

## Boquete Campus



Official DELE Examination  
Center



Instituto Cervantes  
Accredited

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# About Habla Ya Spanish Schools

## Mission & Vision



Habla Ya Spanish Schools' mission can be summarized in a very simple way: we are committed to provide the MOST AMAZING Spanish learning experience. At Habla Ya, students will learn Spanish and have the vacation of a lifetime!

Our vision is to become Latin America's most prestigious Spanish Schools. We deeply believe in the talent and enthusiasm of our teachers, the quality of our teaching methodology and the passion of all our staff to provide a unique and effective learning experience.

## Main Points about our Language School in Boquete

- Small intensive groups of no more than 6 students
- Highly trained, enthusiastic and experienced teachers
- Official DELE Examination Center
- Accredited Center by the Instituto Cervantes
- Proven methodology: communicative based method with a task focus. Our curriculum is built under the guidelines of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Relaxed environment with first class facilities (Wi-Fi internet, cafeteria, TV & Chill out area, multimedia classrooms).
- Spanish Courses for all: beginners, intermediate and advanced; university students, young professionals, travelers retirees; children, teenagers and adults.
- Free conversational sessions, classes, cultural activities, typical Panamanian dinners, & merengue lessons, get-togethers (meal out, parties, and poker nights, local fairs and events), field trips (to the river, beach, farms) etc.
- Boquete has ecotourism for



and  
yoga  
salsa  
music

everyone: zip line canopy tour, white water river rafting, coffee tours, hiking trails of different difficulty, camping at the Baru Volcano, bird watching, mountain biking, kayaking, horseback riding, rock climbing & rappelling, etc.

- Boquete is a paradise destination: it is safe, peaceful, beautiful, inexpensive, etc. Boquete's climate is considered near perfect, temperatures range between 60° and 80° F all year round: fresh mountain climate far away from the heat and humidity of the lowlands.
- 1 hour away from the beaches in the Pacific (including the islands of the Chiriqui Gulf) and 3.5 hours away from the beaches of Bocas del Toro in the Caribbean. You can perfectly combine classes in the mountains during the week, with sunny beach vacations in the weekend.
- Easy access: daily flights from Panama City to David, the capital of the province of Chiriqui, only 30 minutes away from Boquete.

## Location



The valley of Boquete is located in the western highlands of Panama at 1,200 meters above the sea. Nestled amongst the country's most mountainous region, this peaceful town is situated between the Caldera River and the Barú Volcano.

Boquete is considered the ecotourism capital of Panama and is known as the best coffee producer in the world. Boquete enjoys a sunny, cool mountain climate, comfortable year round, considered nearly perfect, with temperatures ranging between 60° - 80°F (16° - 28°C).

Dry season goes from December to April, and rainy season takes place from May to November, with the heaviest months of rain being September and October.

Surrounded by untouched tropical cloud forests it is just one hour away from unspoiled white sand beaches in the Pacific and 3 hours away from Bocas del Toro in the Caribbean, offering you plenty of opportunities for water sports like scuba diving, snorkeling and surfing during the weekends. It is the perfect place to combine Spanish lessons in a fresh and relaxing mountain climate during the week, and then head to warm and sunny white sand beaches during the weekends.



Boquete is home to 20,000 welcoming people whose cultural roots can be traced from Native Indians, Spaniards, Europeans and North Americans among other ethnicities. Its first settlers came from other areas of Panama, as well as other countries such as Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and North America. All give shape to the cultural melting pot that is Boquete today. Most farms and houses still have architectural styles that are reminiscent of these other countries. On the sheer mountains that surround the valley live the Ngöbe Bugles, an indigenous ethnic group who are highly skilled artisans, famous for their colorful chaquiras (beaded necklaces) and "nahuas", traditional dresses.

## Boquete's Attractions



If you are into **whitewater river rafting** adventures, the rivers born in the highlands of the nearby volcanoes offer breathtaking scenery and high doses of adrenaline thanks to their constant rapids. The Chiriqui Viejo is a world class river that has it all.

The Quetzals Trail is one of the **most gorgeous hikes in Central America**. This path connects the town of Guadalupe in Cerro Punta on the west side of the Barú Volcano with Boquete, which is on the east side. You can make this hike in any of the two directions, although it is much easier from Cerro Punta to Boquete because it is more down hill.

