



Instituto Intercultural del Caribe

Learning Spanish in the Dominican Republic

**Experience Spanish classes in a paradisiacal environment,
get to know country and people and enjoy your holidays!**

Our institute has **two locations**: one school in **Sosua**, a little town on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, and a second school in the capital **Santo Domingo**.

With its beautiful beaches, restaurants, discos and sports facilities, **Sosua** is perfect for those students who wish to combine studying Spanish with numerous other activities (such as swimming, surfing, scuba diving, horseback-riding, dancing, playing golf and more). Our school in Sosua has a beautiful garden and is just a 5-minute walk away from the main beach as well as from the city center.



The surfers' paradise **Cabarete**, famous for its great surfing conditions and beach night-life, is only a few kilometers away from Sosua. It takes about 15 minutes by public transport to reach Sosua. We also offer two accommodation possibilities in Cabarete.



Santo Domingo is a fascinating Caribbean metropolis. It is the oldest city in the New World, where the settlement of all the Americas began. Its colonial district, the Zona Colonial, was declared "A World Heritage Site" by UNESCO 1990.

In Santo Domingo, students have the opportunity to explore museums, historical buildings and a bustling night-life. There are so many restaurants, bars, cafes and clubs that it is practically impossible to have visited them all. And it's a city that never sleeps. A great place to meet people.

One of the closest beaches to Santo Domingo is the Boca Chica Beach, about 25 minutes away by public transport.

Course Program

IIC is an intercultural institute teaching Spanish to foreigners and English and German to Dominicans. One of our aims is to bring together foreign and Dominican students for an intercultural exchange and for practicing newly-acquired language skills.

Students can also divide their courses between both locations. Thus, we offer them the opportunity to learn Spanish in two completely different locations and by doing so, to discover the country in its splendid diversity.



At both schools, we offer **group courses** and **private lessons** for all levels of knowledge; right from beginners to those who have advanced Spanish skills. Courses are available from one week till several months of length. Our aim is to provide the best service to our clients, and for this reason all our Spanish teachers are highly qualified and experienced.

The IIC team also organizes excursions and outdoor activities exclusively for our students. In this way we want to enable our students not only to learn Spanish but to also experience the Dominican Republic and its people in an interesting and unique way.

Special programs

One of our main goals is to offer students from all over the world the chance to learn more about the Dominican Republic, the inhabitants, their culture and way of life. For this reason we organize special programs to combine language classes with further interests. These are: '**Travelling Classroom**', '**Spanish & Dancing**', '**Spanish & Surfing**', '**Spanish & Scuba Diving**' and '**Preparation Courses DELE Exam**'. Please contact us to receive detailed information about any of our special programs.

Accommodation possibilities

SOSUA - School-owned Studios:

Single room, breakfast (except on Sundays and holidays), private bathroom, refrigerator, fan and Cable-TV. Situated on the campus.

SOSUA - School-owned Apartment:

Single room, breakfast (except on Sundays and holidays), fan, Cable-TV, shared bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. Situated on the campus.

SOSUA - 4-star Hotel:

Single room, breakfast, private bathroom, refrigerator, air conditioning, Cable-TV; swimming pool, breakfast terrace with ocean view. Situated directly at the beach.

CABARETE - 2-star Hotel:

Individual bungalows, private bathroom, refrigerator, fan, air conditioning and safe (for a fee) and swimming pool.

SANTO DOMINGO - School Apartment:

Single room, Cable-TV, fan, self-catering. Shared bathroom and kitchen. Students can use a common computer with internet access and wireless LAN.

SANTO DOMINGO - Guest Family:

Accommodation with Dominican middle-class families, private room and half-board (breakfast and dinner).

SANTO DOMINGO - Apart Hotel:

Single occupancy in studio, self-catering, private bathroom, refrigerator, mainly with cooking facilities, Cable-TV, air conditioning and telephone.

SANTO DOMINGO - Middle-class Hotel:

Single room, breakfast, private bathroom, air conditioning, Cable-TV and swimming pool.

We recommend that our clients book health, baggage and cancellation insurance.

