South America, which without the story line would have been nothing short of spectacular in and of itself, we made a parallel journey through their humbling realizations of the world's injustices that forever changed the course of these young men's lives. I absolutely recommend it! This film is available in major movie rental stores.

- By Sue Lavene, Language Travel Consultant

SPANISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Today's physicians, nurses, teachers, managers, and other professionals are dealing with an increasing number of limited English proficiency patients, students, employees and clients whose native language is Spanish. In healthcare, for example, a simple error in miscommunication could result in dangerous circumstances for patients. Some of the English speakers in these situations are finding that the general Spanish classes they took are not enough to maintain an appropriate level of communication with the population they serve. They need Spanish for a specific purpose. Perhaps this is your situation right now. In response to this, AmeriSpan now offers Specialized Spanish Programs in the fields of medicine, education, business, and social work. More languages and fields coming soon!

SCHOLARSHIPS

We have introduced several different AmeriSpan scholarships! Take a look.

- **AmeriSpan Delegate Scholarship** - Receive \$750 when you act as an "AmeriSpan Delegate" on specific semester Academic Study Abroad programs, or \$250 for SALUD programs offered by AmeriSpan. Upon completion of your program, you will be required to act as an AmeriSpan Delegate (AmeriSpan Campus Representative) at your college/university for one academic year.
- **AmeriSpan Open Door Scholarship** - We grant \$250-\$500 need-based scholarships for Academic Study Abroad, Volunteer/Internship, SALUD and language programs longer than 8 weeks. This is for students who are unable to obtain sufficient aid (which might result from certain types of financial aid being ineligible for use on study abroad).
- **AmeriSpan Match Scholarship** - If you receive a non-AmeriSpan study abroad scholarship like the Gilman or Boren scholarships, AmeriSpan will grant you a \$500 Match scholarship to be used on our Academic Study Abroad programs.
- **AmeriSpan Affiliate Scholarship** - If your school is an AmeriSpan Affiliate, we offer a variety of \$250-\$500 scholarships. Check with your study abroad office if your institution is an AmeriSpan Affiliate. If not, have them contact us for details on how to become an affiliate. For more information: www.amerispan.com/scholarships

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WORLDWIDE FESTIVALS

January

Japan

– Shogatsu (New Year's Day Festivities)
Celebrations continue on the first of January with traditional foods and games.

Moscow, Russia

– International Festival of Ice Sculpture
More than a dozen teams from all over the world converge on the Central Park of Culture and Recreation in Moscow to create amazing works of art crafted from large blocks of ice.

February

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

– Carnival
The entire country celebrates for the 4 days leading up to Fat Tuesday. A brightly colored spectacle of Brazilian pride!

Venice, Italy

– Carnival of Venice
Revelers from all over the world visit Venice each year during Carnival to experience the masked balls, parades, and lively music. Legend has it that the masks were created to protect the identity of those partaking in the excesses of Carnival.

Copacabana, Bolivia

– Fiesta de la Virgen de Candelaria
Known for a series of miracles, the Virgen is celebrated with parades, music and elaborate costumes.

March

Antigua, Guatemala

– Semana Santa (Holy Week)
Large processions carrying elaborate replicas of saints wind through the town. Carpets made of fresh flowers line the streets.



April

Japan

– Golden Week
A series of several holidays over a 10-day period, Golden Week draws residents to the coastal resort towns for celebrations and relaxation. Decorations adorn many homes and businesses close for the duration of the holiday.

May

Vienna, Austria

– Vienna Festival
Every year, the Vienna Festival brings together the best of theater, dance, and music to the cultural center of Austria.

June

Cusco, Peru

– Festival of Corpus Christi
Fifteen saints and virgins arrive at the cathedral of Cusco sixty days after Easter Sunday. During the day you can hear the sounds of the Maria Angola, the biggest Church Bell of Peru, and at night twelve typical dishes are served.

