

Mexico

SA MAZATLAN

City: Mazatlan

Population: 500,000

School Name: SA Mazatlan

School Location: Historic City Center

Website: www.spanishabroad.com/mazatlan.htm

MAZATLAN

Mazatlán is located on the Pacific Coast mainland across from the tip of the Baja Peninsula. Set in a beautiful cove of the Pacific, it is located at about the same latitude as Hawaii. The temperature fluctuates from mid-60's to mid-90's depending on the time of the year. Ten miles of excellent beaches, semi-tropical climate and convenient air connections from major U.S. cities have made it one of Mexico's most popular vacation spots, with around one million visitors a year. It offers all the amenities of an international resort while still retaining the charm and hospitality of a typical Mexican town. The Sierra Madre Range is never out of sight and you can be in the high mountains within 40 minutes. There are many optional leisure-time activities.

The latest news from Mazatlán is that the city is experiencing a cultural revival and so there are many more cultural events such as musical presentations and classes in the arts than in the past. Prestigious national and international groups are scheduled to present music and dance programs at the Angela Peralta Theater just a few blocks from the Spanish language school in the newly restored colonial area of downtown Mazatlán. In the new Arts Center adjacent to the theater, artists from around the world exhibit their work and local instructors offer a wide variety of classes in such things as painting, sculpting, music and dance.

If you are interested in outdoor activities, then Mazatlán is a great place. At this location you can enjoy relaxing on miles of great beaches, head out for world class deep sea fishing, go scuba diving or parasailing, or any one of a number of other outdoor activities. Mazatlán offers something for everyone!

From a nightlife standpoint, the city has a little of everything. Relaxing little bars, busy nightclubs, great restaurants, plus much more.

Overall we are confident that you will find Mazatlán a great place to learn Spanish while getting to know Mexico.

WHY MAZATLAN?

- Beautiful beach area
- Excellent climate
- Rich culture
- Charming colonial center
- Great outdoor activities
- Famous traditions
- Interesting nightlife

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Our partner school (**SA Mazatlan**) was established in 1973. Since that time the Spanish language school has focused on providing top quality Spanish language instruction while at the same time promoting cultural exchange. Over the years participants have found the Spanish school to provide professional courses in an environment conducive to learning Spanish. Constant evaluation and Spanish program improvement have contributed to making this Spanish language school one of the best in Mexico. The Mexican National Chamber of Commerce has twice bestowed the prestigious International Committee of Quality and Prestige Award to this school.

All instructors at the school have between 6 to 25 years of experience in the teaching of Spanish as a Second language. Ages of students have ranged from 16 to 80 years of age, with the vast majority of participants coming from North America and Europe.

The standard option for accommodations is to stay with a local host family. Other options such as hotels or apartments can be arranged as well. A large number of Mexican adults study English at the Center and some of them are anxious to meet the foreigners studying Spanish. The school offers a weekly Conversation Club which allows locals and students to get together.

Besides offering excellent Spanish language programs, the Spanish school also offers (and or assists in arranging) a variety of interesting cultural activities and weekend excursions allowing student the chance to really get to know Mazatlan. As with many of our other schools, this school not only provides general Spanish language study, but can also provide specialized programs for businesspeople, medical personnel, teachers, lawyers, etc.

SCHOOL FACTS

- In the historic center of the city
- Excellent facilities
- History of excellence
- Rigorous programs

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Standard Program. Group instruction 4 lessons per day, 4-6 students 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.

Individual Language Training. 4 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. **Note:** This program will make use of the format shown under the Standard Program. The exception of to this would be when someone has set up a specialized program to cover very specific types of topics.

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. 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.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The school provides a variety of activities to help our students learn more about Mazatlan, Mexico and the culture. Each week the school will provide at least 1 cultural activity. Activities may include "intercambios" with locals, a Friday night conversation club, etc. Each of these activities will help you to learn more about the area while at the same time meeting locals. If you want to do something not offered by the school, just check with them. They can provide information about different activities and events in the area.