In the **Zip Line Canopy Tour** you can glide through the canopy of century-old cloud forests, high above the pristine rivers and waterfalls that make up the incredible collection of natural landscapes bordering the National Park La Amistad and the famous Baru Volcano. It has 3 kilometers in total length and is divided into 11 different zip line cables. A harness, an ultra resistant steel cable and gravity are the only elements necessary to stipend and propel the "fearless rider" in this incredible "adrenaline rush".

If you want to relax, on the road to Boquete you can encounter a place known for its famous **hot springs**. Caldera, meaning boiling pot, is just next to the Caldera river, which serves as a refreshing cool-off after bathing in the hot springs. Enjoy a refreshing dip in the Rio Caldera and marvel at the smooth and warm boulders and hot pockets of water within the river itself.



**Rock Climbing and Rappelling** are becoming very popular sports in Boquete. In Bajo Mono, just 15 minutes away from our language school you can find some pretty impressive walls that can challenge even the most experienced climber. Tours are organized and provide all the necessary equipment.

Besides the above, **coffee tours, volcano hikes, island tours, ATV and mountain bike tours are also available.**



If you like to dance, party and have fun, you can choose from several nice bars: Zanzibar, La Cabaña, El Panamonte Bar, etc.

There are plenty of gorgeous restaurants in Boquete. Just to mention a few: El Panamonte Bar & Restaurant, The Rock, Delicias del Perú, Pizzeria a mi modo, Il Salvatore, Machu Pichu, Antojitos Mexicanos, etc.

We also have an active group of community players who organize frequent plays at the local theatre. Jazz concerts are also frequent. In Boquete you will also be able to encounter the Ngobe Bugle culture, an indigenous group that lives in Boquete.

David is the second biggest city of Panama and is only 30 minutes away from Boquete. In David you can find several museums, a nice cinema where you can go to the movies and of course, plenty of nice bars, restaurants and discothèques.



## Spanish Courses

**For a list of prices go to the end of this manual.**



Not everyone wants the same Spanish course. Habla Ya Spanish School offers different courses to suit different needs. Choose a Spanish Course that best meets your needs.

When we receive a new student, they receive both a written and verbal exam to determine the best starting point and course for that student. Upon completion of the assessment the Habla Ya Team joins to discuss placement of groups and individual matching of students and teachers.

Please note that students can choose from any of our Spanish courses on their own or you can also take them as part of any of our Special Programs. For example, in our Latin Cultural & Spanish Immersion

Program while they are taking any of our Spanish Courses you get to live with a local host family in Boquete, Panama. We also offer Ecotourism & Adventure Spanish Programs, Junior Spanish Programs, Family Vacation Programs and Language Programs for High School/University students or Special Groups.

### Group 4 / Group 4 PLUS 1 & 2 (20 - 30 hours/week, 1 week to a year)

**Group 4** (4 hours per day and a maximum of 6 students in the classroom) is the most popular Spanish course offered at our center in Boquete comprised of 20 hours of group lessons per week with the option of taking one or two additional hours of private lessons. Classes are held from Monday to Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., with a 15 minute break after the first two hours. During the high season we also schedule classes between 1:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. For those students seeking a more intensive or personalized course, the **Group 4 PLUS 1/2** adds 1 or 2 hours of private lessons. In these extra hours you can focus on your special needs: **Medical Spanish, Spanish for lawyers, prepare a DELE exam, Business Spanish, or anything else you need.**



Individual Tuition Courses consist of **2 - 6 hours of private lessons per day**. The contents, times and starting dates of these private classes can be arranged to suit the individual student's needs. We offer individual tuition at all levels from beginners to very advanced. We also offer private lessons to students of all ages. Students seeking private lessons generally need to learn Spanish more rapidly due to time constraints, require a teacher who can focus on their very specific needs or are part of a different age group than most of our ongoing groups (children or seniors).

### **Spanish for Travelers (2-4 hours per day, 2-5 days)**



This Spanish course is intended for both leisure and business travelers and tourists, who wish to put themselves in greater control of their trip, their needs and their wellbeing while traveling in Latin America. We offer this intensive Spanish course in Boquete during a period of **2 - 5 days**, having from **2 - 4 hours of Spanish lessons each day**. As this option is not always programmed in advanced, most students take this course through private lessons, though if you are vacationing with your couple or a group of friends, we can

easily arrange a Spanish group for all of you.

