

Spanish Language Study Abroad

In Peru

Thinking about Spanish language study abroad?

Consider Cusco, Peru: it was the capital of the great Inca empire. Gateway city to one of the seven wonders of the modern world – Machu Picchu – it draws visitors from all over the world. It is vibrant with nightclubs, fine dining, good shopping. High in the Andes – 11,000 feet above sea level – Cusco is the center for a vast assemblage of ancient Incan cities, agricultural lands and sacred sites, as well as home to thousands of Quecha-speaking descendants of the Inca empire.

Cusco is also a city of language schools, both Spanish and Quecha. We reviewed 34 programs in our search to find the best place to study Spanish in Cusco. Once in Cusco, we discovered others not listed on the web. It's truly a destination city for Spanish language study abroad.

To make your search easier, we've boiled down weeks of research into a handy starting point for your own search of Cusco language programs. Simply click on the link to any school that sounds interesting. You'll be delivered directly to the school's home page.

Academia Latinoamericana de Español

www.latinoschools.com

☎ + (51-84) 243 364; cell: + (51-84) 9 690 293

Plaza Limacpampa 565, Cusco – 4 blocks from Plaza de Armas

What you'll find in this section

For each program, we compiled a two-page overview, then boiled them all down to the short summaries presented below. Use this as a starting point in your quest for Spanish language study abroad.

As an example, we've included our full overview of one program, *Máximo Nivel*, in our e-pamphlet, "[How to Choose a Language School](#)" to demonstrate how the summary reflects our full overview.

Disclaimer

We started our search for a Spanish language study abroad program with a clean slate, using the techniques we outline in our (free) e-pamphlet, [How to Choose a Language School](#). After extensive internet research, we chose *Máximo Nivel*, listed alphabetically below, and spent a delightful four weeks with them in Cusco in late 2007. For specifics about our adventures in language learning at *Máximo*, check out these blog entries:

[Learn Spanish Grammar in Peru](#)

[Typical Day Learning Foreign Language](#)

[Mario Vargas Llosa Teaches \(Practical\) Spanish](#)

[Spanish tutorial: Meet my tandem](#)

[Tandem Learning: Real Life Practice](#)

Basic assumptions...

Prices quoted are as of Fall 2007. In general, unless otherwise indicated, each Spanish language study abroad program offers:

- Free pickup at the Cusco airport. (For an additional fee, some schools offer pickup and return to the airport in Lima and overnight stay in a Lima hostel.)
- Home stays that include seven nights/week, three meals/day; private room; shared bath.
- Teachers who are university graduates.
- The ability to arrange for volunteer placements as part of your study.
- Enrollment any Monday; placement based on proficiency test given at enrollment.
- Maximum of four students in group classes.
- Payment due upon enrollment.
- Flexibility to attend as few or as many weeks as you wish to pay for.

Registration fee: \$40. Basic 20-hour/week course, including home stay fees: group class, \$275/week; 1-on-1, \$360/week. Offers a variety of programs including its “Flavors of Andes,” 20 hour/week class plus 2-hour lunch with teacher in a local café to practice your Spanish, \$390/week. Also offers for-credit quarter and semester Spanish language study abroad programs.

The Academia presents itself as a hard-nosed, no-nonsense educational institution with a highly qualified faculty, adhering to high standards with limited frills.

ACUPARI Language School

www.acupari.com

☎ +51-84-242970 (also Skype); Fax: +51-84-235459
San Agustin 307, Cusco

20-hour/week basic course: group, \$241/week; 1-on-1, \$363/week – *two week minimum for group class*. The home stay is an integral part of the program, and fees include both formal classes and home stay. It specializes in 20-hour and 30-hour/week classes, and can arrange excursions to major scenic sights.

Program began in 1990, has a number of teachers with several years experience on the staff. It also offers Quecha and German – the program founder/director is the honorary counsel of Germany in Cusco.

☞ Acupari’s use of the “Tandem-method” offers a systematic approach to learning Spanish from, and teaching English to, a native Spanish-speaker, 1-on-1 outside the formal classes. This is included for no extra fee.