July

Pamplona, Spain

– Running of the Bulls
Watch from the sidelines or display your courage in this time-honored tradition.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

– Festival de Merengue
A showcase for entertainers, bands, and orchestras in the Dominican Republic, the birthplace of Merengue. Food, music, and fun abound.

Montreal, Canada

– International Jazz Festival
Jazz aficionados from the world over travel to the beautiful city of Montreal to partake in the musical festivities. Big name acts and local favorites entertain the crowds beginning in early July.

August

Buñol, Spain

– La Tomatina
Each year around 30,000 people descend on the Spanish town of Buñol (near Valencia) to throw more than 240,000 pounds of tomatoes at each other as part of the La Tomatina festival.

Paris, France

– Paris Neighborhood Festival
Each quarter of this glorious city celebrates the warm summer nights with musical acts, dancing, art installations, and outdoor movie screenings. Mid-July through mid-August.

September

Logrono, Spain

– Fiesta de la Vendimia Riojana (Wine Festival)
One of the most renowned wine regions in Spain celebrates the harvest of the grapes.

Latacunga, Ecuador

– Fiesta de Mama Negra
One of the biggest parties in Ecuador. A celebration of the revolt by black servants. Nowadays, the Mayor dresses up and the town revels in the festivities.

Munich, Germany

– Oktoberfest
Known as the largest festival in the world, attracting some 6 million visitors annually, Oktoberfest is a raucous tribute to the delights of German beer.

Chile

– Fiestas Patrias (Independence Day)
The country celebrates its independence from Spain with music, parades, and outdoor barbecues. Chilean wine flows as locals and tourists enjoy the festive atmosphere nationwide.

October

Oaxaca, Mexico

– Food of the Gods Festival
A weeklong celebration in October exploring both the Pre-Hispanic roots and modern cuisines of Oaxaca.

Guanajuato, Mexico

– Cervantes Arts Festival
Venues across the city showcase the best of contemporary dance, ballet, music, opera, theatre, fine arts and film from all over the world. Begins the 1st Wed. of October.

November

Mexico

– Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
A festive and colorful tribute to loved ones past. Cemeteries are brightly decorated by family members and there is an uplifting atmosphere throughout the country.

December

Cusco, Peru

– Santuranticu
Flowers fill the streets as vendors sell handicrafts and businesses hand out free hot chocolate and fruit bread to children. The smell of sacred wood fills the air and fireworks provide a spectacular end to the festivities.