### **DELE Preparation Course (20 – 30 hours per week, the necessary amount of weeks according to actual level)**



This Spanish course is mainly offered through **private lessons** taking between **20 - 30 hours per week**. The group option is available if you are coming with a group no larger than 3 students who wish to prepare for the same exam and currently have the same Spanish level.

The advantage about preparing the D.E.L.E with us is that we have designed our Spanish levels, built our syllabus and prepared methodology under the guidelines of the Common European Framework for Languages and thus our level system and syllabus goes according to the DELE examination levels.

We will rate student's Spanish level and let them know how much weeks they should study in order to prepare for the level of the exam they intend to take and as the exam has 5 different parts we will also concentrate on those areas that they most need to work out in order to pass the exam

**Habla Ya Spanish School** is an **Official DELE Examination Center** by the **Cervantes Institute of Spain**, the worldwide authority for teaching Spanish as a foreign language.

### **Personalized Spanish Course (any amount of hours and weeks)**

We always tailor our Spanish courses to our student's individual needs to help them get the most out of their Spanish study time with us. But sometimes our Spanish students need something very special and want to focus on a topic of a very specific nature. Just make a request on a specific topic or need and we will prepare the Spanish Course that you are looking for.

It could be an Intensive Spanish Course (8 hours per day) **Medical Spanish Course**, a Business Spanish Course, Spanish for construction or legal issues, or vocabulary/skill related to a specific field, etc. Most times we already have had a Spanish student with a similar need as yours, and this means you will benefit from our experience.



### **GENERAL COURSE CHARACTERISTICS**

Our classes are mostly in Spanish and they are highly conversational, orientated to the communicative development of our students and include walks in town to practice through role play what has just been taught in class. We work on skill integration, with special emphasis on listening comprehension and oral expression abilities. Lesson planning is based on student's needs and their diverse learning styles.

## Start Dates & National Holidays

### **Group 4 / Group 4 Plus 1 & 2:**

Students who **already know some Spanish** can start our Group 4 Spanish course on:

### **ANY MONDAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

depending on group availability for their level.

The **following start dates are for students who do not know any Spanish.**

<b>2014</b>
January 6, 13, 20, 27
February 3, 10, 17, 24
March 10, 17, 24, 31
April 7, 21, 28
May 5, 12, 19, 26
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
July 7, 14, 21, 28
August 4, 11, 18, 25
September 1, 15, 29
October 13, 27
November 11, 17, 24
December 1, 9, 15, 22, 29

**Spanish for Travelers, One on One Private Courses, DELE Preparation Courses and Personalized Courses:** as these courses are mainly private lessons or small groups of students traveling together, start dates for these courses can be on any date as long as we have teacher and classroom availability.

The following National Holidays are observed by the school:

<b>2014</b>
January 1 <sup>st</sup> , New Years

March 3rd, 4th (Carnival)
April 17th and 18th (Holy Thursday/Holy Friday)
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , Labor Day
November 3rd, Independence Day
November 10th, Separation Movement, November 28th Day, Separation Day
December 8th, Mother's day
December 24th, 25th, Christmas Holidays

# Special Language Programs

## Latin Cultural & Spanish Immersion Program

A complete program that matches the students with a local family which has been carefully selected. This family will not only accommodate the student, but will make him or her feel like a member of their family. Besides learning a new language more quickly and efficiently, they will benefit from being able to practice 24 hours per day with people they feel comfortable with! The Immersion Program gives them a great opportunity to get to know and understand the amazing culture of Panama. We believe this program will offer them an experience of a lifetime that will stay with you no matter where you are.

General Local Host Family Information:

- Host families are middle class by local standards.
- Each Spanish language immersion student will be given a private room and study area.
- Laundry service is provided if required.
- Spanish language students will receive 1-3 meals per day (it is their decision).
- Most host families are located within walking distance or a short bus ride to the Spanish language school.
- Spanish language students will be provided with a key to the house and their room, and will be allowed to come and go as they please if required and if they are over 18.
- Host families and other accommodations are located, approved and overseen by Habla Ya Spanish School.