Amauta Spanish School

www.amautaspanish.com

☎ 51 84 26 23 45

Calle Suecia 480, Cusco – 1 block from Plaza de Armas

Registration fee: \$33. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$98/week; 1-on-1, \$184/week. School offers variety of special emphasis packages: e.g., medical; 55+; and “Spanish and adventure.” Also offers classes in a nearby village and in Manu National Park.

Home stay: six nights/\$114 or \$144 (regular or deluxe). Student residence, \$190 single, \$114

double (six nights, 2 meals/day). Student flat, \$98/week single, \$75/week double (no meals), minimum 10 weeks.

Lima pickup and hotel, \$61.

✘ *Lonely Planet Peru* calls it a “popular school”. School averages 30-50 students in low season; 80-110 in high season (June-August).

✘ School has its own on-site travel agency, which can arrange travel throughout Peru.

AmeriSpan Study Abroad

www.amerispan.com

☎ (215) 751-1100; toll free in USA, 800 879-6640; Skype, amerispan
117 South 17th Street, Ste. 1401, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Registration, \$100. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$175; 1-on-1, \$260. Home stay, \$140/week.

“We are neither a language school nor a travel agent – we’re a hybrid of the two, a language travel organization. AmeriSpan has evaluated hundreds of schools, host families and destinations to determine which programs to offer. Our independence allows us to give you unbiased evaluations of the programs. Each program description contains a program review that describes ‘what we like’ and ‘what we don’t like’ about the program.”

✘ Cusco program is held at Academia Latinoamericana de Español. See Academia’s listing.

✘ Fees must be paid in full 4 weeks before start of program.

Cactus Language

www.cactuslanguage.com

☎ 0845 130 4775 (UK); toll free U.S./Canada: 1-888-270-3949

20-hour/week course: group, \$190/week (based on 4-week enrollment); 1-on-1, \$290 (based on 4-week enrollment). Basic group course combined with home stay, \$315/week.

✘ This is an agency, not a specific Spanish language study abroad program. It books students for study of Spanish, French, Italian, English and German, and can book classes in 16 Spanish-speaking countries. In Cusco, the actual classes are conducted by Academia Latinoamericana de Español – see their listing.

✘ Cactus requires payment 8 weeks in advance of arrival in Cusco, and issues a detailed “terms and conditions” contract.

Caminante Spanish Home School

www.caminanteschool.org

☎ 0051 84 254927 / 0051 191563835

Urbanización Ttio C-3-19, La Costanera, Primer paradero, Cusco

Registration fee: \$30. Basic 20-hour/week course, group \$100/week (4-week rate, \$342); 1-on-1, \$120/week (4-week rate, \$456). Also offers a one-week intensive course, 8/hours day, \$440, including home stay, daily lunch with instructor and 2 excursions with instructor. Will enroll children and provide nanny services.

Home stay, single room, \$100/week; shared room (double), \$90/week.

✎ This is a unique program in that it's "home schooling," i.e., teachers come to the home where the student is living, rather than assemble at a common classroom – a different approach to Spanish language study abroad.

Cusco Mania Spanish School

www.cuscomania.com

☎ +51 84 9909086 // +51 84 9938770 // +51 084 261271

Limacpampa Grande 512 int 2do Piso, Cusco

20-hour/week course: group, \$80/week; 1-on-1, \$120/week.

Home stay: \$140/week, includes laundry; \$210/week matrimonial.

This is a small school – 4 teachers, and it's hard to gauge the program from its website. The headmistress responds quickly to queries, however.

✎ School offers the opportunity to pick your family before you arrive – you indicate what you'd like; they send photos and description so you can choose.

Cusco Spanish School

www.cuscospanshschool.com

☎ +51 (84) 226928

Calle Garcilaso NE 265 - Of. NE 6 - Second Floor, Cusco

20 hour/week course: group, \$110/week; 1-on-1, \$160/week.

Home stay, \$100/week, private room, shared bath. Hostel, \$210/week, private room and bath, breakfast. Apartment, \$140/week single, \$238/week double (price for two people).

School offers Peruvian dance classes, cooking classes, Peruvian instruments lessons, pottery classes, Quechua language lessons, local area tours – for extra fees. When enough students enroll, also offers Spanish language study abroad at the village of Urubamba in the Sacred Valley near Cusco.

Lima pickup and overnight hotel, \$55.

