



Spanish Courses in

Mexico

Playa del Carmen

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Riviera Maya



The beach



Playa del Carmen

You'll love it, everyone does!

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Windsurfing

IH Riviera Maya

IH Riviera Maya was established in 2003 as a joint venture between IH Mexico City and IH Barcelona (Spain) and benefits from the more than 30 years experience in language teaching and language teacher training that these two schools provide. If you're looking for a school where you can study Spanish effectively in a safe, relaxing and beautiful environment, this is the school for you.



School entrance

The school

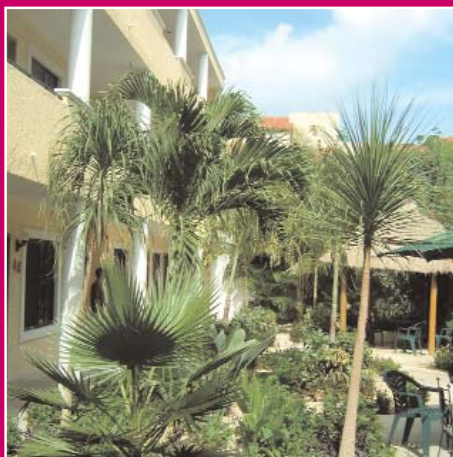
IH Riviera Maya is located in the very centre of Playa del Carmen, just two blocks from the beach and with dozens of bars, restaurants and shops nearby.

The front of the school, which houses the reception and a number of student apartments, is a beautiful, colonial style house with a domed roof and terrace and a very good French restaurant on the ground floor which offers a special evening menu to our students.

The main school building which was purpose built in 2003, contains the staff room and offices and 10 spacious classrooms, all with air-conditioning and natural light.

There is also an Internet room in the school which students are invited to use at any time. Those students who have laptops with a wireless card can logon to the Internet anywhere on the premises.

Last but not least, the school also has a beautiful garden which is full of exotic trees and plants. There is also a small bar area in the garden, so students can relax and socialise before or after class, browse the Internet from their laptop, or simply sit back, have something to drink and watch the humming birds come down to feed.



School building & garden

„The school has a great location, free Internet usage, and Playa del Carmen has enjoyable beaches and weather.“ Helen, CANADA

Our teachers

Our competitive advantage . . .

Our teachers are all university graduates with extensive teaching experience. They have also been specifically trained to teach Spanish as a foreign language, which makes them highly effective when it comes to maximising learning.

Our teaching staff can count on academic support and on-going training under the supervision of the director of studies and with the cooperation of our teacher training department. The optimal quality of teaching that IH offers is constantly reinforced through teachers' meetings, classroom observations and teachers' workshops.

Our materials

At the beginning of their course students are given:

- A folder with information to help them get their bearings in the area.
- A "student's manual" that helps them get to know the school and explains how it is organised. The manual also provides useful information about activities in Playa del Carmen and nearby locations.

At the end of the course:

- A certificate of attendance indicating the level reached and the number of hours studied.

All these materials are included in the course fee.

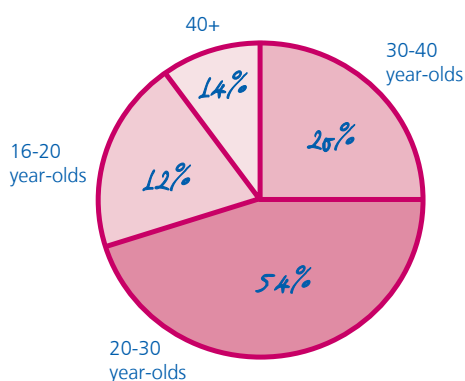
Please note: Books are not included. However students who don't want to purchase a book will be given the opportunity to borrow a copy on payment of a refundable deposit.

Our students

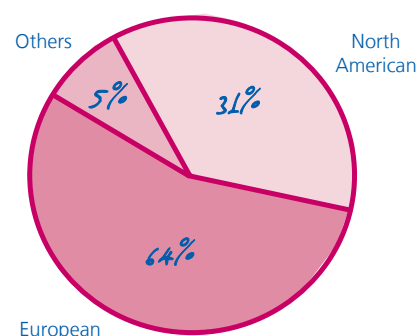
Your new friends . . .

Our students come from all over the world. The majority are from North America or Europe but we also have a number of students from other regions such as Asia and the Middle East. Some of our students are studying Spanish because they need it in their work; others are full-time students in their own countries, while others are studying Spanish simply as a hobby, or so that they can travel through Latin America. The one thing that unites them is their motivation to learn the language as effectively as possible and to enjoy themselves at the same time.

Age range of students on our Intensive Group Course:



Nationalities of students on our Intensive Group Course:



Our courses

Something for everyone, including you!