Cancellation Procedures

Cancellations have to be submitted in writing. Depending upon the date of receipt IIC charges the following fees:

up to 21 days before the course starting date:	10%
up to 14 days before the course starting date:	20%
up to 7 days before the course starting date:	30%
less than 7 days before the course starting date:	40%



Contact details

For further information about our courses and special programs please visit our website or contact us directly. You are always welcome.

Instituto Intercultural del Caribe / CASA GOETHE

Email: info@languagecourse.net

Internet: www.languagecourse.net

Travel Info

IIC Sosua (Dominican Republic)



With its beautiful beaches, restaurants, discos and sports facilities, Sosua is perfect for those who wish to combine studying Spanish with numerous leisure activities.

Sosua is the centre of the Dominican Republic's north coast, a tourist area known for its white beaches and water sports. It is home to **3,000** inhabitants and has a temperature of **32°C in the summer months and 27°C in winter**. The town is between Puerto Plata and Cabarete; the International Airport of Puerto Plata, a 10-minute drive from Sosua, services the area.

An increasing number of visitors flock to Sosua mainly for its **beach life**. Sosua's main beach, **Playa Sosua**, is one of the finest beaches in the Dominican Republic, one kilometer of soft, golden-yellow sand, sprinkled with coconut and Flamboyant trees. It is tucked in a cove sheltered by coral cliffs and has crystal-clear water. At one end of the beach is **El Batey**, an area with residential streets, gardens, restaurants, shops and hotels. Foreigners who originally came for a beach holiday have now established their own ex-patriot communities and businesses. Many names and houses testify the town's Jewish history. At the other end of Sosua beach lies **Los Charamicos**, formerly a sleepy fishing village but which has in recent years been converted into a business and residential sector for the concentration of Dominicans who have moved into the area to seek work around Sosua. The ambiance is typically Dominican: Here you will find tin-roofed shacks, vegetable stands, chickens scrabbling in the grounds, **typical Dominican daily life and warm, friendly people**. In some places excellent fish dishes are served.

Only 15 minutes away from Sosua is surfer's paradise **Cabarete, one of the best wind and kite surfing spots in the world**. The town mainly attracts a young crowd and has the best nightlife on the island. At its nightly beach scene, surfers, Dominicans and tourists mingle in one of the numerous bars and restaurants and enjoy partying together.

The School Description

The institute is an intercultural institute teaching Spanish to foreigners and in the same building English and German to Dominicans. One of the school's aims is to bring together foreign and Dominican students for intercultural exchange and practicing your language skills.

The institute is located in "El Batey". The school building, sheltered by impressive old trees and lush vegetation, offers the ideal ambiance for concentrated learning in a tropical surrounding. The school is within a stone's throw of the centre and 5 minutes walk away from the main beach. Nevertheless, the ambiance is so tranquil that classes often take place on one of the shadowed and airy terraces or directly in the garden. The school offers **4 outdoor classrooms and 2 indoor classrooms** which are cooled by ceiling fans. Classrooms are equipped with audio-visual teaching material. A library offers leisure literature in different languages.

Course duration:	1 week and up
Minutes per lesson:	45 minutes
Minimum age:	16 (with letter of permission of the parents)
Classrooms:	6
Library:	yes
Internet/Email access:	yes (wifi for free)
Audio/video facilities:	yes

Office hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday

In urgent cases and outside office hours call the emergency number of the institute:

+1 – 809 – 671 – 5581

Travel and Transfer

Arrive: Sunday*

Depart: Saturday*

**Other days are also possible. The language course will start on Monday and end on Friday.*

We recommend flying into International Airport Puerto Plata (POP), and then taking a taxi to your accommodation. The taxi costs about USD 25.- from the airport to Sosua. If you booked accommodation together with your course, then the transfer at arrival is included. You will be picked up from the airport: An employee of the institute will await you in the arrival zone carrying a sign with your name and the name of the institute on it.

Student Body

Students are drawn from over 30 countries around the world, although the majority of them are from Western Europe and America. The school caters for between 10 and 25 students at a time and is at its busiest from November to April and in the summer months (July/August). The average age of the students is between 25 and 39 years. Your fellow students are university (or pre university) students or adults, professionals or people looking for a holiday program. All language students have serious reasons for wishing to improve their Spanish, mainly for career, personal or academic purposes and for many of them Spanish will be a second or even third foreign language.

