

SIP's Cultural Immersion Program: Language and More

Introduction

The Interamerican Society of Psychology, (known by its initials in Spanish, SIP) (www.sipsych.org) through its president, Dr. Andrés Consoli, and the XXXII Interamerican Congress of Psychology of SIP (www.sip2009.org), through its president, Mag. María del Pilar Grazioso, and with the assistance of Lic. Lucía Molina and Dr. Judith Gibbons, has the pleasure of inviting psychology scientists, academics, professionals, and students to a Cultural Immersion Program (CIP). SIP's Cultural Immersion Program has been developed for individuals who are interested in learning or perfecting their use of the Spanish language.

Rationale

Language is part of a person's identity, imparting a sense of belonging to a particular culture or community. Being in a place where people speak a different language makes us feel distant from that culture, and underscores the importance of language, as well as the security and convenience offered by communication in a shared language. In addition, it is noteworthy that growth in the Latino community in the U.S.A. and Canada is increasing the need for professionals and researchers to provide services and conduct studies in Spanish.

Description

SIP-CIP is a program of five days of cultural and linguistic immersion that will be offered from Monday the 22nd until Friday the 26th of June of 2009 in the cultural center *El Sitio* (<http://www.elsitiocultural.org>) in Antigua, Guatemala (5ta calle poniente no. 15). (We remind you that the opening ceremony of the XXXII CIP-SIP congress is on Sunday, the 28th of June at 4 pm in Guatemala City).

Objectives

- To learn, develop, and reinforce Spanish language proficiency.
- To raise the current skill level of each participant.
- To increase vocabulary.
- To become acquainted with Guatemalan culture and current psychological topics.
- To offer an opportunity to live together with Guatemalans and persons from other countries who share an interest in psychology.
- To prepare participants to better take advantage of the XXXII CIP-SIP congress.

Specifics

SIP-PIC is an exclusive program uniting two of the most renowned institutions for teaching Spanish as a second language in Guatemala. *Proyecto Lingüístico Francisco Marroquín* (PLFM) (www.plfm-antigua.org/index_es.htm), founded in 1969, is widely known for its excellent individual instruction and for its commitment to affirming the cultural and linguistic diversity of Guatemala. The *Instituto Guatemalteco Americano* (IGA) (www.iga.edu) has specialized in small group instruction (fewer than five persons per group, grouped according to ability in Spanish), and in the training of members of the diplomatic corps in Guatemala. Both programs administer their own placement examinations in order to determine the appropriate level of instruction for each participant. Based on the results of the exam they will assign individual teachers and form groups. The services of PLFM and IGA will be supplemented by cultural and professional presentations, as well as by visits to community action projects.

Calendar

Hours	Monday June 22	Tuesday June 23	Wednesday June 24	Thursday June 25	Friday June 26
8:00- 8:30	Welcome- Introduction: María del Pilar Grazioso				
8:30 – 10:00	Group Classes IGA	Group Classes IGA	Group Classes IGA	Group Classes IGA	Group Classes IGA
10:00-10:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
10:30-12:00	IGA continued	IGA continued	IGA continued	IGA continued	IGA continued
12:00 -1:00	LUNCH (included, at El Sitio)	LUNCH (included, to go)	LUNCH (included, at El Sitio)	LUNCH (included, to go)	LUNCH (included, at El Sitio)
1:00-2:30	Lecture by a local expert "History, languages, and Culture of Guatemala"	VISIT to a community program (one of the following) -Common Hope -Readiness -The Riecken Foundation -Mariana Samayoa Project -Ecofilters -God's Child Project	Guided Tour by a renowned historian "The ruins of Antigua, Guatemala"	VISIT to a community program (one of the following) -Common Hope -Readiness -The Riecken Foundation -Mariana Samayoa Project -Ecofilters -God's Child Project	Lecture by an expert from the Museo Ixchel (www.museoixchel.org) "Guatemalan Culture through its textile arts"
2:30-3:00	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
3:00-6:00	Individual Classes PLFM	Individual Classes PLFM related to the visit	Individual Classes PLFM	Individual Classes PLFM related to the visit	Individual Classes PLFM

Closing dinner: Friday, June 26th, 7 pm (not included in the registration fee)

Costs of SIP-CIP

\$300 for professionals who are not members of SIP

\$280 for professionals who are members of SIP

\$250 for students who are not members of SIP

\$230 for students who are members of SIP

The fee includes the following services:

1. Three hours per day of individual instruction for five days.
2. Three hours per day of group instruction for five days.
3. Placement examination for determining initial level of competence in the language.
4. Morning and afternoon coffee breaks for each of five days.
5. Lunch at El Sitio or to go for each of five days.
6. Cultural and professional presentations in Spanish.
7. Guided visits to community action programs (SIP will make a cash donation in the name of the participants to each program visited).