„I really enjoyed my IH school experience, and commend you for the high standards you have set and achieved.“

Alan, USA



Intensive Spanish Course

1.1 Intensive Group Course

This is our standard Spanish course which the vast majority of our students take. The course consists of 4 hours tuition per day, from 09.30 to 13.30, Monday to Friday. Courses are offered at all levels from complete beginners to very advanced.

Students who already have some knowledge of Spanish can begin a course any Monday of the year (except holidays). Courses for complete beginners start every two weeks. Please see our dates and prices information sheet for more details.

Min. age: 16

1.2 Intensive Group Course + Mexican cookery course

Learn how to make some of Mexico's most delicious dishes in our student residence kitchen. Cookery classes take place on 3 afternoons per week and students can take from 1-4 weeks of class. You can of course eat the food you prepare - and we even do the washing up for you!

1.3 Intensive Group Course + Diving course

Playa del Carmen is the perfect place to learn to dive. In collaboration with a specialist dive school we offer diving courses at two levels:

- A) Diving for beginners: a 3-day course leading to the PADI Open Water dive certificate
- B) Advanced Diving Course: a 2 or 3-day course that leads to the PADI certificate for deep water dives

1.4 Intensive Group Course + Latin dancing

Cha Cha, Rumba, Salsa, Samba ... the list of Latin dances is a long one. Learn the basic steps with our expert dance tutors. There's plenty of opportunity to practice in Playa's clubs and discos. Dance classes take place 3 afternoons per week and students can enrol for 1-4 weeks.

2. Individual tuition

We can offer 1:1 (or 2:1) classes at any time of the year. The times of these classes can also be arranged to suit the students' preferences so classes can, for example, be scheduled to combine with an Intensive Group Course. The contents of our individual courses are always 'made-to-measure' so the focus is always on the individual students language needs and the learning style will reflect their own preferences.

3. 'Made-to-measure' courses for closed groups

For groups of younger students, or for groups of adult students with particular language needs, IH Riviera Maya can design and give "made-to-measure" courses at any time of the year. Prices depend on the nature of the services required, but we will be pleased to send you quotations for any specific course programmes you may request.

4. On-line Spanish course

In collaboration with our partner company Net Languages, IH Riviera Maya offers students the opportunity of taking an Internet based Spanish course, which provides a unique combination of interactive study materials and personalised tutorials with Spanish language teachers from International House. These courses are totally flexible in that students can study at their own rhythm, at any time of the day or night.

Students can study Spanish on the Internet either before they attend a face-to-face course or when they get home. What's more, we offer a special discount on the Internet course fee to anyone who takes an Intensive Group Course. See our price sheet for details.

5. Spanish for Medical Practitioners

This specialist course is designed for medical practitioners (doctors, nurses, care-workers, etc.) who need to use Spanish in their workplace. The course focuses on improving students' linguistic competence in a wide range of health care contexts and includes a minimum of two visits to local health centres or encounters with Mexican doctors or nurses.

6.1 Introduction to Teaching Spanish to Foreigners (ELE)

IH Riviera Maya regularly runs training courses designed for Spanish speakers who have little or no teaching experience. These introductory courses combine sessions on teaching methodology with classroom observation and teaching practice. See our current price list for starting dates and fees.

6.2 Refresher course for Spanish teachers

This course is designed for practising teachers of Spanish working in a non-Spanish speaking country who want to update their skills and knowledge in recent trends in methodology (such as the use of technology in the classroom), and refresh their knowledge of current Spanish usage, and Latin-American culture.



Mexican Cooking Class



Salsa Class

GENERAL NOTES:

Maximum no. of students per class: 8
1 hour = 55 minutes

INCLUDED IN ALL COURSES: Registration, classes, level test, certificates, programme of social & cultural activities and access to all the school facilities.

Accommodation

Your home from home

„The student residence is really comfortable and is just a 5 minute walk from the school.»

Sara, FRANCE

IH Riviera Maya offers students an unbeatable range of accommodation options at very competitive prices. Our aim is to cater for all needs and the options include:

1. IH Student Residence

This purpose-built student residence was opened in May 2005. Located in a quiet street just 5 minutes walk from the school, the residence has 22 spacious bedrooms, each with twin beds, so rooms can be booked for individual use or shared. All rooms have their own private bathrooms and they are all equipped with air-conditioning, ceiling fans and cable TV. We offer 3 accommodation options in the residence:

- A) Self-catering (no meals included)
- B) Bed and breakfast
- C) Half board (includes evening meal)

Apart from the bedrooms, the residence also has a kitchen and dining area and several roof terraces where students can relax under the thatched (palapa) roof.