Don Quijote

www.donquijote.org

☎ (0034) 923 26 88 60; toll free in USA: 1-808-518-0412

Registration fee, \$95. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$135/week (note: max class size is 8); 1-on-1, \$220/week.

Home stay, \$114/week; “home stay plus,” \$144/week. Student residence, including breakfast and lunch, \$190/week.

Lima pickup: airport pickup and return, overnight hotel, one-way flight to Cusco, \$195.

✂ Requires agreement to a formal contract and full payment two weeks in advance of arrival. The Spanish language study abroad program is run out of its main office in Spain.

Enforex

www.enforex.com

☎ +34 915943776; toll free in U.S., 1-866-607-7246

Enforex Head Office, C/ Alberto Aguilera, 26, 28015 - Madrid, Spain

Registration fee, \$100. Basic 20 hour/week course: group, \$135; 1-on-1, \$220.

Home stay, \$140/week (price does not include Sunday meals). This Spanish language study abroad organization offers programs in 24 locations in Spain and Latin America. Its website focuses on Spain. In Cusco, the program is conducted by the Academia Latinoamericana de Español. See Academia’s entry for details of the different courses offered.

Excel Language Center

www.excelinspanish.com

☎ 51-84-235298; fax: 51-84-232272

Cruz Verde 336, Cusco – 3 blocks from Plaza de Armas

20-hour/week course with home stay: group, \$206/week; two-person group, \$230/week; 1-on-1, \$277/week. School offers a variety of specialized courses, including those for professionals and for children. Will arrange tours to all area scenic sights. Also arranges volunteer work for a minimum of 4 weeks of service in Cusco or Manu National Park.

Lima pickup: \$25/pickup and return to airport; hotel, \$40 or \$25 single; \$60 or \$35 double; \$65 or \$45 triple.

✂ *Lonely Planet Peru* says, “Highly recommended for its professionalism.”

FairPlay

www.fairplay-peru.org

☎ 51-084 -9789252 (mobile)

Choquechaca 188 #5, Cusco, two blocks from Plaza de Armas

Registration fee: \$25. For its “effective course” (4 weeks, 10 hours/week small group grammar class plus 24 hours/week 1-on-1 “practical lessons”), \$587; entirely 1-on-1, \$663.

Home stay “basic,” private room, communal bathroom, \$50/week; “medium,” private room and private bathroom, \$60/week.

☞ Opened in January 2006, this Spanish language study abroad program has trained local single mothers to teach Spanish, with the primary intent of improving their lives. Your fees go directly to your teachers, your home stay families, and any non-governmental organization (NGO) with whom you might volunteer while in Cusco. FairPlay also asks that you give a small donation to FairPlay to help cover administrative costs.

First Step World

www.firststepworld.com

☎ 1-415 738-8598; toll free, 1-881 640-3960. Skype, firststepworld
225 Bush Street, 16th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

Registration fee, \$80. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$130/week; 1-on-1, \$220/week.

Home stay, \$130/week. This international organization offers programs in 8 languages – 100 destinations in 23 countries. Website gives no specifics on methodology, teachers, facility, or school activities in Cusco. Spanish language study abroad program in Cusco appears to be conducted by Amauta Spanish School.

☞ Full payment due 4 weeks before start of classes.

Incas Language School

www.incaslanguageschool.com

☎ not listed

Address not listed

20 hours/week: all classes 1-on-1 only, \$180/week. With home stay, \$240/week.

We can tell little about the school from its website – its size, experience, educational approach, even location. It also offers classes in the small town of Calca, two hours from Cusco, \$320/week for group class and home stay.

Inticahuarina Spanish School

www.inticahuarinaspanishschool.com

☎ +51 84 251481/ 978 1844

Zarumilla Bloque 5-A 103-105, Cusco, 10 minutes from Plaza de Armas

Registration fee, \$25. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$90/week; 1-on-1, \$130/week.

Home stay, \$110/week. Student House, \$100/week; flat, \$80/week. Also offers a stay with a

“Family Farmer,” \$170/week; and three 5-day/week meal plans: 1) in local restaurants; 2) with a Peruvian family; 3) in the student house

Weekly classes in Peruvian dance, music, cooking, pottery. School is linked to a local travel agency, and can arrange trips throughout Peru. Also offers mountain biking, river rafting, horseback riding. Offers Quechua classes.

