

# Homestay Study Program in Costa Rica

## 2010 Dates and Prices

Dates: June 6–August 14

Choose the length and dates of your program. Arrive any Sunday and stay for 2-4 weeks.

Two week program: \$1,830

Additional weeks: \$760

Monday extension: \$115

(airfare not included)

## Program Highlights

- small-group language classes
- exciting cultural activities and excursions
- homestay with a welcoming host family

## Heredia, Costa Rica

Experience the daily life in a small Costa Rican town! Heredia is located just 20 minutes outside the capital of San José, but has a rural feel to it. The heart of Heredia is the *parque central*, where you will find historic buildings, churches, a cultural center, the post office, and some shops and restaurants.

## The Classes

Your classes will be held for three hours every weekday morning at a local high school. They are scheduled in the afternoon to work with the Costa Rican weather. With no more than ten students per class, you will have plenty of opportunities to participate and practice.

## Cultural Activities and Excursions

Begin your days with a trip to a waterfall, a community service project, or a lesson in Costa Rican cooking. Weekends are reserved for full-day and overnight excursions. They may take you to the fiery Arenal volcano, the beautiful sand beaches of Isla Tortuga, or the Punta Leona rain forest. All activities are designed to give you deeper insight into Costa Rican culture and to let you explore the natural beauty of the country.

## Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself in the daily life in Costa Rica. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. Breakfast and dinner are included.



## Sample 2-Week Itinerary

### Week One

Monday - dance class  
Tuesday - walking tour of San José  
Wednesday - community service  
Thursday - cooking class  
Friday - butterfly farm tour  
Weekend - Arenal volcano and hot springs

### Week Two

Monday - art class  
Tuesday - coffee farm tour  
Wednesday - community service  
Thursday - bird sanctuary tour  
Friday - shopping  
Weekend - Punta Leona beach and rain forest



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INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS

*"My host family was amazing and I felt that everything we did made the experience even more spectacular."*

~Kimberly, 2009~

*ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can apply for this program?** This program is open to students 14 and older who have studied Spanish for the equivalent of at least one year in high school. It is a great program for younger students and students who don't have a lot of independent travel experience yet.

**What does the price include?** Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with all meals (you will have lunch at a local restaurant with other students) some cultural activities and excursions, travel insurance, pre-departure orientation materials, and on-site support in Costa Rica.

**What is a host family?** A host family may be two parents with children (from baby to adult), a single mother or father, a couple without children, grandparents, or a single person. All host families are screened by our partner organization in Costa Rica and provide warm, welcoming homes for international students. There may be other international students sharing the homestay with you.

**Will my family speak English?** They might, but they know that you are coming to use and improve your Spanish skills, so they will encourage you to speak their language.

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

**How will I get from the airport to my host family?** A local program coordinator will meet you at the San José airport and take you to your host family's home. You will also be escorted back to the airport at the end of your stay.

**Will there be an orientation?** Once you are accepted into the program, we will send you comprehensive orientation materials that cover everything from packing suggestions to dealing with culture shock.

**Can I get high school credits for this program?** Possibly. Talk to your teachers before the end of the school year about the option of completing an independent study project during or after your stay abroad.

**What travel documents will I need?** That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Entry requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Costa Rican embassy or consulate to get up-to-date information. Generally, U.S. citizens need a passport, but not a visa for a 2- to 6-week stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your stay in Costa Rica.

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

**How do I apply?** Complete the initial application form and return it to ANDEO with a \$500 deposit. We will then send you a detailed application with questions about your family and interests, a medical statement and release form, an agreement that spells out behavior expectations, directions for writing a letter to your host family, and three reference forms. You will have about 3-4 weeks to complete this. The decision to accept you into the program will be made based on your completed application. If for any reason we cannot accept you into the program, your deposit will be refunded in full.

**What is the application deadline?** The deadline is May 1st. However, we recommend that you apply as soon as you feel that all your questions have been answered and you have decided that this is the right program for you. Courses sometimes fill up before the application deadline.

**Who should not apply for this program?** Students who are currently experiencing excessive behavior problems, drug or alcohol abuse, eating disorders or other psychological disorders that might interfere with the program, or students who have experienced these issues in the past year should not apply.

**When should I book my flight?** After you have been officially accepted into the program. Information about arrival and departure times will be included in your acceptance letter.

**Are there any scholarships?** No, ANDEO is a non-profit organization and we try to keep prices as low as possible for all participants. For students who want to fundraise for their program abroad, we have compiled some ideas and suggestions. You



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*Like having options? Take a look at our other homestay study programs in Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan and Spain! We also offer homestay immersion programs in France, Germany, Mexico, and Spain.*

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