Your first day at the institute

All new students will meet at the institute in the morning of the first day at 8:45 am. There will be a short welcome and introduction about the school and its staff. Then you will go directly into your class. Those new students who did not manage to send their placement test in two weeks prior to their course start will now write the test (it's not as scary as it sounds) and start with their classes after that. After class and lunch break the student care will take you on an orientation tour of Sosua.

Lessons will begin on Monday for all students (unless Monday is a holiday in which case the course starts on the Tuesday instead). Classes are held from Monday to Friday each week. Once you have successfully completed your course you will receive a certificate of participation attesting to your level of proficiency in the Spanish language. This will also show the duration, amount of lessons and style of course that you attended.

General Course Information

You will cover the four core skills of **speaking, listening, reading and writing**, with plenty of grammar and vocabulary work included in order to develop all the essential Spanish language skills. The curriculum is structured on **four theoretical language levels**, with a natural duration of about four weeks at each level. The lessons cover grammar topics, oral and small written exercises, practice with video and audio material and conversation on subjects of general, social and cultural interest. The methodology is the result of years of experience in the intensive teaching of Spanish. **Special importance is given to the communicative aspect** of the language and its use in everyday life. For this reason, the institute encourages students to speak Spanish in class, and whenever possible out of class as well.

Books & Materials

Books and study material needed for the course are included in the course price. In addition the institute draws upon a range of authentic materials (newspaper articles, literature, song texts etc.) alongside cassettes, CD's and videos according to the needs of the group or individual depending on the course booked. Students can buy short-stories on different Spanish levels for practicing in their leisure time.

Social Life & Activities

All students are encouraged to make the most of their time in Sosua by participating in the guided excursions and activities offered by the institute.

The institute arranged activities could include the following: BBQ in the school's garden, dance course at the school, playing volleyball or mini golf, visiting national park El Choco; adventure trip to the Imbert waterfalls, river rafting; half-day excursions to Santiago (incl. a visit of a cigar factory) or to the gorgeous beaches of Playa Grande with a boat trip on Laguna Gri-Gri; whole-day excursions to Punta Rusia with Isla Arena or to Jarabacoa in the Dominican "Alps", a Catamaran tour along the north coast incl. a visit of a typical Dominican village; weekend excursions to Santo Domingo or Las Terrenas (Samana).

Furthermore, the school likes to help you finding places/operators for all kinds of sport activities like scuba diving, wind and kite surfing, mountain biking, motor biking, horse riding, tennis, hiking and golf.

Special programs offered by the institute

The school wants to enable its students not only to learn Spanish but to experience the Dominican Republic in an individual and multifold way. To enhance this, it offers four special programs in combination with a Spanish course:

- „**Spanish & Dancing**“ (Spanish and dance lessons – at IIC Santo Domingo),
- „**Spanish & Surfing**“ (wind- or kite surfing) and
- „**Spanish & Scuba Diving**“, both at IIC Sosua/Cabarete
- „**Travelling Classroom**“ (2-week group round-trip)

Activities outside the Institute

Museums and Places to Visit

Sosua was originally settled by around 600 European Jewish refugees fleeing the Second World War who set up a dairy community. As a result, Sosua began to thrive and was soon discovered by the wealthy from nearby Puerto Plata, Santiago and San Francisco de Macoris who came and set up vacation homes. Most of the original Jewish settlers have moved on, but the dairy that produces the **Productos de Sosua** continues to this day, albeit it was bought out by a Mexican multinational. The Sosua Synagogue has a **Jewish museum** with photos and memorabilia of the first Jewish settlers. You can also attend services there.

Also to the west you will find many things to do. Sosua is close enough to **Puerto Plata** to enjoy all its attractions. Visit the **Amber Museum**, take the cable car ride up to the **Botanical Gardens atop Isabela de Torres Mountain** or take a tour of the **rum factory Brugal** with free samples and an option to buy quality rum. Spend the morning at the **Columbus Water Park** with its many slides and pools. Spend the afternoon at the **Go Kart/Bumper Car park** that is open all night. These two parks are just a 15-minute drive from Sosua.

