

Homestay Immersion Program in Mexico

2010 Dates and Price*

Dates: July 12-August 8

Price: \$2,250 for 4-week program

Includes roundtrip airfare
from Portland, Oregon

*Dates are subject to minor changes. We reserve the right to adjust program prices if there is a major increase in airfare or a major change in the currency exchange rate. In this event, applicants may cancel and receive a full refund.



Photo by James

Program Highlights

- individual homestay placement with a Mexican family
- contact with Mexican teenagers
- bilingual chaperone
- group travel to/from Mexico

Welcome to Mexico!

Experience Mexican culture as part of the family! This program offers you the chance to live with a Mexican host family who will invite you into their daily lives and their circle of friends. Join them for shared meals, family gatherings, local festivals, and more... all in Spanish, of course!

Program Structure

Your group, including a bilingual chaperone, will fly into Mexico City, where you will be met by a local coordinator and escorted to your host family. Most families live within a few hours of the capital. For the next four weeks, you will eat, sleep, and play like the Mexicans do. Your chaperone will be available to support you throughout your stay. At the end of your program, you will meet your group again at the airport and return to Portland together.

Prerequisites

We recommend this homestay immersion program for students who have studied Spanish for at least two years, who really want to use and improve their language skills, and who feel ready to dive in to a different lifestyle and culture. You won't spend a lot of time with other American students, and you should not expect to do a lot of traveling. If you prefer a program that offers language classes and organized group activities, take a look at our homestay study programs in Spain, Costa Rica, and Ecuador!



"The most beneficial aspects of my daughter's trip were the immersion in the Spanish language, the cultural experience, and the program's ability to provide a safe environment."

~Randy, 2008~



ANDEO International Homestays - a nonprofit organization since 1981.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the price include? Return airfare from Portland (PDX), a bilingual chaperone, homestay placement with meals, travel insurance, pre-departure orientation materials, and on-site support in Mexico.

What is a host family? Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. For this program, our partners in Mexico choose host families who have teenagers in the home or who can introduce you to teens in the extended family or neighborhood. All host families are screened by our partner organization in Mexico and provide warm, welcoming homes for international students.

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.

But what will I DO all day? That depends on your host family's daily schedule and lifestyle. You can expect to speak Spanish, meet Mexican people, explore the neighborhood you are living in, and participate in family activities like meals, family gatherings, grocery shopping, or a few weekend outings. The key to enjoying an immersion program is to stay curious and take every opportunity to practice your Spanish and learn something new about your host culture.

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. There will also be a mandatory orientation meeting in May where you will have the opportunity to meet the other students and your chaperone. Together, you will prepare for the experience by clarifying your expectations, learning about Mexico and the Mexican culture, and share advice on how to work through the challenging parts of an immersion program such as homesickness and 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 Mexican embassy or consulate to get up-to-date information. Generally, U.S. citizens need a passport, but not a visa for a short-term stay. As a minor, you will probably need a notarized travel form. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your stay in Mexico.

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 March 15th. 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. Programs sometimes fill up early.

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.

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 can find them on our website at www.andeo.org.



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

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