## Family Vacation Pack (can be taken with any other course or program)

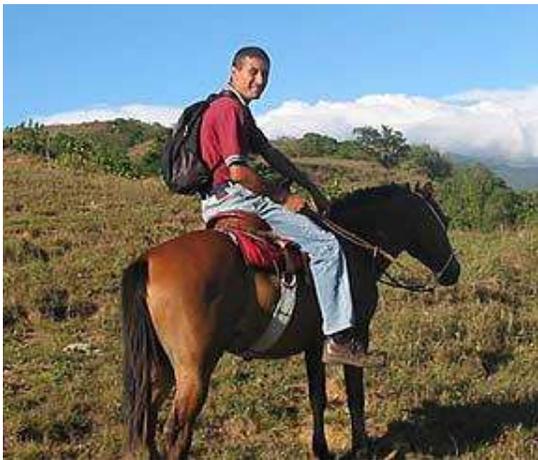


Family vacations can be relaxing, entertaining or educational, or they can also gather all those characteristics in one. With this program parents have an opportunity to enjoy Boquete whilst they and their children learn Spanish and explore Boquete. In this program we take each member of the family and offer them a Spanish Course that will help them improve their Spanish skills and set in front of them all the information they need to have the perfect family vacation.

## **Eco-Adventure Spanish Pack (can be taken with any other course or program)**

Boquete is Panama's ecotourism capital. As an added value to our services Habla Ya students enjoy from special prices and discounts for local tours. You will be able to encounter:

- **Hike and Camp to the Barú Volcano**, a challenging trek, \$75 - \$150 per person depending if you camp or not
- **Rock Climbing and Rappelling in Bajo Mono**, for those who like extreme sports, \$45 per person
- **Horseback Riding in Caldera's Valleys**, for the western type, \$35 per person
- **Tours to Coffee Plantations and Processing Mills**, for the coffee lovers, \$25 per person
- **The Zip Line Canopy Tour**, for the beauty of the forest, \$60 per person
- **White Water River Rafting**, for extreme adrenaline, \$75 per person
- **Hikes**, for the most gorgeous hike, \$25 - \$65 depending on the hike
- **Caldera Hotsprings**, for a relaxing afternoon, \$25 per person





## Accommodation & Lodging Options

**For a summary of prices go to the end of this manual.**

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### **Family Home stay**

Through our Latin Cultural & Spanish Immersion Program students get to stay with a carefully selected local middle class family that lives within walking distance or within a short bus/taxi ride from the school. This host family will not only accommodate the student with a private room and provide breakfast and dinner, but they will also take the student as a true member of their family and make them feel at home while they have the opportunity to practice their Spanish and improve their conversational skills 24 hours a day.

### **Hostal Mamallena <http://www.mamallenaboquete.com/>**

Hostal Mamallena is our favorite budget hostel in Boquete! When it comes to customer service, location and amenities, there is no other in Boquete like Mamallena. The hostel's building has plenty of character and its two story wooden structure was inspired by the typical coffee plantation estates of Boquete's mid-nineteenth century. There are a total of 9 private rooms with their own bathroom and another 2 with a shared bathroom. All private rooms have a double bed and most either have 2 doubles or a double and 2 singles. Hostal Mamallena can also accommodate 23 persons in 5 dorm rooms with bunk beds, and every room, just as the rest of the hostel, has a nice, cozy, country home feel and is bright and full of color. And you definitely can't beat it's central location, in the heart of Boquete, close to everything!

### **Isla Verde Roundhouse Cabins <http://islaverdepanama.com/>**

Isla Verde has 6 cozy roundhouse cabins with an architecture based on an ancient Indian design plus 4 contemporary and fetching suites, in the middle of a perfectly kept lush tropical garden with beautiful rainforest flowers and a sparkling mountain stream surrounding the whole. The lower floor of each roundhouse has an open plan living area with a queen sized bed. Each roundhouse has full kitchen, dining area and a loft with 2 additional single beds or 2 small futon type couches, suitable for young adults or teenagers. A wifi internet signal covers several of the cabins, reaches some benches in the middle of the garden and ends at the dome area. The suites are the perfect choice for couples as they can accommodate up to 2 persons with plenty of comfort. Each suite has a bedroom, an independent living area and kitchenettes. Roundhouses can accommodate up to 4 students and the suites only up to 2.

