



Costa Rica

COSI

City: San Jose

Population: 1 million (entire metro area)

School Name: COSI

School Location: 10 min. from downtown

Website: www.spanishabroad.com/icai.htm

SAN JOSE

San Jose is located in the Central Valley, a fertile upland basin 3,773 ft. above sea level in the heart of Costa Rica. The valley itself is surrounded by three majestic volcanoes, the largest of which is Irazu. On the hillsides and volcanoes surrounding San Jose you will find quaint little villages, rolling pastures, small farms, and vast coffee plantations. In the basin itself, lies the San Jose metro area. To some, the city is noisy and congested. To most, San Jose has a distinctive charm and feel to it. The city is home to an extensive collection of museums, theaters, great restaurants, bars, discos, and of course, neighborhood markets. Above all, the warmth and hospitality of the locals (ticos) make a stay in Costa Rica, and especially in San Jose a memorable experience.

San Jose is an excellent jumping off point to visit the rest of the country. Moving out in all directions from the city lies a vast network of roads which will enable you to reach just about any point in Costa Rica in a matter of hours. On one weekend you might visit one of the beautiful Pacific beaches, the next trek through a pristine rainforest, the following, hike up one of the many cloud covered volcanoes. The options are endless!

WHY SAN JOSE?

- Vibrant city life and nightlife
- Extensive range of restaurants
- Great shopping at colorful markets
- Fewer tourists stay in San Jose
- Centrally located for getaways
- Big city with small town atmosphere

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

COSI was founded in 1994, strives to be the best Spanish language school in Latin America by offering high-quality, personalized instruction at reasonable prices. In spite of being a relatively new language institute, COSI has quickly developed an excellent reputation for providing personalized attention in a friendly atmosphere

and with a highly professional staff. Since its inception, COSI has taught Spanish to thousands of participants. Those attending the Spanish courses have come from a wide range of age groups and professional backgrounds; and from every state in the continental United States, Canada, Europe, Japan and other countries.

Located in Zapote, a quiet, residential area 10 minutes from downtown San Jose, COSI is just a few blocks away from Presidential Palace. The facilities are perfectly designed for small group and private instruction.

SCHOOL FACTS

- Modern facilities
- Professional staff
- Flexible programs
- Great neighborhood

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Group 4 Program. Students meet for 4 lessons Monday through Friday, in mini groups of five students. These classes take place, according to the student's preference, in the morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Generally students prefer morning classes, nevertheless during the rainy season (May to November) it is usually sunny in the morning and rainy in the afternoon. Thus we advise afternoon classes from May to November.

Private 4 Program. One-on-one instruction is designed especially for those who want to progress at their own pace, work on specific vocabulary, or who have special needs or just a limited time available. These classes take place according to the student's preference, in the morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Combined Program. This program is designed especially for people who want to reinforce what is being learned in the group classes, or who want to work on specific vocabulary. The schedule for this program is: mini group class in the morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and private instruction from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Homestays. COSI offers the opportunity to live with a Costa Rican host family. A private room, keys to the house, breakfast, dinner and laundry services are all provided. Families are chosen for their active interest in helping students learn the language. The families are also evaluated by their experience with past students. Some

host families would be pleased to accommodate students traveling with children as well.

Apartments. Fully furnished apartments are available about one block from the school. Each apartment features a computer with internet access, refrigerator, stove, microwave oven, cooking utensils and TV. Room service is provided. Each apartments has 3 bedrooms with a double bed in each room. It is possible to rent the whole apartment or just one room.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

San Jose is the largest city in Costa Rica and also the capital of the country. Due to the size of the metropolitan area, San Jose offers an array of interesting things to see and do.

In terms of shopping there is enough to keep anyone busy. Throughout the city are interesting shops offering a variety of goods. In downtown San Jose is Mercado Central, this market is a must see. Even if you do not purchase anything, just walking through the busy corridors of the markets can be very interesting.

If you like spectator sports, San Jose has plenty to offer. The most important sport in Costa Rica is futbol (soccer), and the metro area is home to two of the best teams in the country, Saprisa and Alajuela. If you have never been to a professional soccer match in Latin America you are missing out!

In terms of bars and clubs, San Jose seems to have one on every street corner. Some of the neighborhood bars are great to visit. Stop by grab an ice cold Imperial and have a boca (small snacks served with each drink). You will find the locals to be very friendly. If you are looking for dancing or music, once again San Jose offers something for everyone!



Arenal Volcano in the Distance