Sports

The area around Sosua and Cabarete to the east is a great spot for outdoor activities. You can go surfing, scuba diving, horse riding, hiking or even have a kick about on the beautiful beaches. Only 5 to 20 minutes away by boat **Sosua Bay** offers 19 dive spots where you can

enjoy the Caribbean underwater world. Year round **Scuba diving** is possible. **Snorkeling** is a popular option directly in the bay; it is easy to swim from the beach to the reefs.

If you love surfing, windsurfing or kite boarding choose **Cabarete**. It is famous for having excellent conditions for the sports. Everything revolves around the six kilometers of Cabarete Beach. With a wide beach and soft white sand, the coral reef-protected bay has ideal conditions for **windsurfing**. Windsurfers revel in progressive winds that pick up around noon with waves breaking from three to six feet high and only light currents. Furthermore, Cabarete has hosted World Kite boarding Championships since 2001. The site is regarded as a world class destination and has been ranked as the best place in the Caribbean for **kite boarding**. Playa Encuentro, just five minutes from Cabarete, is a good choice if you want to go **surfing**.

Merengue & Bachata & Car Wash

Dominicans love to dance. Of all the rhythms that have enriched their cultural heritage, the “Merengue” and the slower “Bachata” are the collective expression of the Dominican soul. In these dances people express their positive attitude toward life and their culture, as well as their vitality and joy in life and movement. The typical place for Dominicans to meet and dance is the car wash, which often offers live concerts of famous Dominican Bachata and Merengue singers like Anthony Santos, Frank Reyes and Juan Luis Guerra.

Local Specialties

The Dominican cuisine is predominantly made up of a combination of Taino, Spanish and African influences. Typical cuisine is quite similar to what can be found in Latin America. Breakfast usually consists of eggs and mangu (a boiled cassava or some other root vegetable), these can also be accompanied by deep fried meat and cheese. Lunch is the most important meal of the day; it consists of some type of meat (chicken, pork, beef or fish), rice and beans and a side portion of salad. “La Bandera”, the most popular dish, consists of boiled chicken, rice and red beans. The “sancocho” is a gastronomic derivative of the Spanish cocido (stew), and each region has its particular way of preparing it.

Useful web links with news about country and people

www.dr1.com

<http://www.republica-dominicana.org/>

Official website of the Dominican Ministry of Tourism:

<http://www.godominicanrepublic.com>

Status: July 2008 – due to changes/IIC

Travel Info

IIC Santo Domingo



Santo Domingo is a fascinating, typical Caribbean metropolis. If one wants to combine his Spanish studies with acquiring a deeper insight into the cultural and social aspects of Dominican everyday life, then Santo Domingo could be the best choice to make. Students there can explore museums, the colonial history of the country and a bustling night-life.

Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo is the oldest city in the New World, where the settlement of all the Americas began. Its colonial district, the “Zona Colonial”, which hosts numerous historical monuments, was declared “A World Heritage Site” by UNESCO 1990.

The city is located on the south coast of the Dominican Republic on the Caribbean Sea. With a population of more than 3,000,000 inhabitants Santo Domingo is a vibrant and lively metropolis. No other city in the Caribbean has a greater variety of restaurants and night life. There are so many restaurants, bars, cafes and clubs there that it is practically impossible to have visited them all. And it's a city that never sleeps. A great place to meet people.

It is also one of the grand shopping bazaars of the Caribbean with such items as hand-wrapped cigars, jewellery made out of Larimar or Amber and other local handcrafts on sale virtually everywhere. One of the closest beaches to Santo Domingo is the Boca Chica Beach, about 25 minutes away by public transport where you can sit back and enjoy the palm trees, soft sand and crystal waters.

Santo Domingo is hot and humid during the summer months with temperatures averaging 34°C dropping down to 28°C during the winter.

The School Description

The institute is an intercultural institute teaching Spanish to foreigners and in the same building German to Dominicans. One of the school's aims is to bring together foreign and Dominican students for an intercultural exchange and for practicing newly-acquired language skills.

