

# Gap Program in Costa Rica

## Individually Customized Programs

What makes ANDEO's Gap programs stand out is that they are very flexible and can be customized to fit your goals and interests. The two core components are small-group language courses and a homestay with a local family. From there, you can choose your own path. For example, you can combine courses in San Joaquín and Monteverde, take scuba diving lessons, or get involved with a volunteer project. Programs can be as short as four weeks or as long as a full year and start any Monday of the year. Academic credit is available.

**2009 Cost Estimate: \$6,700 for a 12-week program**  
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

## San Joaquín, Monteverde and Flamingo

Experience small-town Costa Rica in San Joaquín de Flores, a residential suburb of Heredia, explore the cloud forest near Monteverde, or choose the stunning beach of Flamingo for your language studies! Each location has its own charm, but all of them offer opportunities to immerse yourself into Costa Rican culture and discover the impressive biodiversity of the country. If you just can't decide, combine courses in two or all three locations!

## The Language Institute

Each campus offers comfortable classroom in building specifically designed for language education, friendly bilingual staff, and outdoor areas where you can relax during your breaks. All teachers are university-educated native speakers with experience teaching Spanish as a second language. Internet access and libraries are available at all locations.

## The Classes

Take your Spanish to the next level in small-group language classes of only four students! The basic course includes 20 hours of classes that are usually held in the afternoon. Teachers use the communicative approach, getting you ready to interact in Spanish as quickly as possible. Special seminars for medical professionals and social workers are also scheduled several times per year.

## Cultural Activities

Each week, you are invited to join a variety of cultural activities. For example, you may take Salsa dancing classes, cook a typical Costa Rican dish, or learn about coffee cultivation. To see more of this extraordinary country, join excursions to Costa Rica's fiery volcanoes, natural hot springs, and island beaches!

## Special Option: Spanish and Environmental Conservation

If you want to enjoy and protect Costa Rica's unique biodiversity, ANDEO can arrange a volunteer placement in a wildlife sanctuary or biological reserve for you. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with the local community and learn about Costa Rica's social realities. Contact us for details!

## Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into 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.



**ANDEO**  
INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS

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

# Frequently Asked Questions

**What does the cost estimate include?** Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with breakfast and dinner each day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Costa Rica. If you want to add special options, please contact ANDEO for a cost estimate.

**Can I study if I am a beginner?** Yes, you can start as a complete beginner. Call for specific beginner start dates!

**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.

**Will I receive any orientation materials?** Yes. 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. You will also be invited to attend an orientation in Costa Rica.

**Will I have access to email?** Yes, you can access the internet connection at the language institute for a small fee or take advantage of the free wi-fi network.

**Will the institute be closed for any holidays?** Yes. The institute is closed for all national holidays in Costa Rica.

**Can I get credits for studying abroad?** Yes! Whether you are a high school graduate, a university student working toward a degree, or a teacher looking for professional development, you can get credit for continuing your education abroad. Earn 5 to 10 credits by signing up for a variety of courses offered by *We Study Abroad*, an accredited college program linked with Seattle Central Community College. Please visit [www.westudyabroad.com](http://www.westudyabroad.com) for details.

**Do I need travel insurance?** We strongly recommend that you get travel insurance that includes a medical plan. Prices depend upon trip length and participant age. You can compare different policies online or by contacting your local travel agent.

**Will I need a visa?** That depends on the length of your program, your citizenship, and other individual factors. Visa requirements change frequently, so we strongly recommend that you contact your nearest Costa Rican consulate or embassy to make sure you have the most up-to-date information about all rules and regulations that apply to your stay. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary travel documents for your program in Costa Rica. If you need any documents from ANDEO or our partner organization abroad, we will do our best to provide them to you.

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

**How do I apply?** To apply, complete the initial Gap application and return it with a \$300 deposit. You can download an application at [www.andeo.org](http://www.andeo.org). Your deposit will be applied to the total program price. Upon receipt of your program registration and deposit, we will send you a detailed orientation packet. The balance of your program fees will be due 30 days before your program start date.

**What is your cancellation policy?** If you cancel your program more than 45 days prior to your start date, we will refund the amount you have paid toward your program fee except for the \$100 non-refundable deposit as well as any cancellation fees charged by the language institute. The cancellation fees vary from program to program, so please feel free to ask us about the fees that apply to yours. For cancellations made less than 45 days prior to your program start date, your \$300 deposit will be forfeited, and you will also be responsible for the cancellation fees charged by the institute. If ANDEO cancels your program, you will receive a full refund.

If you have any further questions or would like to start planning your program in France, please contact ANDEO at [info@andeo.org](mailto:info@andeo.org), 503.274.1776 or 800.274.6007. We look forward to working with you!



**ANDEO**  
INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS

*Like having options? Take a look at our other Gap programs in Argentina, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!*

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