Language Crossing

www.languagecrossing.com

☎ not listed

No address listed

This Spanish language study abroad organization says it offers programs in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Spain as well as Peru. The website covers all programs, but offers generic information rather than purely Cusco-specific information. Website does not list any prices.

Languages Abroad

www.languagesabroad.com

☎ 1-416-925-2112; toll free in USA, 1-800-219-9924

386 Ontario Street, Toronto, Canada M5A 2V7

Enrollment fee: \$300, non-refundable. 20-hour/week course: group, \$330/week for classes and home stay; 1-on-1, \$420 – both with discount if you enroll for more than a week.

This is an international organization offering classes in 12 languages in 59 countries. Its website does not include information on teachers, methodology, or facilities. In Cusco, the Spanish language study abroad program is conducted at Academia Latinoamericana de Español.

Lima pickup and overnight stay, \$230.

✂ Enrollment required 2 weeks before program start date.

Languages in Action Spanish School

www.languagesinaction.com

☎ 66 7623636

367/11-12 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket, Thailand 83000

20-hour/week course: group, \$173/week; 1-on-1, \$259/week.

Home stay, \$114-\$144/week. This is an international organization offering programs in 10 languages in 140 locations around the world. Its Cusco program apparently is offered at Amauta Spanish School, but the website offers no information on faculty, methodology, activities, or facilities.

✂ Requires a deposit (amount not listed); full payment due 4 weeks before class begins, *or* upon

arrival at the program.

Language Skills Abroad

www.languageskillsabroad.com

☎ toll free in US: 1-877-689-9970

No address listed

Registration fee: \$100 plus \$35 “bank charge” for processing registration deposit.

20-hour/week course: group, \$135; 1-on-1, \$220.

Home stay: \$115/week; \$145/week with laundry service. On campus residence: \$145/week single; \$115/week shared.

✎ Language Skills Abroad offers courses in Spanish, German, Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Russian, and French in locations throughout the world. The website attempts to cover all of these options. It’s generic, with little insight into its Spanish language study abroad offering in Cusco.

✎ Full payment must be made upon registration (in the U.S.); accepts credit cards.

The Language Travel Company

www.thelanguagetravelcompany.com

☎ 1-617-423-9500

31 St. James Avenue, Suite 770, Boston, MA 02166

Registration fee, \$40. Cusco program: 20-hour/week group course, \$298/week; 1-on-1, \$380/week.

Home stay, \$187-\$196/week. This is a Spanish language study abroad referral service that can arrange study with 26 programs in Spain and 9 Latin American countries. “We will help you choose the right school and the right course for you. We will listen carefully to what you want and will match your needs and expectations with the right school, location and type of accommodation – all based on our own travels and personal experience.”

✎ Fees must be paid 8 weeks before start of program.

Learn Spanish in Peru

www.learnspanishinperu.com

☎ not listed.

Address not listed

20-hour/week course: group, \$110; 1-on-1, \$130. 1-week 40-hour immersion course, 1-on-1, \$580 (includes tour of Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu). 3-week medical Spanish, 1-on-1, 60 hours of class, 1 week volunteering in a local hospital, \$420.

Home stay: no information on accommodations. You have to contact for price.

✎ This website offers no specific information on the Spanish language study abroad program in Cusco, and no contact information – you have to send queries via their website.

Lingua Cusco

www.linguacusco.com

fax: 00-51-84-237918

Siete Diablitos 222, San Blas, Cusco

The school emphasizes 1-on-1 lessons, \$9/hour. Group classes available, \$4-\$5/hour per person, depending on number of students enrolled.

Home stay: \$32.50-\$55/week depending on choice of meal plans – no meals; breakfast only; breakfast and dinner.

Lingua Cusco is part of a private association working to develop educational programs in the barrios of Cusco. Its main focus is on a model school for 750 children from various social backgrounds. The profits of the language center are invested in these social projects.

Los Andes Spanish School

www.andesspanishschool.com

☎ 051 84 9741636

Wuarankallki Street, Nro 185, 2nd floor, Cusco

20-hour/week course: \$100/week; 1-on-1, \$150/week. The school offers a basic 20-hour/week group class, supplemented by weekly dance and cooking classes, and a Tandem arrangement in which a student meets with a Peruvian who shares his/her interests to practice each other's respective languages.

