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Spanish Courses in

# Santiago de Cuba

*¡Vívelo!*

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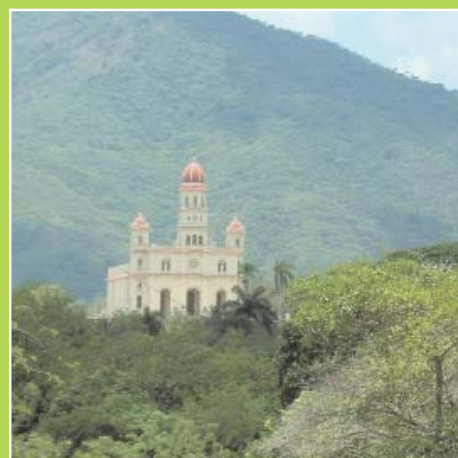




# Spanish Courses in Santiago de Cuba

## Cuba

Cuba is one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Its unique cultural heritage is the result of an extraordinary cocktail of Spanish, African and Caribbean ingredients, blended together for over 500 years, then vigorously shaken by a communist revolution. It is the home of Salsa (the music and the dance), produces the world's best cigars and has invented several of the world's most delicious cocktails. Cuba is also a beautiful island. The landscape is lush and varied and includes areas of virgin rainforest and pristine trekking areas as well as some of the most beautiful white sand beaches anywhere in the world. Cuban residents past and present include Columbus, Hemingway, Fidel Castro and the most famous of modern day icons, 'el Che'. Cubans are justifiably proud of their free education and health service and their achievements in the sporting and arts worlds are impressive. However, possibly the greatest asset Cuba has is its people who are fun loving, friendly, spontaneous and welcoming.



## Santiago de Cuba

Named after the patron saint of Spain, the city of Santiago de Cuba nestles between a natural harbour and the impressive Sierra Maestra mountain range. It was confirmed as Cuba's second city in 1553 when the Spanish Governor moved his office to Havana. Nowadays, Santiago is a friendly, tropical city of about 500,000 inhabitants and is generally considered to be the cradle of the revolution as it was in this city and the surrounding mountains and countryside that popular support grew for Fidel and his men in the fifties. Santiago is also undoubtedly the home of traditional Cuban music, particularly son and danzon. Much of Cuba's distinctive Afro-Haitian style of music and dance developed here and Santiago is the ideal place to listen to live music and learn how to celebrate life the Cuban way.



## Carnival and the Festival del Fuego

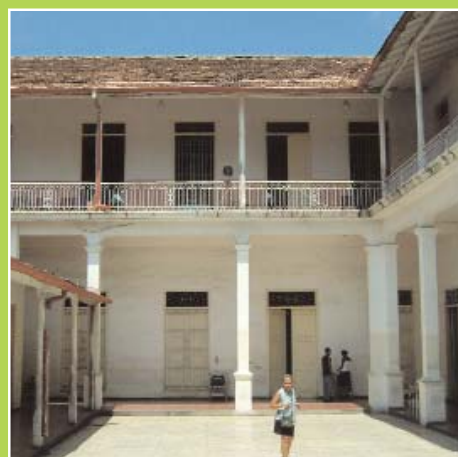
Santiago is the place to be in July with two major annual cultural festivals taking place in this month. The Festival del Fuego celebrates Caribbean and Latin American culture and has a different country focus each year. Concerts and street performances take place over a week in early July and the city is alive with music and dance. The annual carnival has famous Cuban bands playing live in several areas of the city during the day and evenings, often until the small hours of the morning. Stalls and temporary bars made of bamboo and palm fronds line the main avenues of the city and the people of Santiago come out to party every night. There are also lively processions with dancers and musicians and colourfully decorated floats every evening. Carnival takes place over eight days in the third week of July each year.

In August a wide range of live music venues is open every night, each with a live band and plenty of dancing.

## IH Cuba

Our school building is located in the heart of the historic city centre near the main square, Parque Cespedes. Built in the colonial style, it also functions as a cultural centre and is within easy walking distance of most accommodation options.

All the teachers working on the programme are experienced teachers of Spanish who have all undergone an IH teacher training course in how to teach Spanish effectively to multinational groups. Classes focus on developing the students' communicative skills so that they are able to put their knowledge to practical use as soon as they step outside the classroom. All study materials are included in the course fee.



# The Spanish Course Programme

## 1. Intensive Group Courses

International House offers Intensive Spanish courses in Santiago de Cuba in July and August. During this period, students can study for as many weeks as they like (minimum 1 week, maximum 8 weeks). See price sheet for course starting dates.

The Spanish course consists of 4 lessons per day (each lesson lasts 50 minutes), Monday to Friday, in groups of up to a maximum of 8 students. All levels are available from beginners to advanced and the course fee includes all teaching materials.

## 2. Individual Tuition (1:1 Classes)

Students who want to take additional Spanish classes can choose to take an extra 5 lessons per week with their own private teacher. The focus of these classes is determined by the individual student's needs and interests.

## 3. Music and Dance Classes

We also offer students the option of taking Cuban dance and/or percussion classes in the afternoons with professional Cuban teachers. All levels are available from complete beginners to advanced and classes are taught in small groups of maximum 4 students for percussion, 10 students for dance. These courses consist of 5 lessons per week, with each lesson lasting 50 minutes. Classes are programmed so as not to clash with the school's programme of social activities.



# Accommodation

IH Cuba offers a range of accommodation options for students including:

## 1. Cuban Homestay

Staying with a Cuban family is by far the best way to experience the Cuban way of life on a daily basis. All our families have been carefully selected to provide a safe and welcoming environment and they all have been licensed by the Cuban authorities to provide accommodation to foreign guests. Students can choose to stay in single or shared rooms although shared rooms are only available to students travelling with a friend or partner. Homestay accommodation includes half board (breakfast and an evening meal each day). Arrival is usually on the Sunday before the course starts and departure on the Saturday after the course finishes. If necessary, extra nights can usually be arranged on request.

## 2. Hotels and hostals

In Santiago de Cuba there are a number of 3-4 star hotels and a hostel within easy travelling distance of the city centre. However, availability in the peak summer months can be limited so we strongly recommend students to book this type of accommodation well in advance.

**Getting There:** Santiago has an international airport with direct scheduled and charter flights from Europe, Canada and other parts of the Caribbean each week. The airport is just a 20 minute taxi journey into the city centre. Holguin airport also has regular scheduled and charter flights and lies 2 hours from Santiago by taxi or 3 hours by the Viazul bus service. Finally, there are four daily flights from Havana to Santiago with Cubana or Aero Caribbean airways with a flight time of approximately 2 hours.

**Airport Transfers:** Students will be greeted on arrival at Santiago airport by an International House representative and taken to their accommodation. This arrival transfer is included in the course fee. On the final Saturday, students can be taken back from Santiago to the airport on request.

**Included in the course fee:** Registration, classes, level test, all course materials, certificates, homestay half board accommodation, transfer from Santiago airport on arrival, programme of social & cultural activities (including transport & entrance fees where required) and advice on tours and travelling in Cuba.

## Example of Social and cultural Programme

### WEEK 1

**Monday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Friday**  
**Saturday**

*Guided tour of Santiago city centre on foot*  
*Visit to Moncada Barracks, site of the first attack on the Batista regime by Fidel*  
*Salsa lesson*  
*Excursion to Gran Piedra, la Granjita and El Porvenir natural swimming pool*

### WEEK 2

**Monday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Friday**

*Guided visit to the Carnival Museum*  
*Cuban music - its roots and development*  
*Evening visit to the Casa de la Trova for live band*