

Cuernavaca is located in the state of Morelos some sixty miles south of México City. It is very modern city with a definite Mexican flavor. Cuernavaca is a word in Nahuatl, originally Cuauhanahuac, which means 'close to the trees'. Cortes built a palace here in 1526, and now it houses a museum. Many famous people, like the Emperor Maximilian and his wife, have lived in this beautiful city. Cuernavaca is known as the "City of Eternal Spring" as the climate is wonderful - year round it ranges from the 70's to the 80's during the day.

In Cuernavaca every day there is something new to do. The city has many museums, haciendas, churches, restaurants, libraries, nightclubs, discos, places for swimming, racquet sports, golf courses, bowling alley, etc. Historical sights, lakes and mountains, and interesting towns surround Cuernavaca.

Instituto Chac-Mool is in a residential area of Cuernavaca close to the center of town. A beautiful walking city, it also offers good bus service and inexpensive taxis. Shopping, restaurants and services are located close to the school and host family homes.

HOW TO GET HERE: From the Mexico City airport, there are frequent direct Pullman de Morelos buses to Cuernavaca, tickets are purchased on the second floor of the terminal for about US\$12. From the bus station in Cuernavaca, catch a "Radio Taxi" for a few dollars to you accommodations. A 24-hour private airport pickup and delivery service is also available. 1-3 persons = \$80, 4-7 persons = \$100. (*rates stated are subject to change*)

EXCURSIONS

Full-Day Cultural Excursions are offered Saturdays, plus Sunday during the summer season. These optional excursions are scheduled so that after learning about certain cultural aspects of Mexican history during the week, the student is given the opportunity to see and experience what has been discussed. Sign up sheets available at the school only the week prior to each event. Most excursions leave the school at 9 am, ask your host family to pack you a lunch since you will not return until late afternoon.

Destinations may include: Teotihuacán, Museo de Antropología in Mexico City, Centro Histórico in Mexico City, Ballet Folklórico in Mexico City, Museo Dolores Olmedo y canales de Xochimilco in Mexico City, Taxco, Las Estacas Water Park and the Xochicalco archeological site. The charge is usually US\$40-45 per person, depending on the destination. A guide plus transportation to and from the Spanish school is provided. The fee usually includes entrance fees, with the exception of Ballet Folklórico and Las Estacas which requires students to pay for their own ticket.



**Privada de la Pradera #108
Colonia Pradera
Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico
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www.chac-mool.com

***We are fully accredited by the Mexican Ministry of Education
SEP - Secretaría de Educación Pública***

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**Color photos and frequently asked questions
available on our website**

[Register online at www.chac-mool.com/enroll.html](http://www.chac-mool.com/enroll.html)

**CLASSES begin each MONDAY throughout the YEAR
You choose the number of weeks you study.**

Instituto Chac-Mool began in 1996 as one of Cuernavaca's most innovative Spanish immersion and cultural programs. It is now one of Cuernavaca's most highly ranked family-friendly schools offering year round classes to all ages of students. The owners of Instituto Chac-Mool are Julio and Deana Nájera, themselves educators who have personally trained Spanish teachers or taught in the United States and in Mexico.

Instituto Chac-Mool offers students an intimate environment in which to study, plus unique personal service from the moment of registration for classes. Each student is someone special at Chac-Mool and teachers and staff look forward to getting to know each student personally.

Instituto Chac-Mool carefully selects only the most qualified individuals to teach and all instructors are college educated and are native Spanish speakers. Prior to beginning the extensive teacher's training course, applicants are first tested and interviewed to determine if they are cut out to be teachers. During training, they are continuously analyzed. Only those passing the rigorous final test are selected as Chac-Mool instructors. Then teachers participate in continuous training workshops. Since children learn differently than adults, the children's teachers also receive additional training.

The school's facilities are excellent; with indoor and outdoor classrooms, a student lounge, a large grassy area that surrounds a swimming pool that can be used after class, a cafeteria where students can purchase food and drink.

- ❑ At Instituto Chac-Mool we are convinced that using **Sheltered Instruction** and the **Natural Approach** are the best ways to acquire a language. This approach allows students to learn to communicate faster, as there is more stress on communication skills and conversational fluency, as opposed to strictly studying the grammatical structure of the language. Learning is active and interactive at Chac-Mool, students are not just spoken to but are an active part of the learning process. All of the teachers have been specially trained in Stephen Krashen's **Theory of Language Acquisition** and that of the **Seven Intelligences**.
- ❑ The objective of our program is for the student to develop good communication skills. Special courses for writing, translations skills and specific terminology may also be arranged.
- ❑ Courses begin each Monday throughout the year, and you may study for as short as one week or as long as six months.
- ❑ Students will be grouped by ability based on a brief written, auditory and oral placement test given Monday morning prior to beginning class.
- ❑ Adult classes will be of no more than 5 students at the same Spanish level.
- ❑ The adult program offers 10 different levels, from beginning to advanced, including the **Native Speaker** program. In the event that a student's ability level falls between 2 levels, Instituto Chac-Mool offers private instruction to bring that student up to the higher level. This is without extra charge, and at the director's discretion.