Guided Visits to Community Programs:

Once you register for SIP-CIP, you will receive, through email, a registration form for the guided visit to community programs. Visits will be coordinated according to the programs selected by participants. Based on your personal interests you can select two programs from among the following options:

-*Common Hope*. The heart of Common Hope's work in Guatemala is education. They provide the necessary resources for over 2,700 children to attend school each year in seventeen villages outside of Antigua and Guatemala City. They believe that a comprehensive approach is critical to help students and their families to reach their full potential; to achieve this, they also focus their efforts on health care, housing, and family development. www.commonhope.org

-*Readiness*. The mission of this program is reducing school drop out and preventing repetition of the first year of elementary school. The project provides programs for the parents and recreational activities, such as clowning, for the children.

-*The Riecken Foundation*. The foundation provides poor communities with a priceless commodity: information. The Foundation lays the framework for community-run lending libraries with open stacks of books and free Internet access. The success of the library network hinges on the active involvement of local committees and volunteers. www.riecken.org

-*Project Mariana Samayoa*. The mission of this project is to improve the quality of life in communities and neighborhoods.

-*Ecofilters*. Ecofilters is an organization that produces water filters made from local clay and sawdust. Use of the filters significantly reduces the incidence of diarrhea, the primary cause of child death in developing countries. www.ecofiltro.org

-*God's Child Project*. The mission of this organization, known more widely by its Spanish name *Nuestros Ahijados*, is to promote the educational, social, physical, and spiritual development of Guatemala's poorest children through ensuring them educational opportunities. www.godschild.org

Registration and Payment

Registration for SIP-CIP is open until the 1st of May of 2009, and is subject to available space. We recommend that you register as soon as possible. Registration can be cancelled with a full refund until the 1st of May of 2009, and with a 50% refund until the 15th of May. After the 15th of May no refund will be possible.

Please, send the following information to Dr. Harmon Hosch, treasurer of SIP at hhosch@utep.edu:

First name

Last name

Professional or university affiliation

Indicate whether you are a professional or a student

Complete address (number and street, city, state, zip code, country)

Email address

Telephone number

Membership number in SIP (available at www.sipsych.org/miembros_activos.htm or by writing to Ana Guzzi in the central office of SIP, sip@uprrp.edu)

Credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

Number

Expiration date

Security code

Amount to be charged

Contact

Inquiries and requests for further information should be directed to Lucía Molina, lucia.mol@gmail.com.

Recommended Lodging

Antigua features a wide range of hotels, including luxury accommodations, B & Bs, simple hotels, and inexpensive hostels. Participants can also opt for a homestay. Among the many possibilities are those listed below according to cost, from most to least expensive.

Hotel Las Farolas (www.hotelasfarolas.com)

Location: 9^a Calle Poniente and 5^a. Avenida Sur (6 1/2 blocks from El Sitio)

Single Room with breakfast US\$ 50.00 Plus Taxes

Double Room breakfast included US \$ 65.00 Plus Taxes

For reservations at Hotel Las Farolas contact the hotel directly, through Maria Esther Zaldivar by telephone (502) 7832-1913 or by email sales@hotelasfarolas.com. Note: from the USA, you will need to dial 011 before the number to denote that it is an international call.

Hotel el Carmen (www.elcarmenhotel.com)

Location: 3era avenida Norte No. 9, Antigua Guatemala (6 blocks from El Sitio)

Single room (with breakfast and taxes included) \$55 per night.

Double room (with breakfast and taxes included) \$65 per night.

For reservations at the Hotel el Carmen, contact the hotel directly, through Liby Lara by telephone (502) 7832 3850 or by email: info@elcarmenhotel.com Note: from the USA, you will need to dial 011 before the number to denote that it is an international call.

