

# Gap Program in Oaxaca, Mexico

## 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 Oaxaca and Playa del Carmen, join afternoon workshops, 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 time of the year. Academic credit is available.

**2009 Cost Estimate: \$4,125 for a 12-week program**  
(airfare not included; 4-week to 12-month programs possible)

## Oaxaca

Famous for its creative, talented artists, Oaxaca is a great place to discover the beauty of Mexican culture. You will find art made from clay, leather, fabric, iron, and other materials. Even the houses look like art with their bright colors and intricate decorations! Besides art, you will also have the opportunity to experience Mexico's cultural diversity and see traces of its fascinating history.

## The Language Institute

Your classes will be held in a typical colonial building in the heart of Oaxaca's historic center, only four blocks from the *zocalo*. The language institute is surrounded by cafes, art galleries, museums and shops and offers a large patio where you can meet other students during the breaks.

## The Classes

After a placement test on your first day, you will study Spanish for three hours each day, usually from 9:00 to 12:00. Classes are small, consisting of no more than five students each. Develop your conversation skills as well as writing, listening comprehension, pronunciation, and grammar!

## Cultural Activities

In the afternoon, you can choose from a variety of workshops and activities including cooking classes, lectures on Zapotecan culture, and screenings of Mexican films. You can also join excursions to places of cultural and historic interest. Many of these activities are free. You may want to budget a little extra for entrance fees and transportation cost.

## Special Option: Spanish and Community Service

If you want to give back to the local community and learn more about Mexico's social realities, ANDEO can arrange a volunteer placement in an orphanage in Oaxaca for you. The orphanage has been founded in 2001 and is providing basic education, sports activities, life skills training and, most important, attention and affection. Contact us for details!

## Accommodations

A homestay with a local family is the best way to immerse yourself into the daily life in Oaxaca. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is a strong interest in sharing their culture. Breakfast is included in your homestay; dinner with your host family can be arranged for an additional fee.



Photos by Tania Paz and Keirn



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# Frequently Asked Questions

**What does the cost estimate include?** Tuition for the language course, study materials, homestay placement with breakfast each day, some cultural activities, pre-departure orientation materials, and ongoing support in your preparations and during your stay in Oaxaca. 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.

**Will I have access to email?** Yes. Internet access is available at the language institute and at internet cafes.

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

**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 Mexican 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 Mexico. 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, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, and Spain!*

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