## Cultural Activities & School's Facilities

To achieve the goal of learning a new language it is very important that students really enjoy and have fun during the learning process. At Habla Ya we offer a variety of extracurricular activities to enhance our students learning experience to make every moment an unforgettable one! Our activities give our students the opportunity to explore, learn, and meet a variety of new people while practicing their new language. We offer:

- **Free Latin Dance Classes (Salsa and Merengue)** on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Free Conversational Sessions** with locals on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
- **Daily Yoga Classes**, Mondays to Fridays at 6 pm, \$1 minimum donation
- **Typical Panamanian dinners** on Tuesdays, \$5 per person
- **Free Movie Nights** on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **Poker Nights** on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m.
- **Charity Quiz** and theme parties at Zanzibar from 8.00 p.m. until 10.00 p.m.
- **Friday Dinners** in one of Boquete's restaurants
- **Get-Togethers** on weekends (meals out, sport matches, parties)

Within the Habla Ya Spanish School we have our own cafeteria that offers students the opportunity to drink Boquete's coffee, considered the best coffee in the world. Students are invited to drink all the coffee they want to free of charge.

Also Habla Ya Spanish School is covered with free WiFi wireless Internet for your laptop!



# Our Teaching Methodology

## Objective of our Teaching Method

When an individual starts learning a foreign language, what is his ultimate goal? The most common answer to this question is the desire to communicate! Individuals have the desire to speak, to understand what they hear, and to read. By obtaining these abilities one is able to complete the daily tasks of everyday life such as: making requests or orders, responding to questions, reading the newspaper, books, or articles, listening to the news, music, and television and most importantly learning another language gives people the ability to gain knowledge about other cultures, ways of thinking and ways of being human.



Having that knowledge here at Habla Ya, we have implemented the most effective approach to teaching our students what they desire to learn using the *communicative method with a task-based focus*. This method has been proven to be the most effective method to gain the ability to communicate in the most common forms! By using this efficient form of teaching, it has allowed our students to gain the skills necessary in the shortest amount of time needed. And on top of all of that, we are able to create individual study plans to tailor to each individual's desires and needs!

## **Study Materials**

The communicative method belief is that it is important to not be restricted by a specific Spanish language textbook. Never feel that textbooks must be used from cover to cover. They should only be used as tool, as a starting-point. With a little inspiration and imagination, a Spanish language textbook can be manipulated and rendered for a more communicative purpose. Teachers must free themselves from it, rely more on their own command of language and professional expertise as to what linguistic items, skills, idioms, phrases, words, need to be drilled, exploited and extended.

Throughout your Spanish course you will receive all the Spanish study materials you need. These materials have been carefully prepared by our teachers following the guidelines of our methodology.

We have an extensive bibliography at our center and we adapt those materials to each and one of our students. Before you start classes you will receive valuable information about learning strategies, tips for language learners, the grammatical and functional contents of each level, more info about our language methodology, a list of cultural & social activities offered at our Spanish School and information about ecotourism in Boquete. Once you start classes you will receive a chronogram detailing what you will be learning. A large part of the study material is presented in the form of practical activities and exercises through which you will learn to understand and speak Spanish almost without noticing. In class, we also make use of audio-visual materials. The largest part of the material is worked

on in class, although you will be expected to do some homework and continue practicing your Spanish outside of the classroom. Our language materials have a support function and are used as a tool. The quality of a class relies more on a teachers experience, training and on the time used to prepare the class.

# Levels & Syllabus Summary

Habla Ya Spanish School forms different groups in accordance with the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#).

## **Survival I (Beginners A1, 60 hours)**

When you finish this level you will be able to understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. You'll have the tools to introduce yourself and others and to ask and answer questions about personal details such as where you live, people you know and things you do. You'll be able to interact in a simple way when the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

## **Survival II (Beginners A2, 60 hours)**

Students that finish this level can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). They can also communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. They'll be able to describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

## **Conversational I (Intermediate B1, 60 hours)**

When you finish this level you can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. As well you can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst traveling in areas where the language is spoken. Furthermore, you can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. And finally, you can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

## **Conversational II (Advanced B2, 100 hours)**

To be considered at this level you have to be able to understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in your field of specialization. At this level you can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. With security you can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