The school in Santo Domingo is located in the “Zona Universitaria” and faces the UASD, the country's biggest and most famous university. The class and communal rooms of the school are furnished in a simple, but cosy way. A small garden surrounds the school, together with terraces offering students a personal and friendly environment.

The school offers two outdoor classrooms and four indoor classrooms which are cooled by ceiling fans. Students are able to use the university's library right across the street.

Course duration:	1 week and up
Minutes per lesson:	45 minutes
Minimum age:	16 (with letter of permission of the parents)
Classrooms:	6
Library:	yes (across the street)
Internet/Email access:	not in institute, but Internet-Cafes near-by
Audio/video facilities:	yes

Office hours: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 2:00 to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday
In urgent cases and outside office hours call the emergency number of the institute:
(1) 809 – 914 - 1640

Travel and Transfer

Arrive: Sunday - Depart: Saturday

Other days are possible, too. The course will start on Monday and end on Friday.

We recommend flying into Santo Domingo and then taking a taxi to your accommodation. The taxi costs about USD 30.- from Santo Domingo's International Airport Las Americas (SDQ) to the city center. If you booked accommodation together with your course, then the transfer at arrival is included. You will be picked up from the airport: An employee of the institute will await you in the arrival zone carrying a sign with your name and the name of the institute on it.

Student Body

Students are drawn from over 30 countries around the world, the majority of them are from Western Europe and North America. The school caters for between 10 and 18 Spanish students at a time and is at its busiest from October to February and in July/August.

The average age of the students is **between 22 and 35 years**. Most of your fellow students are university (or pre Uni) students or adults, either professionals or people looking for a holiday programme. All language students have serious reasons for wishing to improve their Spanish, mainly for career, personal or academic purposes and for many of them Spanish will be a second or even, third foreign language.

The first day of class

All new students will meet at the institute in the morning of the first day at 8:45 am. There will be an introduction about the school and its staff, about Santo Domingo and how to get around in the city. Then you will go to your class. Those students who have not been able to send in their written placement test two weeks prior to arrival will now take a test and then join their groups. After class and lunch break the student care will take you on an orientation tour of Santo Domingo.

Lessons will begin on Monday for all students (unless Monday is a holiday in which case the course starts on the Tuesday instead). Classes are held from Monday to Friday each week.

Once you have successfully completed your course you will receive a certificate of participation attesting to your level of proficiency in the Spanish language. This will also show the duration, amount of lessons and style of course that you attended.

General Course Information

You will cover the four core skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, with plenty of grammar and vocabulary work included in order to develop all the essential Spanish language skills. However, our key concern is to get you to speak.

The curriculum is structured on **four theoretical language levels**, with a natural duration of about four weeks at each level. The lessons cover grammar topics, oral and small written

exercises, practice with video and audio material and conversation on subjects of general, social and cultural interest. The methodology is the result of years of experience in the intensive teaching of Spanish. Special importance is given to the communicative aspect of the language and its use in everyday life. For this reason, the school encourages students to speak Spanish in class, and whenever possible out of class as well.

Books & Materials

Books and study material needed for the course are included in the course price. In addition the institute draws upon a range of authentic materials (newspaper articles, literature, song texts etc.) alongside cassettes, CD's and videos according to the needs of the group or individual depending on the course booked.

Social Life & Activities

All students are encouraged to make the most of their time in Santo Domingo by participating in the guided activities offered by the institute. There are usually two to three organized activities per week. Here are some examples:

City orientation tour through Santo Domingo, BBQ in the school's garden, going to the movies at the Cinemateca Nacional, dancing to live music (Son, Salsa, Merengue) in one of the local bars or discotheques, having dinner in a restaurant in the Zona Colonial, "salida pedagogica" with all IIC-students into the city (visiting museums, historical buildings etc.);
on demand of the students only: weekend excursions to Sosua to meet the students of the second IIC school, excursion to the beach of Boca Chica, to Jarabacoa in the countryside or to the peninsula of Samana.

Furthermore, the school likes to help you finding places/operators for all kinds of sport activities like scuba diving, wind and kite surfing, river rafting, mountain biking, motor biking, horse riding, tennis, hiking and golf.

