



BASIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:

INNOVATIVE IMMERSION TOURS

11664 National Blvd #277

Los Angeles, CA 90064

(916) 709-3249 • mellwit@yahoo.com

www.iitours.com

Innovative Immersion Tours:

Innovative Immersion Tour Programs is dedicated to providing opportunities for people of all ages to travel and study in foreign countries. Our staff accompanies all of our groups and is experienced in planning and leading groups. We have over 10 years of experience in leading student groups.

The Immersion Experience:

An immersion program is a cultural experience! It is the opportunity to experience the culture of a country first-hand- to get to know the way of living of the local people. This is done by speaking the language, by experiencing the culture through classes and activities and by living with local families. We also take time to prepare students with pre-trip information, such as handouts about important sites that we will visit, cultural information, recommended reading lists, videos, etc.

What is an immersion program?

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Spanish Classes:

All the schools we work with have been visited by one of our staff. We chose these schools because of the professionalism of their teaching staff and the personalized attention given to students. The classes are given by native instructors, who are dynamic,

energetic, and experienced in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. They are all university-trained and most have their Master's degrees. Although mastering grammar is an important part of the learning process, classes emphasize speaking and understanding: the communicative approach to learning. All classes, including cultural classes, are given in Spanish.

A wide variety of Spanish levels is offered. Students take a short placement exam at the beginning of the program. Books and materials are provided by the school. The class size is very small with a maximum of 6 students (except in Spain where it is 8.)

On youth programs, our groups are not mixed with other students. Adults may be placed with students from other groups. Most cultural classes and school activities will be mixed and will include students from all over the world. All of our students receive a certificate of participation in the program during an informal "graduation" ceremony.

Obviously, how much you learn depend upon the amount of time and effort you put into studying and speaking Spanish while you are abroad. Past students have been amazed at their progress in the relatively short period they were actually in the country. Since our classes are designed to improve conversation and understanding, students will tend to focus on simply improving and mastering the information that they already have learned, as opposed to trying to cram in a lot of new material.



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WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US ON OUR NEXT ADVENTURE!!



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Homestay:

Living with a family is a wonderful opportunity for cultural immersion. The families are middle-class or upper-middle class families that live within 15 minutes from the school. We use the same families every year and they host students year-round. Each student fills out a questionnaire that is used to match up individuals with one of the many families that we work with. We try to place young students with families with children around the same age.

Students will have a shared or private room, depending on the program. We will place 1 adult student per family and 2-3 teenage students per family, unless otherwise requested. On our youth programs, families know that students are not allowed to leave their homestays without one of the tour leaders.

The majority of the families do speak some English. However, they are encouraged to only speak Spanish with students. Many students are concerned about not being able to speak Spanish. But the families are very patient and give students the time they need to express themselves.

Each student will receive their family assignment before the trip with information on the names of all the members with their ages and occupations, as well as their phone number, address and email (if they have one). The families provide two meals (Costa Rica, Mexico) or three meals (Spain, Peru) and can accommodate dietary needs and preferences of

students. Breakfast will be served according to our travel plans. Dinner is served around 7pm, except for Spain where it may be slightly later.

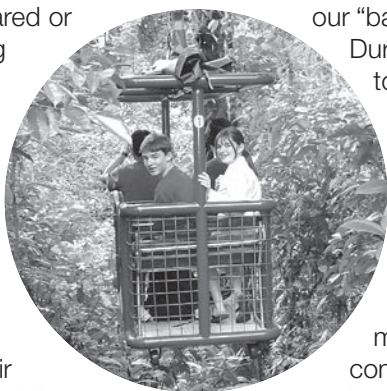
Tours & Activities:

Many tourists will never have the opportunity to take part in these activities. Our programs offer such cultural experiences as dance and cooking classes, museum visits, cultural conferences, performances, tours to important sites within and outside of our "base city" and much more! During these activities, your tour leader will always be present.

We hire our own private buses and guides for tours in order to ensure the maximum comfort and safety for students. This is not a bus tour! Our programs are more than just a vacation-they truly are a cultural experience.

All-Inclusive Trips:

Our programs are different from so many others because they are designed to be all-inclusive. By including everything from airfare, school, homestay, most meals, books and materials and daily activities, students do not have to come up with a lot of out-of-pocket expenses. We will go over the recommended spending money so that you can budget ahead of time.



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