

Mexico

SA GUANAJUATO

City: Guanajuato

Population: 140,000

School Name: SA Guanajuato

School Location: Downtown

Website: www.spanishabroad.com/guanajuato.htm

GUANAJUATO

Looking at Guanajuato from a distant hillside you'll see a panorama of colored houses layered on the sides of ravines. This charming setting, together with its history, tradition, culture, gorgeous architecture and mild climate make Guanajuato for many, Mexico's finest colonial city. Founded in 1557, Guanajuato derived from the Tarascan *Quanax-huato*, meaning 'Place of Frogs'.

For centuries Guanajuato was the most important silver city in Mexico, more recently it is better known as a university city. The extravagant State University is now one of the most prestigious in Mexico and during school time; the student population makes the city a vibrant place.

During October, Guanajuato is overflowing with people as it puts on the Festival Cervantino. Considered one of the most important cultural events in Latin America, the festival attracts thousands of international visitors annually to the narrow and maze like streets of Mexico's most beautiful silver city. No doubt that Guanajuato has more to do than any other town of its size.

WHY GUANAJUATO?

- Colonial architecture
- Charming history and culture
- International Festival Cervantino
- University atmosphere
- Exciting night life
- Tons of attractions
- Great markets for shopping

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

SA Guanajuato opened in the early 1990's, and today has a reputation as one of the better organizations for language programs in Mexico. This reputation has helped to bring students from all over the world to study Spanish at this Spanish language school. The variety of program options has proven to be a great benefit to students.

The classes at SA Guanajuato are lively and varied. The emphasis is on conversation but, of course, the school also pays attention to grammar, reading, listening and writing. The classes will teach you practical lessons, and cover real life situations, such as reading a menu, carrying on a conversation, or answering the phone.

SCHOOL FACTS

- Specialized programs
- Fine tuned organization
- Technology supported instruction
- Professional staff

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Standard Program. Group instruction 4 lessons per day, 5 students max per class. This course is offered at all levels from total beginner to advanced. Through various activities, practices and exercises, designed for each level, you will gradually acquire and develop the necessary strategies to understand and communicate in Spanish both orally as well as written.

Intensive Program. Group instruction 6 lessons per day, 5 students max per class. If you have a short period of time or need something intensive, this is a great program. This program follows the same format as the Standard Program.

Individual Language Training. 4 or 6 lessons per day. This course is perfect for those who need specialized instruction or who will only be in Mexico for a short period of time. This program will make use of the format shown under the Standard Program, with the ability to cover very specific types of topics.

Medical Language Training. This unique course has been specifically designed for Doctors, Nurses and other professionals in the medical field. You will develop language skills that will enhance your effectiveness in communicating with Spanish-speaking patients. This is a two week course designed for those who have already have an intermediate level of knowledge or training in Spanish. This program has a maximum of 16 students per class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestay. Living with a family while attending school is a great way to pick up on the language and culture as well as form new relationships with the warm hearted people of Mexico. Guanajuato is a country within a country, with its own characteristics, traditions, and customs and, to some extent, language, cul-

sine and music. Your host family will be your closest contact into this wonderful world. You will be able to learn from them, and of course they will be happy to teach you all about it.

In selecting a host family, the school does not look for luxury and comfort in the material sense, but for Mexican families who appreciate receiving foreign students. Additionally, the word family should not be taken too literally, because a family can also be a single parent or a childless couple who takes in students because they enjoy the company. Students are given their own key and independence, while also being treated as a member of the family.

Students will receive full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner). You will eat together with your family, and learn about the fascinating aspects of the cultural landscape of cooking and eating in Mexico, which can be rather different. Mealtimes, especially *comida* (lunch) - the main meal of the day - are treated as special intervals, to be approached with relish and respect for the work which went into their preparation. Food is a major issue in Mexico. Just consider that this is the land of birth for tortillas, tamales, tacos, enchiladas and the world famous salsa.

For an additional fee per week, you can opt for laundry service in your homestay.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Activities organized by the staff at SA Guanajuato take place during the weekdays and excursions on the weekends. Although Guanajuato is a small city, it has a great deal to offer--from the beautiful colonial buildings to modern museums, from the silver mines to the university. As a visitor you will be astonished by the charm of its relaxed atmosphere, its paved streets and picturesque squares.



Guanajuato Valley