Special programs offered by the institute

The school wants to enable its students not only to learn Spanish but to experience the Dominican Republic in an individual and manifold way. To enhance this, it offers various special programs in combination with a Spanish course:

- „**Spanish + Dancing**“ (Spanish and dance lessons – at IIC Santo Domingo)
- „**Spanish + Surfing**“ (wind- or kite surfing) and
- „**Spanish + Scuba Diving**“, both at IIC Sosua/Cabarete
- „**Travelling Classroom**“ (group round-trip)

Activities outside of the institute:

Santo Domingo is full of interesting places to visit. The **Zona Colonial** is the perfect starting point for visitors to discover the city. Here, between Independence Park and the Ozama River, you will find the first city built in the New World by European settlers, including Columbus's brother, Bartholomeo, and his son, Diego Columbus. The first street in the Americas is **Calle de Las Damas**, the site of numerous historic buildings including the **Ozama Fortress**, the oldest fortress in the Americas. Of great historical interest is the **Museo de las Casas Reales** (Museum of the Royal Houses), the restored 16th century palace of the Spanish Court, which features a wonderful glimpse of the past. You can watch the change of guards at the **Panteón Nacional**. Nearby is the **Alcázar de Colón** (Castle of Columbus) a place not to be missed. This building was once the home of Christopher Columbus's family and is full of treasures, furniture and objects that belonged to the Columbus` family. A few streets over in the center of the walled city, you might fancy a look at the first cathedral built in the New World: the

Cathedral Basilica Santa Maria la Menor. It is one of the most important monuments in Santo Domingo, still in great condition and well preserved. While touring the colonial city, visitors can also learn all about amber. The **Amber Museum** on Calle Arz. Meriño features exceptional educational exhibits of this semi-precious jewel. And why not take a stroll along **El Conde**, Santo Domingo's famous shopping strip where you find all kinds of shops? Perhaps you could pick up a few souvenirs or even have lunch in a nice little café or just sit back and watch the world go by.

Museums

From the old to the new, Santo Domingo takes visitors on a trip through time with its dozens of national museums celebrating all aspects of Dominican life, past and present. Many of these museums are located in the Plaza de la Cultura, a large park area where visitors can stroll easily from one museum to another. Visitors to the **Museum of Dominican Man** will enjoy the fascinating look into the history of the Dominican people including original Taino artefacts, the Spanish conquerors and the African slaves. The **Museum of Modern Art** has an impressive collection although small by developed world standards.

The oriental zone of the city, across the Ozama river, is worth visiting, too. Why not try the **Faro a Colon** (Columbus Lighthouse) which was constructed 1992 to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas in 1492. Christopher Columbus's casket is said to be lying in there. The lighthouse is filled with paintings and artefacts, just like a museum, and for special occasions it lights up the sky in the shape of a cross - a spectacular view! When visiting the Columbus Lighthouse, also make a stop at **Los Tres Ojos** an impressive 50-foot deep cave with three lagoons surrounded by stalagmites and lush vegetation, five minutes from the Lighthouse.

Dominican Baseball

The national sport and passion of the Dominican Republic is baseball or "Beisbol" as the Dominicans call it. Every Dominican boy dreams about becoming a Sammy Sosa or Pedro Martinez. Tourists in Santo Domingo in December and January are in for a treat as many Dominican Major League Baseball greats join their local teams in the closing of the regular season in December and the finals in January. See schedule of Quisqueya Ball Park.

Merengue & Bachata & Car Wash

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Local Specialities

Dominican Republic cuisine is predominantly made up of a combination of Taino, Spanish and African influences. Typical cuisine is quite similar to what can be found in Latin America. Breakfast usually consists of eggs and mangu (a boiled cassava or some other root vegetable) which can be accompanied by deep fried meat and cheese. Lunch is the most important meal of the day; it consists of some type of meat (chicken, pork, beef or fish), rice, beans and a side portion of salad. "La Bandera", the most popular dish, consists of boiled chicken, rice and red beans. The "sancocho" is a gastronomic derivative of the Spanish cocido (stew).

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