Hotel Santa Clara (www.hotelsantaclaraantigua.com)

Location: 2a Avenida Sur No 20. (8 blocks from El Sitio)

Single Room (with private bath) \$30

Double Room (with private bath) \$45

For reservations at Hotel Santa Clara, contact the hotel directly by telephone (502) 7832 0342 or (502) 7832 4291 or by email santaclara12000@yahoo.com.

Casa Antigua (hostel). Casa Antigua has four bedrooms and two shared baths. There are some outside tables in the central courtyard of the house where you can relax or eat. It doesn't have a restaurant but there is a small kitchen where breakfast is prepared. Location: 9 calle y 3 avenida sur No. 19, Antigua Guatemala (located 8 1/2 blocks from El Sitio).

Single or double room with shared bath and a double bed: \$20 per person per night and \$40 for two persons. For reservations at Casa Antigua, contact Lucía Molina, lucia.mol@gmail.com.

PLFM "Homestay" for six days with a Guatemalan family \$82 (shared bath) or \$100 (private bath). Again, the price is for six days and includes meals provided by the family. The family houses are found within a six block radius by foot from the CIF building. This option allows participants in the program to share accommodations with Guatemalan families, either with other participants in the program or with only the family. Participants will also enjoy the Guatemalan daily meals. For reservations for the PLFM "Homestay", contact Lucía Molina, lucia.mol@gmail.com.

Transport from the airport to Antigua and vice versa:

Transportation will be coordinated directly with the selected hotel or with Lucía Molina lucia.mol@gmail.com if you want the hostel or "homestay" option.

Information about Guatemala and Antigua, Guatemala

Guatemala is a Central American country with 13 million inhabitants in an area of 42,042 square miles. The official language is Spanish; 23 Mayan languages are also spoken. The Catholic religion is the most widely practiced, although there is freedom of religion. The country is bathed by the Caribbean to the Northeast and by the Pacific Ocean to the south. The landscape is predominantly mountainous and forested. A string of volcanoes rises above the southern highlands, along the Pacific coast; three of them are still active. In the valleys of the volcanic region lives the majority of the population of the country. The region is irrigated by several rivers flowing into both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. The official currency of Guatemala is the Quetzal, and the exchange rate is approximately 8 quetzales to the dollar. *Antigua, Guatemala* is about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Guatemala City, situated in a valley surrounded by the volcanoes Agua, Fuego, and Acatenango. The city has received many distinctions that highlight its importance in Latin America; Antigua was named as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and was nominated “The Best City” by the British magazine *Wanderlust* (www.wanderlust.co.uk/article.php?page_id=2404). Antigua, Guatemala is known as a premier tourist spot in Guatemala because of the richness of its tradition and culture. The city dates from 1543 and has conserved a large number of edifices, churches, convents, and plazas from the colonial period. Its architecture is well-known in this region, as is its religious art, including altar pieces, saints' images, and other artifacts. In Antigua, Guatemala, one can observe the vestiges of this impressive city through the ruins of churches, convents, monasteries, homes, and government buildings. To be in Antigua is the best way of connecting with the Guatemalan culture; while you reinforce your Spanish language skills, you can get to know Guatemalan traditions, food, music, and live directly with the Guatemalan people.

Suggested restaurants:

Antigua has a wide range of restaurants featuring Guatemalan, Antiguan, or international cuisine. For more information see:

<http://www.experienceguatemala.com/es/restaurantes-antigua-guatemala.html>

Social, cultural, and recreational activities:

Participants will be able to select from a wide variety of social, musical, cultural, and recreational activities, including lectures, dance classes (salsa, tango, mambo), concerts, and art exhibitions.

Calendars of cultural events can be found at:

http://www.visitguatemala.com/nuevo/destinos_municipionew.asp?id=8

http://www.cifantigua.org.gt/main.php?id_area=2

<http://revuemag.com/tag/la-antigua-guatemala/>

<http://www.elsitiocultural.org/>

Tourism:

Surrounding Antigua are many traditional towns, including some that maintain a textile tradition. More distant destinations might include the beautiful Lake Atitlán, the traditional market of Chichicastenango, or the Mayan archeological site of Iximché. For additional tourism possibilities see:

http://www.sip2009.org/turista_tips.html.