## **Fluent I (Superior C1, 100 hours)**

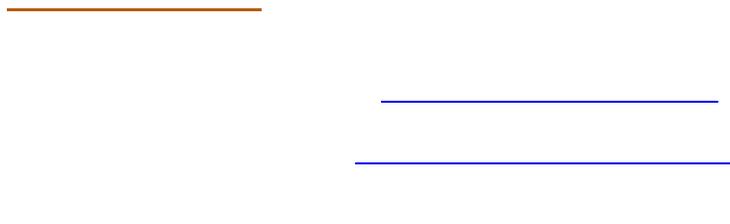
Students who finish this level can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognize implicit meaning. They can express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. In addition they can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. And they can also produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

## **Fluent II (Mastery C2, 400 hours)**

If you have the same abilities of a native speaker, this means that you can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. You are also able to summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. You also have to be able to express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

The approximate amount of hours that will take you to master a level refers to a group course. If you're taking private lessons, or if you study harder, of course, you will go faster.

## **Additional Information**



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### **How to get to Boquete**

As part of Central America, Panama is just a short plane ride away.

Ten major US cities offer direct daily flights to Panama City: Los Angeles, New York, Newark, Miami, Houston, Dallas, Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago, Atlanta and Orlando. You can also directly fly from Madrid, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

The following cities in Brasil offer direct flights to Panama City: Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Manaus, Porte Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Traveling from Panama City to Boquete is fairly straight forward. Basically you have to travel from Panama City to David (45 minutes by plane or 6 hours by bus or car), and then from David to Boquete (30 - 45 minutes by bus, taxi or private transportation).

The best way, well... it depends on what you want: fast and convenient, or taking a bit more time and saving some money but enjoying the countryside and starting a more realistic immersion in our country.

To travel from Panama City to David, and then from David to Boquete there are mainly 2 options:

- A **flight from Panama City to David** (less than 1 hour), and a bus, a shuttle or an airport pickup from David to Boquete (30 - 45 minutes)
- A **bus from Panama City to David** (6 hours), and a bus or bus station pickup from David to Boquete (30 - 45 minutes)

### **Option 1: Panama City to David by Air**

Many students spend 1 or 2 nights in Panama City to shop, visit the Canal or visit the City's Old Quarters.

One way airplane tickets from Panama City to David cost around \$125. You can view flight times and make online reservations at: [www.flyairpanama.com](http://www.flyairpanama.com). These flights do not depart from the same airport that your arriving flight to Panama City does. You will arrive to Panama at Tocumen Airport and to fly from Panama to David you have to go to Albrook Airport.

You can take a taxi between Tocumen Airport and Albrook Airport, or spend a night in a hotel in Panama City and then take a taxi next morning to Albrook Airport.

We arrange airport pickups in Panama City for \$35.

A taxi from Tocumen Airport to Albrook Airport or to a hotel in Panama City should cost around \$35. A taxi from your hotel should not charge you more than \$5 to take you to Albrook Airport if you are staying within Panama City.

The last flight to David from Panama City departs around 4:00 p.m., so if you land in Panama City after 1:00 p.m. plan to spend the night in a hotel in Panama City, or take a bus from Albrook Bus Station to David. The last bus to David leaves Panama City at 3:00 a.m. You should allow at least 3 hours between landing at Tocumen Airport and getting to Albrook Airport or Bus Station because of customs, immigration and then the journey within Panama City.

If you arrive to David through a flight, you will land on Enrique Malek Airport, and we can also arrange an airport pickup for \$25 that will bring you directly to Boquete. If you prefer to take a bus to Boquete, you will have to pay a taxi to take you to the Bus Station in David. The taxi should charge around \$3, and the bus from David to Boquete is \$1.75 per passenger.

### **Option 2: Panama City to David by Bus**

If you want to take a bus to David from Panama City, you first have to take a taxi from Tocumen Airport or from your hotel in Panama City to Albrook Bus Terminal. There you will be able to catch a bus to David.

Buses depart almost every hour so you shouldn't have any problem with the schedule and you don't have to bother with reservations. The only dates when you will not be able to easily catch a bus is when it is a Panamanian National Holiday. On these days you are better off booking a flight from Panama City to David because buses can get chaotic.