2. Mexican Host Families

Staying with a Mexican host family is undoubtedly the best way to get a real feel for the Mexican way of life. It will also help you improve your Spanish. We offer single bedrooms in carefully selected host families on a bed and breakfast or half board basis (which also includes the evening meal). Our families really know how to look after our students and make them feel at home. And they will almost certainly introduce you to their family and friends.

3. On-site Apartments

We can offer students accommodation on the school premises. All on-site apartments are equipped with air conditioning, ceiling fans and cable TV.

4. Off-site Apartments

For students who are staying in Playa del Carmen for 4 or more weeks we can provide fully furnished self-catering apartments within walking distance of the school. Students can request a 1 or 2-bedroom apartment for their own exclusive use, or they can request to share.

5. Hotels

Playa del Carmen has a huge number of good value hotels and some of the best are within a 5-minute walk of the school. Single or double rooms with private bathroom are available all year round and the rooms always come with a healthy Mexican breakfast. The prices of the hotels vary, depending on the facilities they offer and on the time of year. Please contact us for further details.

GENERAL NOTE:

Accommodation is normally provided from the Sunday before the course begins to the Saturday morning after the course ends.

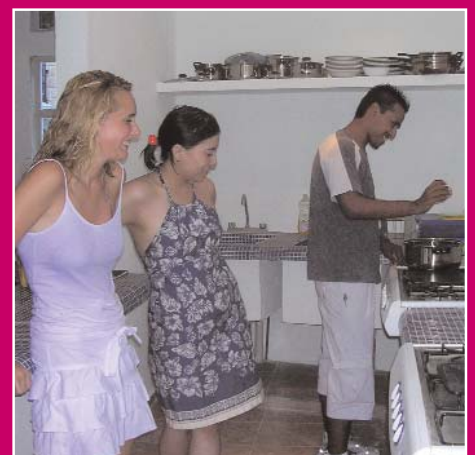
Extra nights are usually available upon request and payment of a supplement.



Student Residence



Residence bedroom



Cooking dinner in the residence

Social Programme

Your guide to the local culture . . .

„Playa del Carmen is an ideal spot to combine beach life and learning.“

Markus, GERMANY



Diving lessons



Swimming with dolphins



Chichén Itzá

IH Riviera Maya organises a regular programme of social activities in the school including welcome cocktail parties, conversation exchange evenings with Mexican students studying English, lectures on different aspects of Mexican and Mayan culture, etc. We also organise excursions to some of the region's most interesting locations such as the ancient Mayan cities of Tulum and Chichén Itzá; the island of Cozumel, famous for its coral reefs and marine life; or one of the region's many superb nature reserves.

The social activities organised in the school are included in the course fee. Students are however asked to pay a fee to cover the costs of excursions.

Sample Social Programme

Week 1

Monday

Welcome cocktail party

Tuesday

Salsa dance class

Wednesday

Mexican cooking class

Thursday

Mexican film night

Saturday

Excursion to Xcaret

Week 2

Monday

Mexican Arts & Crafts class

Tuesday

Merengue dance class

Wednesday

Mexican cooking class

Thursday

Visit to Xaman Ha Aviary

Saturday

Excursion to Tulum

Other activities

We are happy to organise additional activities such as diving lessons or golf classes on request. We can also help students hire cars or bicycles at competitive rates.

How to get to Playa del Carmen

There are direct flights from most major cities to Cancun International Airport which is just 60 km (40 miles) north of Playa del Carmen. The journey from the airport to Playa del Carmen by bus or taxi is very affordable and should take less than 1 hour. Alternatively the school can arrange an airport meeting and transfer service on request (see details on the price list attached).

Why study at IH Riviera Maya?

- The school is located in Playa del Carmen, a marvellous town with a gorgeous beach on Mexico's stunning Caribbean coast.
- We have a beautiful, well-equipped and comfortable school building located in the very centre of the town and just 3 minutes from the beach.
- We are members of the international House World Organisation which is in itself a guarantee of the quality of our services.
- We have been teaching Spanish in IH for over 30 years and during this time we've learned quite a lot about how to teach effectively.
- All our teachers have been specifically trained to teach Spanish to foreign students. We won't let anyone into our classrooms until they have demonstrated their ability to teach effectively and establish a good relationship with their students.
- We can offer a wide range of accommodation options - including our very own student residence - at very reasonable prices. Many of these accommodation options are within 5-10 minutes of the school.
- We will help you get to know this part of Mexico with organised excursions to some of the region's most interesting and attractive sites.
- We'll do our best to ensure that you have a wonderful time and that you leave Playa del Carmen wishing you could have stayed longer.



We hope to see you in Mexico soon!



Map of Playa del Carmen



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IH Riviera Maya is a member of The VIVA Group
www.viva-group.info