2005 Partial Language Program Price List

Many more locations on www.amerispan.com

CHILE (Spanish)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Santiago	\$480	\$865	\$1250	\$1635	+\$365	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
CHINA (Chinese)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Beijing	N/A	\$750	\$1100	\$1450	+\$295	4/day	Max 10	Apartment / 0 / Private	Included	+\$40
COSTA RICA (Spanish)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Alajuela	\$450	\$900	\$1320	\$1620	+\$355	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
Flamingo Beach	\$380	\$735	\$1035	\$1350	+\$340	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	+\$20**
Heredia	\$360	\$675	\$965	\$1165	+\$280	4/day	Max 6	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
Manuel Antonio	N/A	\$1015	\$1360	\$1695	+\$525	4/day	Max 6	Family / 2 / Private	Included	None
Monteverde	\$380	\$735	\$1035	\$1350	+\$340	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	+\$20**
Samara Beach	\$360	\$675	\$965	\$1165	+\$280	4/day	Max 6	Family / 2 / Private	Included	+\$25**
San Joaquin	\$380	\$735	\$1035	\$1350	+\$340	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
San Jose	\$545	\$890	\$1235	\$1580	+\$345	4/day	Max 4	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
FRANCE (French)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Aix-en-Provence (homestay half-board)	N/A	\$1495	\$2195	\$2875	\$695	4/day	Max 10	Family / 2 / Private	Included	+\$65
Aix-en-Provence (homestay self-catering)	N/A	\$1285	\$1830	\$2395	\$565	4/day	Max 10	Family / 0 / Private	Included	+\$65
Bordeaux (homestay)	N/A	\$1215	\$1875	\$2395	+\$570	4/day	Max 12	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
Biarritz (homestay)	N/A	\$1215	\$1875	\$2395	+\$570	4/day	Max 12	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
Montpellier (homestay) - coming soon										
Nice (homestay)	N/A	\$895	\$1295	\$1655	+\$385	4/day	Max 10	Family / 1 / Shared	+\$60/wk	None
Nice (apartment)	N/A	\$1050	\$1550	\$1950	+\$460	4/day	Max 10	Apartment / 0 / Shared	+\$140/wk	None
Paris (homestay)	\$750	\$1390	\$1995	\$2595	+\$535	4/day	Max 14	Family / 1 / Shared	+\$80/wk	+\$210
Paris (residence)	\$895	\$1650	\$2375	\$3150	+\$715	4/day	Max 14	Residence / 1 / Shared	+\$65/wk	+\$210
GERMANY (German)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Berlin (homestay)	N/A	\$1025	\$1495	\$1995	+\$470	4/day	Max 12	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
▶ Berlin Homestay Surcharge: Add \$70/wk to above prices if studying June 20 - August 21										
Berlin (apartment)	N/A	\$825	\$1195	\$1575	+\$395	4/day	Max 12	Apartment / 0 / Private	Included	+\$40
▶ Berlin Apartment Surcharge: Add \$50/wk to above prices if studying June 20 - August 21										
Frankfurt (homestay)	N/A	\$850	\$1275	\$1700	+\$365	4/day	Max 10	Family / 1 / Private	Included	None
Frankfurt (apartment)	N/A	\$750	\$1125	\$1500	+\$315	4/day	Max 10	Apartment / 0 / Shared	+\$90/wk	None
▶ Frankfurt Surcharge: Add \$40/wk to above prices if studying Mar 28 - Jun 26 or Sep 5 - Oct 30. Add \$60/wk if studying Jun 27 - Sep 4										
Munich (homestay)	N/A	\$1015	\$1525	\$1995	+\$520	4/day	Max 12	Family / 1 / Shared	+\$40/wk	+\$75
Munich (apartment)	N/A	\$795	\$1165	\$1550	+\$395	4/day	Max 12	Apartment / 0 / Shared	+\$40/wk	+\$75
GUATEMALA (Spanish)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Antigua (4 hrs/day group)	\$220	\$410	\$600	\$790	+\$195	4/day	Max 4	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
Antigua (4 hrs/day Private)	\$270	\$510	\$750	\$990	+\$240	4/day	1 to 1	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
Antigua (6 hrs/day Private)	\$320	\$610	\$900	\$1190	+\$290	6/day	1 to 1	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
Antigua (ACTIVA)	\$325	\$620	\$915	\$1210	+\$295	7/day	Max 4	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
ITALY (Italian)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Florence (homestay)	N/A	\$995	\$1495	\$1850	+\$450	4/day	Max 10	Family / 2 / Shared	+\$75/wk	None
Florence (apartment)	N/A	\$895	\$1355	\$1675	+\$395	4/day	Max 10	Apartment / 0 / Shared	+\$85/wk	None
▶ Florence surcharge: add \$40/wk to above prices if studying Mar 20 - Oct 29										
Milan (homestay)	N/A	\$1050	\$1375	\$1750	+\$445	4/day	Max 12	Family / 1 / Private	Included	+\$145/\$95
Milan (apartment)	N/A	\$1025	\$1295	\$1650	+\$395	4/day	Max 12	Apartment / 0 / Private	Included	+\$145/\$95
Rome (homestay)	\$495	\$895	\$1375	\$1750	+\$395	4/day	Max 12	Family / 1 / Private	Included	+\$75
Rome (apartment)	\$450	\$825	\$1295	\$1650	+\$385	4/day	Max 12	Apartment / 0 / Private	Included	+\$75
Sicily (homestay)	\$550	\$1015	\$1650	\$1925	+\$480	4/day	Max 10	Family / 1 / Private	Included	+\$85
Sicily (apartment)	\$525	\$955	\$1395	\$1825	+\$425	4/day	Max 10	Apartment / 1 / Private	Included	+\$85
Sorrento (homestay)	\$695	\$1200	\$1580	\$2015	+\$485	4/day	Max 12	Family / 2 / Private	Included	Included
Venice (homestay)	\$545	\$875	\$1200	\$1525	+\$305	4/day	Max 12	Family / 0 / Private	Included	+\$85
Venice (apartment)	\$545	\$875	\$1200	\$1525	+\$305	4/day	Max 12	Apartment / 0 / Private	Included	+\$85
PERU (Spanish)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Cusco (4 hrs/day group)	\$305	\$570	\$835	\$1100	+\$265	4/day	Max 4	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
Cusco (4 hrs/day Private)	\$390	\$740	\$1090	\$1440	+\$350	4/day	1 to 1	Family / 3 / Private	Included	Included
▶ Lima package: \$175, airport transfers, hotel & one-way flight to Cusco										
UNITED ARAB EMIR. (Arabic)	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	Add'l Week	Class Hours	Class Size	Accommodations Type / Meals / Room	Private Rm Upgrade	Airport Pick-Up
Al Ain (4 hrs/day group)	12 week program: \$3050					4/day	Max 12	Hotel / 0 / Private	Included	No
Al Ain (4 hrs/day private)	\$650	\$1275	\$1900	\$2525	+\$625	4/day	1 to 1	Hotel / 0 / Private	Included	No