The first bus departs everyday at 5:30 a.m. and the last one departs at 12:00 a.m. The bus ticket from Panama to David costs \$12.50 or \$17 per passenger depending if it is an

express bus or not. Express buses are the fastest and depart at 3:00 p.m., 10:45 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

Once you are in David we can arrange a Bus Terminal Pickup for \$25, or you can easily take a bus to Boquete for \$1.45.

Each arranged pickup can transport up to 2 passengers for \$35, and \$10 per additional passenger (up to 4 passengers).

If you can also rent a car in Panama City to drive to Boquete, but you can also rent cars in Boquete so if your reason for doing this is to just have a car, wait until you get to Boquete, but on the other hand if you want to explore the country it is a good option to rent a car in Panama City.

### **Visa Information**

Citizens of most countries including the USA, Brasil, Australia and Western Europe do not need a visa. A \$5 tourist card can be purchased at the airline ticket counter on the day of departure for Panama. This tourist card allows you to stay for 90 days in Panama and is extendible for another 180 days and the school will facilitate this process. Citizens from certain countries are entitled to stay in Panama for up to 30 days only. If anyone wants to stay for a longer period of time it is very easy to go to Costa Rica for 3 days (we are only 1.5 hours away) and then come back into the country. Citizens of most other countries need only their passport. If in doubt, please visit <http://www.migracion.gob.pa/eng/servicio.php?cont=paisvisa>.

## Volunteering Programs

Volunteers can choose from many different projects in Boquete, Panama: They can help at **orphanages, public schools, wildlife rescue centers, environmental organizations, public clinics, work with handicapped children and adults, literacy projects, teach English** and so much more!

Volunteers can choose to work in any of the following areas:

- **Children's Program**
- **English Program**
- **Community**

**Outreach**

**Programs**

Spanish students can volunteer during half of the day (when they are not having Spanish classes) while non students can decide to join part time (1 to 4 hours) or full day volunteer projects. Habla Ya's role is essential because most NGO's in Panama do not have the ability to place and manage volunteers by themselves. Setting up your volunteer project with us ensures a meaningful placement in which each volunteer's skills and talents will be fully exploited.

There are **two fees** associated with volunteering in Boquete, Panama: **Placement Fee** (\$50 for students, \$75 for non students) and **Daily Fee** (\$5 per day for students, \$15 per day for non students).

**75% of your Daily Fees goes directly to the NGO the volunteers are working at** . Children who volunteer under the supervision of their parents, volunteer for **FREE!**

**Placement fee covers:** airport or bus station pickup in David, organization, orientation session, training, volunteer goal setting session and lodging setup (but not lodging itself, and for those doing a home stay, no additional home stay setup fee has to be paid).

The **Daily Volunteering Fee also covers** on-going support from the partner organizations, permanent contact with Habla Ya's Volunteer Director either at the school or by email and telephone and access to Habla Ya's staff on every day of the week from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Also included in your volunteering fees: extra activities such as opportunities to attend weekly salsa lessons, wifi access, regular social gatherings and a certificate of completion.





## Spanish Course Prices for 2014

- Standard Course (20 hours of group lessons per week)
  - 1 week, \$275
  - 2 weeks, \$495
  - 3 weeks, \$725
  - 4 weeks, \$925
  - 5 weeks, \$1055
  - 6 weeks, \$1225
  - 7 weeks, \$1425
  - 8 weeks, \$1595
  - 9 weeks, \$1755
  - 10 weeks, \$1895
  - 11 weeks, \$2055
  - 12 weeks, \$2195
  - each extra week, \$175
  
- Private Course (20 hours of private lessons per week)
  - 1 week, \$395
  - 2 weeks, \$755
  - 3 weeks, \$1095
  - 4 weeks, \$1425
  - 5 weeks, \$1755
  - 6 weeks, \$2075
  - 7 weeks, \$2355
  - 8 weeks, \$2595
  - 9 weeks, \$2825
  - 10 weeks, \$3095
  - 11 weeks, \$3355
  - 12 weeks, \$3595
  - each extra week, \$295
  
- Combined Course (20 hours of group lessons + 5 hours of private lessons per week)
  - 1 week, \$375
  - 2 weeks, \$695
  - 3 weeks, \$1015
  - 4 weeks, \$1275
  - 5 weeks, \$1495
  - 6 weeks, \$1755
  - 7 weeks, \$2025
  - 8 weeks, \$2275