Home stay: \$100/week.

✎ Program will arrange pickup in Lima with an overnight home stay with a Peruvian family, rather than in a hostel or hotel.

Machu Picchu Spanish School

www.machupicchuschool.org

☎ (51) (84) 257635

Calle Arequipa 251 - 2nd floor, Pasaje Q'aphchik'ijllu, Cusco – “right off Plaza de Armas”

20-hour/week course: group, \$90/week; 1-on-1, \$110/week.

Home stay: \$110-\$130/week. Couples' discount, \$230/week (for both). Furnished apartment/flat, \$110/week.

A small, five-year-old Spanish language study abroad program that is locally owned and run, with competitive rates and typical offerings. Offers several 1-3 week variations on its basic

course.

Lima package: transfer from/to airport, overnight hotel, Lima-Cusco flight, \$150.

Máximo Nivel Executive Spanish Language Center

www.maximonivel.net

☎ +51 84 25 7200

Avenida El Sol 612, Cusco, 3 blocks from Plaza de Armas

20-hour/week course: group, \$105/week; 4 weeks, \$385; 1-on-1, \$180/week; 4 weeks, \$670. ☞
The school recommends a Spanish language study abroad program of three hours/day of instruction (two 90 minute sessions, with different instructors), group, \$80/week; \$290, 4 weeks. 1-on-1, \$130/week; \$505/4 weeks.

Home stay: \$140/week. 4-week rate, \$450, i.e., \$112.50/week. (Includes 3 meals/day, 7 days/week.) Other housing options: "The Family House" (a bed and breakfast run by the owners), \$125/week (includes 3 meals/day, 7 days/week); 4 weeks, \$400. Also can arrange shared or private apartments, hostel, and three-star hotel.

☞ Máximo has a large English language program for Peruvians, and will arrange 1-on-1 Tandem matches for its Spanish-language students at no extra charge. The school prides itself on its exceptional care for its students (and our experience there bears this out).

☞ Several of its executive team are Americans living in Cusco. The director is married to a Peruvian. The school has its own travel agency, PATAS, which can arrange travel and special excursions throughout Peru.

Mundo Verde

www.mundoverdespanish.com

☎ +51 84 221287 mobile: +51 84 9728531

Nueva Alta 432-A, Cusco – 4 blocks from Plaza de Armas

Registration fee, \$10. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$110/week; 1-on-1, \$150/week. Offers a variety of programs including 8-hour/day immersion, Andean medicinal plants, and specialized medical courses.

Home stay, \$100/week.

☞ This is a non-profit Spanish language study abroad organization that uses monies from the courses to help fund its conservation project in the Peruvian rainforest. Its volunteer opportunities are directed toward children, battered women, and nature conservation. Several of the principal staff have degrees in agricultural engineering or biology. The school also offers courses in Urubamba and Puerto Maldonado in the rainforest.

Peru Language Center

www.perulanguage.com

☎ not listed

Address not listed

20-hour/week course: group, \$90/week; 1-on-1, \$110/week. Also offers a part-time 10-hour week course, \$49/\$55; a 40-hour/week class, \$270/\$330, and courses oriented to business or medicine as well as courses combined with weekend excursions, visits with Peruvians, emphasis on Peruvian culture.

Home stay: \$95/week single; \$90/week double. Flat: \$100/week.

⚠ Generic website. It offers a variety of courses, but gives no information as to the school, its teaching methodology for Spanish language study abroad, experience, facility, size or staff.

Proyecto Peru

www.proyectoperucentre.org

☎ +51 84 9683016 - 9954184; Skype: perucentre

Calle Saphy 661 - 28, Cusco (inside Hostel Familiar), “five minutes walk from Plaza de Armas”

20-hour/week course: group, \$87/week; 1-on-1, \$110/week. “We have outside lessons visiting markets, volunteer projects, plazas, etc. to make sure you practice what you have learned.”

Home stay: \$93/week, single room. Flat: shared, w/o meals, \$69/week.

Offers Lima pickup: transfer in/out, overnight hotel, flight ticket to Cusco, \$150.

