



Enforex – Santiago (Cuba) 2007

Not only is Cuba a beautiful country, it also has a population that is very friendly and hospitable in spite of the economic difficulties in the last few years. It's a country of music, of poetry, of dancing, singing and chatting. People still have time for each other and for their guests. Cuba is like going back in time to the 50's: old cars, a relaxed atmosphere, no hurry. Apart from that Cuba has a nice climate, all year round students can enjoy the beaches, water sports etc.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

At 420.000 inhabitants Santiago de Cuba is the country's second largest city and a strong rival to Havana in literature, music and politics. During the 19th century, French settlers arrived and contributed to the melting pot of Haitian, African and Spanish influences that have made this Cuba's most Caribbean city.

The University of Oriente is one of Cuba's leading educational institutions. Santiago de Cuba has a thick Spanish colonial air without the American high-rise buildings from the 1950s one finds in Havana. Santiago de Cuba lies in a partly submerged valley of the "Sierra Maestra" and the city's large natural harbour has made it an important port for almost five centuries.

ENFOREX – SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Since 1997 the Spanish course is offered in Santiago de Cuba. All teachers are university graduates and have been well trained in language teaching to foreigners.

Facilities:

Classes are held either in the teacher's home, in the house of the host family or in one of the cultural centres. All homes are located in the Reparto Sueño area.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA PROGRAM ATMOSPHERE

1. **Students' nationality** - mainly from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria and Great Britain. Occasionally also students from France, Italy, Japan, Canada and other countries come to study here.
2. **Age group** - The average age of our students is 30 years.
3. **Minimum age accepted into regular group program** – no minimum age
4. **Internet:** Students can use internet in Hotel Santiago & Hotel Casa Grande. The use of a computer in both hotels costs about 5USD per hour.



PROGRAMS OFFERED IN ENFOREX SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Intensive Group course	
Duration:	Minimum 2 weeks
Hours:	20 lessons per week
Group size:	Maximum of 3 and average of 2 students per class. Minimum of 2 participants requested for the course to take place.
Level:	From beginner to superior
Age:	No minimum age
Starting dates:	Every Monday

Super Intensive Course	
Duration:	Minimum 2 weeks
Hours:	20 group lessons + 10 private lessons per week
Group size:	Maximum of 3 and average of 2 students per class. Minimum of 2 participants on the group lessons required for the course to take place.
Level:	From beginner to Superior
Age:	No minimum age
Starting dates:	Every Monday

One to one course	
Duration:	Minimum 1 week
Hours:	20 lessons per week
Group size:	1 student per class
Level:	From beginner to superior
Age:	No minimum age
Starting dates:	Every Monday



ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

Every Thursday at 8:30pm all students gather in the meeting point to make plans for the weekend. Students that want to make the same excursion can go together so it will be cheaper to rent a taxi. Taxis are usually the best way to make an excursion.

Every night at 8:30pm students usually come together to the meeting point. Here they decide if they want to go out, where they are going etc.

Average prices: US\$ 25 for a day trip US\$ 50 for a weekend trip

Example or activities and excursions:

- Guided tour of Santiago de Cuba: Discovering the city in old-timers.
- Swimming pool: There is a swimming pool at the Hotel Santiago near the accommodation. The price may vary around USD 10 but this includes a reduction on a meal.
- Party evening at teacher's home with rum and dancing.
- Excursions: Visits to a rum museum, tobacco factory, the Morro Castle, El Cobre (the "Cuban Lourdes"), the Gran Piedra (beautiful mountain trip), beaches, a mango farm. Possibilities to ride horses and to go diving
- Dance: Dance classes (individual and in groups) e.g. salsa, mambo, rumba, cha-cha-chá, son.
- Music: Music classes (only individual) e.g. percussion, guitar, trumpet.
- Religion: To witness Santería or consult with Santería priests. Santería is a fusion of Catholicism with the Lucumí religion of the African Yoruba tribe.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

ENFOREX Santiago de Cuba offers lodging in host families.

Homestay

Bedroom: single or double (double rooms are only available for two students travelling together).

Meals: half board

Location: The selected host families live in spacious homes in a nice part of the town: Reparto Sueño where students can find the Heredia Theater, sports house and Ernesto Che Guevara Monument. It is 1.5 km from the city center.

Laundry service: not included. The host family can take care of the laundry for a small charge

Basic furniture in a room: Bed, closet, desk, chair, a fan or air-conditioner

Private bathroom: Available in some home stays, but VERY few

LANGUAGE PROGRAM

- **Spanish levels:** Beginner to superior
- **Duration of each lesson:** 50 minutes
- **Text and materials:** Please note that grammar books are only available during class hours. We advise students to bring a grammar book themselves as well. We usually have some grammar books in stock to sell. We also advise our students to bring their own pen & papers.
- **First day of class:**

Day of arrival: To get the student to feel at home in Santiago, we organize several meetings to inform the students adequately. On the arrival day all students go to the house of Raquel Chacón. Here they will be welcomed and they receive a voucher with the address of the host family and the exact dates their accommodation is booked. Then they can go to the host family with the same taxi that brought them to Raquel's.

The families all live in the same part of town (Reparto Sueño) and are at walking distance but because of the luggage we advise to go by taxi. Once they arrive at the host family they should hand in the voucher. It may be handy to make a note of the family address. The house of Raquel is the meeting-point for all students during their stay..