2005: THE YEAR OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

Recently, the US Senate declared 2005 the year of foreign language study, in accordance with the American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages. They are encouraging us to celebrate and explore languages.

From my vantage point, this is both an interesting and easy request to honor. I am sitting in the Miami International Airport, and as I write, an argument erupts in Haitian Creole (I'm not sure what they are saying but I suspect that a burning oven in the Cinnabon kitchen is the matter at hand), a call goes out in Italian for a missing passenger, a porter directs a harried family to their gate in Spanish, and a couple consult each other in German over their dinner options. Clearly, terminal E is the perfect place to sit and reflect on the character, beauty and utility of language.

For those of you who are not within an easy commute of Terminal E, never fear. There are plenty of ways in which you can do your part to celebrate languages.

Some suggestions:

Read "The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way" by Bill Bryson. Learning more about the history and character of your own language may inspire you to learn more about others. You may not believe it now, but I swear to you that it is tough to put down Bryson's funny, fascinating history of the English language, and will provide you with enough trivia to spice up even the duller social gatherings through Labor Day.

Surprise your honey today by learning how to say "I love you" in a new language—like Farsi, Guarani, or Bahasa Indonesia.



Talk to a teenager and try out some of their lingo. Your coworkers might not think that the new fax machine is phat, but you'll know you're right.

Change that radio dial and listen to music sung in foreign tongues.

Who cares if they are singing about a long lost love or toxic waste? Let the exotic sounds and rhythms of a new language capture your imagination.

Grab a couple of buddies and study a new language this spring at your local community center. It is a great way to stay in touch, get out of a rut, and get ready to...

...travel!!! With all these curious, intriguing languages to discover, why not immerse yourself in the language at its source. Study Spanish in Cordoba, Chinese in Taipei, or French in Bordeaux.

Linguists tell us that hundreds of languages are dying every year, as the global village encroaches on, um, well, villages. This is a depressing thought, but remember that languages are also being recreated and reborn with every new speaker. When you learn to speak another language, you become part of its history and its culture. You extend it and breathe new life in it! So celebrate the year of languages by learning a new one, and enjoying those you already know.

- By Sarah Marlay, Director of Volunteer and Internship program



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