⚠ This is a small school: average 10 students, 6 teachers in October. Notes staff member Yuliana Lazarte: “this number looks small, but it is a warm family.”

San Blas Spanish School

www.spanishschoolperu.com

☎ +51 (0)84 247898

Tandapata 688, San Blas Square, Cusco – in the city’s artistic district

20-hour/week course: group, \$90/week; 1-on-1, \$6.50/hour. School offers a basic program of Spanish language study abroad, supplemented by a range of travel options, as well as classes in Cusqueñian weaving, jewelry making or painting.

Home stay: \$80/week. Also apartments, \$60-\$80/week, depending on # staying together

⚠ The school is a project of *Fe y Esperanza*, a local non-governmental organization that seeks to help school children in the nearby village of Cai Cay. It is also possible to take a week of classes in Cai Cay (for groups of 3 or more).

S.I.I.E. ((Servicios de Idiomas e Intercambios Culturales en el Extranjero)

www.studenttravel-siie-chile-peru.cl

☎ (56 2) 5552909/ 09-0227766

Avda. Bernardo O'Higgins 108, Loc. 204, Santiago Centro, Chile

Registration fee: \$100. Basic 20-hour/week course: group, \$275/week for 4-week program. Classes plus full board home stay: group, \$433/week; 1-on-1, \$577/week.

Spanish language study abroad program specializes in longer term instructional programs, e.g., it lists a 12-week, 120 lesson, 1-on-1 program as one of its "short-term" programs – price \$3,124. Also offers longer-term internships, and 100-lesson programs in pottery, cooking, weaving, or basketry.

The program is based in and emphasizes Chile. Although it cites Cusco as one of its language school sites, it offers no specific information on the Cusco program.

South American Spanish School

www.sasschool.org

☎ 0051 84 223012

Carmen Alto Street # 112 San Blas, Cusco.

20-hour/week course: group, \$120; 1-on-1, \$140. Also offers 3-week Spanish and Inka culture program, \$605/group, \$660/1-on-1, and a 1-week "Spanish and Peru Today" program, \$120/group; \$140 1-on-1. Will offer programs for children.

Home stay: \$135, including laundry, local calls, shared bath. Hotel: 8-room Inn next to the school, \$157/week, private; \$110/week shared. Includes breakfast buffet, snack service, laundry.

Lima pickup: from and back to airport with overnight hostel, \$55.

✎ School seeks to integrate Spanish language study abroad lessons and Peruvian culture through an organized effort to get students out into the community with its "Spanish and Peru Today" and "Spanish and Inka Culture" programs. Also arranges tours to the major tourist attractions in the area.

Spanish in Peru

www.spanishinperu.com

☎ +51 84 262345

Suecia 480, Cusco – 1 block from Plaza de Armas

✎ This school has the same address and phone number as the Amauta Spanish School. See our review of Amauta.

Spanish in the World

www.spanishintheworld.com

☎ (+34) 91 591 21 26

C/ San Bernardo 99, 5° I, 28015 - Madrid, Spain

Registration fee: \$100. 20-hour/week course: group, \$135/week; 1-on-1, \$220/week. Also offers 6 hours/day group course, \$245/week; a group course of 20 lessons plus 15 hours/week of activities, \$330.

Home stay: single room, half board, \$140/week.

This Spanish language study abroad program offers classes in 13 locations in Spain, and 22 locations in 11 South American countries. From the website description, it appears that it contracts with Academia Latinoamericana de Español for its classes. See our review of Academia's program.

✎ All program fees must be paid 3 weeks in advance of arrival.

Wiracocha Spanish School

www.wiracochaschool.org

☎ 0051 84 242562

Cuesta San Blas 561, Cusco – 2 blocks from Plaza de Armas

20-hour/week course: group, \$90/week; 1-on-1, \$110.

Home stay: \$90/week double; \$95/week, single.

Offers special Spanish language study abroad courses with emphasis on medical, business, or professional studies; also Spanish with tourism (4 weekend trips).

✎ Its “super-intensive” and “immersion” options add a two-hour session in which the teacher accompanies student(s) to restaurants after class, then spends two hours practicing Spanish with local Peruvians as they visit local places.