ACCOMMODATIONS

In a study abroad program such as this one, a student often spends much of their time with a local host family. For that reason, Instituto Chac-Mool works as a team with the host families to make the stay as pleasant and comfortable as possible. The time the student spends with the host family is an opportunity to acquire the culture and language in the most natural of settings and in a very low-anxiety environment.

The host families that work exclusively with Chac-Mool are fully screened and enjoy having foreign students in their homes, often valuing the opportunity as much as the students do. In order to provide a pleasant and rewarding homestay families are required to attend an orientation meeting and workshops where they discuss the important role they play in the student's immersion program. The school is in touch with the families frequently to insure the student's stay is the best possible experience. At the end of their stay students fill out homestay evaluations so that the housing director receives constant feedback of the service provided.

Students will be assigned a host family prior to their arrival as closely to their requirements as possible, taking into account the following factors: shared or private room, dietary habits (vegetarian, etc), allergies, etc. Many host families welcome younger students in their home and offer two or more rooms with one or more private bathrooms. During the summer months weekend arrival and departures from homes is requested.

YOU WILL BE PART OF THE FAMILY. The host families provide students with three meals a day. Students can request a bag lunch for excursion days. The accommodations the host families provide must include a bed, a desk or table for studying, and ample lighting. The family will provide bath soap, a clean towel two times a week and clean sheets, changed once a week. Personal laundry through a local laundry service is available.

2008 HOMESTAY RATES with 3 meals (per person)

\$25 per night	Private Room with Private Bathroom
\$23 per night	Private Room with Shared Bathroom
\$20 per night	Shared Room with Private Bathroom *
\$18 per night	Shared Room with Shared Bathroom

*not available for those needing an assigned roommate

CASITAS: Located walking distance to the school, some host families offer small private entrance guesthouses. They include private bathroom and most with kitchenettes. If including meals they are priced the same as homestays. Discounts offered if without meals. Please email spanish@chac-mool.com with your requirements. Limited availability during holiday and summer months. Larger vacation rentals can be found online at www.cuernavacainfo.com

What we uniquely offer at Chac-Mool:

One-on-One Tutoring: Teens and adults sign up in the morning for a 20 minute session offered Monday thru Thursday afternoons. No additional fee.

Native Speaker Classes: This language course focuses on teaching individuals who may have learned Spanish in the home, but may not use the language correctly. Emphasis on reading, writing, and proper communication.

Taller Bilingue: Tuesday and Thursday (approx. 30 min.) In a group setting a teacher will explain a different grammatical point each day after school. Free for all students who feel they would benefit.

Culture Program: Instituto Chac-Mool has completely computerized the Culture Program to include wide-screen projection of images and state-of-the-art technology for implementation of the program.

Workshops for Educators: We offer a series of workshops especially designed for teachers. Topics include: translations; writing parent letters; family customs and how they relate to a school environment; Mexican holidays. Bilingual teachers may have the opportunity to visit a public junior high and a private elementary school to compare and contrast the educational systems of Mexico and the U.S. or Canada (visits not available during school holidays).

Bilingual Certification: Instituto Chac-Mool offers assistance in preparing for state bilingual teacher credentialing and certification tests, including California's BCLAD. ACTFL test prep also offered. Ask if additional fees apply.

Courses for Professionals: Instituto Chac-Mool offers Spanish courses to help in your profession. Including social work, law, law enforcement, business, and medicine. Please ask for more information for private and semi-private classes. CEUs available through California Lutheran University for a fee.

Courses for College Credit: Transcripts will be issued upon request for our Spanish classes. Accredited as a higher education institution by Mexico's Secretaría de Educación Pública. An overnight mailing fee is required.

Family Friendly: Special programs for children and teens are available. All ages are welcome at Instituto Chac-Mool and we have qualified instructors trained in teaching different age groups.

We understand that each student has special needs and interests and one of Instituto Chac-Mool's strongest points is that we have the flexibility to personalize the program to tailor-fit each student according to these needs. We also believe that if a student lives and has an understanding of the culture of Mexico, it is much easier to acquire the language.

TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM

Teens study at Instituto Chac-Mool year round, however in addition to our regular programs, a special Spanish immersion course just grouping teens together is scheduled for June 9 to August 15, 2008. Students may register for as many weeks as they like, please request Teen Program when registering.