- 9 weeks, \$2525
  - 10 weeks, \$2725
  - 11 weeks, \$2975
  - 12 weeks, \$3195
  - each extra week, \$265
- Combined Course (20 hours of group lessons + 10 hours of private lessons per week)
    - 1 week, \$475
    - 2 weeks, \$855
    - 3 weeks, \$1255
    - 4 weeks, \$1595
    - 5 weeks, \$1875
    - 6 weeks, \$2225
    - 7 weeks, \$2575
    - 8 weeks, \$2875
    - 9 weeks, \$3195
    - 10 weeks, \$3475
    - 11 weeks, \$3775
    - 12 weeks, \$4055
    - each extra week, \$335

Included in the course fees: registration, level test, class material and handouts, certificates, wifi internet connection at the school, cultural & social activities (weekly movie nights, salsa and merengue lessons and conversational sessions) and access to all the school's facilities.

## Accommodation Prices for 2014

### Pension Topas :

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Room Type	Single occupancy	Double occupancy	Triple occupancy	Quadruple occupancy
Private room shared bath	\$14/night	\$22/night	n.a.	n.a.
Private room private bath	\$25/night	\$37/night	\$45/night	\$50/night

### Isla Verde:

<http://islaverdepanama.com/>

Students	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Extra week
1 or 2	\$495	\$695	\$850	\$1025	\$255

#### About Isla Verde Rates:

These rates include up to 2 guests. Due to the serene and tranquil nature of this tropical paradise, children between the ages of 2 through 10 are not accepted. Infants and supervised children over the age of 10 are happily welcomed. Children up to 2 years old stay free, Children ages 10 - 18 are an additional \$10 per night, and extra adults are \$20 per night. These prices do not include the required 10% IPAT-TAX (Panama Tourism Tax). This will be added to the total bill at the end of student's stay.

#### Isla Verde Only:

Week = \$495, Extra Night = \$70

### Home Stays

- Home stay setup fee: \$50 (includes **pickup in David** (either at the airport or bus terminal) and **transportation to the student's host family house in Boquete**, the **processing** of your [Immersion Pre-Program Interview](#) and the **selection of your host family**. If students arrive to David out of office hours (before 8 a.m. or after 5:30 p.m. then the pickup can be arranged for an additional \$10).
- Home stay 1 meal per day: \$175 per week
- Home stay 2 meals: \$200 per week
- Home stay 3 meals: \$225 per week

## **Extras**

- **Airport Pickup (David - Boquete), \$35**
- **Airport Pickup (Panama City – Hotel, Bus Station or Internal Airport), \$35**
- **One-way flight Panama City to David, \$125**
- **Bus from Panama City to David, \$17**
- **1 night hotel stay in Panama City, \$75**
- **Extra night in homestay: \$30**
- **Use of Laundry service at host family: \$5 per week**

## Payment Info

**Paypal** is still not available in Panama to receive money.

For **payments UNDER \$2000 we prefer to receive payments from agents by Visa (no extra charge for agents), Mastercard (no extra charge for agents) or American Express (5% extra charge).**

For **payments OVER \$2000 we appreciate if agents can make a wire transfer.** The following info is provided:

Our **account number** is **03-48-01-060111-1**. Our **bank** is **BANCO GENERAL, S.A. - PANAMA**, and or company name is: **Tourism Generation, Inc.**

*Electronic money transfer to:*  
**CITIBANK, NEW YORK, N.Y.**  
SWIFT CODE **CITIUS33**  
ABA **021000089**

*for final credit to the account of:*  
**BANCO GENERAL, S.A. - PANAMA**  
ACCT **10951934**

SWIFT CODE **BAGEPAPA**  
For Final Credit to: **TOURISM GENERATION, INC.**  
Account number: **03-48-01-060111-1**

An intermediary bank in the U.S.A is used to make the transfer to Panama. Please specify that the final credit is for **Tourism Generation, Inc.**, account number **03-48-01-060111-1**. YOU ALSO HAVE TO ADD OUR PHYSICAL ADDRESS AND ALSO YOUR OWN ADDRESS. Our address is Central Avenue, Los Establos Plaza, 20-22, Boquete, Chiriquí, Panamá.