Monday: On the first Monday all students are expected at 8.30am at Raquel's (the same address where they arrived the first day) to meet their teacher. Here they are given a written and oral placement test in order to determine their knowledge of the Spanish language to place them in the appropriate class for their level. Classes start immediately after this placement test.

At 8.30pm all (new) students gather in the house of Raquel where they will get general but important information about practical things like: what & where in Santiago; where can you change dollars into Pesos (= moneda nacional) and where can you spend Pesos; information about taxis, buses, trains; where can you make international phone calls; where do you go to go on the internet; nightlife; excursions. It is advisable that students bring pen, paper and a street map to make notes.

ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORT

Airport: Students will usually arrive in Havana and from there go to Santiago. See below how to travel from Havana to Santiago de Cuba.

Arriving in Havana

There are two airports in Havana. Please contact the information desk to ask from which airport your flight to Santiago will be leaving. The airports are about 20 km from the city center.

In case you have to stay one night in Havana, we give you the addresses of two host families. One lives near the airport, the other lives in Vedado, a very nice area in Havana. Please note that we do not make reservations. We recommend taking a taxi to go to the family.

Near the airport:

Sra. Felina Gonzáles
Calle 200 No. 29314, entre 293 y 295
Reparto Callxto Sánchez
Boyeros, Havana
Tel: (00 53) 7 845 10 41
Price per night: approx. USD 30 (bed only)

In Vedado:

Sr. Onelio Rodríguez González
Avenida Universidad 456 1º piso (entre J y K)
Vedado, Ciudad Havana
Tel: (00 53) 7 833 68 50
Price per night: USD 30 (bed only)

It is possible to travel from Havana to Santiago by bus. The journey will cost approx. USD 51 but please look at www.viazul.cu Here you find detailed information about bus schedules but please note that they change a lot!

Arriving in Santiago de Cuba

To go to town you can take a taxi. Official taxis (with meters) are waiting outside the airport. The ride will take approx. 15 minutes. The price will be around USD 7.

Arriving in Holguín

Outside the airport normally minibuses are waiting to take tourists to Santiago. You pay USD 25 for the ride of approx. 3 hours. Please ask for the bus or minibus for Santiago when leaving the airport. In case no (mini)buses are waiting, you can take a taxi. This will cost around USD 75. The (mini)bus will drop you at Hotel Santiago, in Santiago.

Airport pick-up: Not available.



Airport tax: Please note that on departure USD 25 has to be paid in cash at a special counter at the airport

Public transport: taxi from the host family to the old centre: USD 3 - 4
taxi from the host family to the nearest beach: USD 12

There are also bicycle-taxis, horse-drawn coaches, buses and trains.

Car-hire is only possible through Cuban companies. Petrol stations (called Servi-cupet) are open for 24 hours a day and can always supply petrol to tourists.

For information about buses to Trinidad, Havana and other cities, please look at the site www.viazul.cu
Here you find detailed information about bus schedules but please note that they change a lot!

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT CUBA

Money matters

Currency – Peso Convertible (PC). 1 PC = 1 US Dollar. There is a commission of 10% if buying Pesos Convertibles with American Dollars. No commissions are charged if buying them with any other currencies.

Banks - Opening times: 09.00 - 15.00 h., Monday to Friday.

Traveller cheques: accepted unless issued by US-banks e.g. American Express is not accepted. - Credit cards: accepted unless issued by US-banks e.g. American Express is not accepted

Electricity

110 volt

National Holidays

1 January	Liberation Day
8 March	International Women's Day
1 May	Labour day
26 July	National Revolution Day
25 December	Christmas

Visa requirements

To enter Cuba every tourist needs a passport (that's still valid for 6 months after arrival) and a tourist visa that normally can be purchased together with the flight. This visa is usually valid for 30 days.

At the immigration office one extension of 30 days can be made (approx. USD 25). After a total of 60 days the student will have to leave Cuba for at least one day to enter again on a tourist visa.

Health

Tourists have their own medical facilities, provided by the Clínica Internacional. A doctor and a nurse are on permanent duty (USD 30 per consultation). The clinic has a modestly stocked pharmacy, an ambulance, and beds in the event that one needs an overnight stay. Emergencies – Ambulance, Tel: 40 5093 / Fire, Tel: 81 1115

Climate

From November to April (wintertime, the dry season) temperature is around 25 C. In summertime (May to October) the air is very moist (80%) and you should count on some rainfall, mainly in the afternoon. Temperatures rise to 32-35 C



PRICES 2007

Application fee 100 Euros

Santiago (Cuba)	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Extra week
Intensive Group Course 20 lessons/ week	-	360 €	460 €	560 €	100 €
Super Intensive course 30 lessons/ week*	-	480 €	640 €	800 €	160 €
One to One Course 20 lessons/ week	275 €	400 €	525 €	650 €	125 €
Dance Course 5 lessons/ week	55 €	110 €	165 €	220 €	55 €
Music Course 5 lessons/ week	75 €	150 €	225 €	300 €	75 €
Accommodation					
Home stay, Single room, half board	195 €	420 €	645 €	870 €	225 €
Home stay, Double room**, half board	165 €	360 €	555 €	750 €	195 €

The Dance and Music courses can only be booked in addition to a language course.

* 20 group lessons + 10 one to one lessons

**Double rooms are only possible for two people traveling together

Extra day: 30 €/day (double room) and 35 €/day (individual room)

Note: Intensive Group Course and Super Intensive Course are only possible with a minimum of 2 participants. We reserve the right to change a group course into a one to one tuition in case there is no other student at the same level. If this happens, there will be a reduction of class hours of 25%.