Since the emphasis is on learning Spanish, students will be required to speak Spanish not just during class time, but also during all activities. This situational practice is an important part of the learning process. Offered to students ages 12 to 17 years old (older teens may also sign up for the adult classes if they prefer).

The size of each Spanish study group is no larger than 5 teens, and students are placed in their small group based on their Spanish ability. This ability is determined by a placement test and an interview on the first day of class. Students will interact with all the teens in the program during the afternoon and evening activities.

Tuition for this course is US\$215 per week. Please budget an additional US\$5-\$10 per day for off-site activities and transportation. Students are welcome to join the optional full-day weekend excursions, an additional fee applies. Food and drinks can be purchased at the school's cafeteria.

Example of Afternoon Activities for Teens 11:50-1:50 pm:

Monday	Guided visit around Cuernavaca
Tuesday	Conversation class
Wednesday	Interviews with local people in the zocalo, mercado, mall, etc.
Thursday	Activity at school (games, plays, songs)
Friday	Let's have fun! Movie theater, mall, bowling, and more

Example of Evening Activities for Teens 5:00-7:00 pm:

Monday	Ping pong, tennis, movies
Tuesday	Latin dance lessons
Wednesday	Mexican cooking class
Thursday	Sports
Friday	Fiesta

Please note: We recommend that a parent or guardian travel with their teens and we welcome their registration in adult Spanish immersion classes. Solo travelers will be required to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement, a parental signature is also required. We have excellent host families available for teen students, but we feel that the guesthouse option is not suitable for teens coming unaccompanied by an adult.

2008 TUITION and FEES

Adults & Teens	1-4 weeks rate per week	5 –11 weeks rate per week	12 + weeks rate per week
June, July, Aug	\$215	\$200	\$170
All other months	\$199	\$185	\$170
Private Lessons		Special Courses for Professionals	
Request quote		\$320 semi-private course (\$350 summer) see website for details	
Plus a life-time, non-refundable US\$100 registration fee. Books \$10-25. CHAC-MOOL GUARANTEES that the student will learn, or their money back			

Children ages 4-12	rate per week
Programa Amiguitos	\$130 (2007 rate) - \$145 (2008 rate)
Junior Program	\$190
Plus a life-time, non-refundable US\$50 registration fee per child 12 & younger.	

DAILY SCHEDULE

Spanish classes begin at 8:50 am and end daily at 1:50 pm:

Daily classes are divided into six parts. The first and second modules from 8:50 to 11:40 are structure, consisting of a brief review of the day before, new material and practice. During the third and fourth module from 12:00 to 1:50 the students may attend a conversation workshop or a content course such as: History, Latin America culture & Civilization and Literature. During the conversation workshops, students will have opportunities for reading and writing and cultural outings on Friday.

Monday thru Thursday afternoons from 1:55 to 2:45 - free of charge:

- 20 Minute Tutoring Sessions with a teacher one-on-one. Sign up in the morning for teacher of your choice.
- Lectures, Guest Speakers, Music and Songs, Excursion Orientation, Mexican Stories, & more.
- Workshops for teachers and educators (Tues & Thurs).
- Taller Bilingue - grammar discussion group (Tues & Thurs).

Monday thru Thursday from 5-7 pm:

- Activities including cooking class, Latin dance lessons, arts & crafts, movies, and more. Small materials fee for some activities may apply. Children welcome when with a parent.

Weekends:

- Saturday – Full day guided excursion - destination may be Museo de Antropology, Taxco, Teotihuacán, Mexico City, or others. Fee required.
- Saturday - School campus and swimming pool are open from 9 am to 2 pm (as well as weekdays until 8 pm)
- Sunday - full-day excursions are offered during the summer. Fee required.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Pre-trip assistance · WiFi internet access · telephones · long distance calling cards · fax · tourist information
computerized library · swimming pool · cafeteria · doctor on call

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Classes at Instituto Chac-Mool are not offered on the following holidays, although some hours can be made up that same week.

Sorry, no refunds for missed days.

Observed November 23, 2007	Revolution of 1910
Tuesday, December 25, 2007	Christmas
Tuesday, January 1, 2008	New Years Day
February 4, 2008 *	Constitution Day
March 21, 2008	Benito Juarez Birthday
May 1, 2008	Labor Day
September 16, 2008	Dia de Independencia
November 17, 2008*	Benito Juarez Birthday
December 25, 2008	Christmas
January 1, 2009	New Years Day

* these dates are Monday so classes begin on Tuesday of these weeks.

HOW TO REGISTER

You may register online at www.chac-mool.com/enroll.html or phone us at 1.530.622.4262 (California) so we may email you the registration questions.

