



WELCOME PACKAGE

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
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WELCOME

Montañita Spanish School Team

Hola! We can't wait to welcome you to our school family, help improve your Spanish, show you around town, and share some great activities. Our location is spectacular, up on the hill overlooking Montañita town and the ocean, with some of our classes taking place in the garden or with stunning views from the rooftop terrace. We have a very friendly small school vibe with around 12 employees including Ecuadorian teachers, office and cleaning staff so everyone knows everyone very well.

If you have any questions upon your arrival, or if you want to join one of our many activities, just ask our friendly interns located in the communal area.



Are you looking for some more information about transportation, our address, accommodation, or your first day at school or surf classes? Please continue reading and you'll find out all you need to know!



From Guayaquil

Private car transfer

24 hours a day we offer a meet and greet transfer from Guayaquil Airport direct to Montañita. The price is \$100 from Guayaquil.

If you would like this option, please email us on info@montanitaspanishschool.com with your flight details and we will book you with one of our experienced drivers.

Important: If you have any changes to your flight details or any other changes for your transport please contact us on our Emergency numbers (both are mobile h whatsapp; English h Spanish spoken):

Contact number 1 : Manuel +593 999189735

Contact number 2 : Gijs +593 989791305

Direct executive bus operated by CLP

Take a taxi to the bus Terminal Terreste (pronounced as ter-mee-NAL/tsminal te-RES-tre) which is close to the airport. There you will find buses direct to Montañita with the company "CLP" (Cooperativa de Transporte Libertad Peninsular) which has daily departures hourly from 5:00am to 7:30pm. You buy your ticket, which costs \$ 6.00, at the CLP ticket office #220. CLP staff will tell you where the bus is departing from - usually departs from platform 75/7 (look for a bus colour similar to red wine!).

The journey to Montañita is about 2.5 hours.

Indirect bus (If the Direct bus if full)

From the Terminal Terreste you can firstly catch a direct bus to Santa Elena Bus Terminal (several bus companies go to here, so departures are about hourly) The cost is about \$3. Once in Santa Elena, you transfer to one of the local buses going to Montañita (about \$1.50) It's a small bus terminal so this is very easy to do. The total time is normally about 4 hours.

From Quito

You can fly from Quito to Guayaquil and then take either a private transfer or a bus to Montañita. There are no direct buses from Quito so you need to travel on one of the many bus lines travelling the Quito/Guayaquil route (takes approx 8 hours depending upon time of day and time of year (remember the first bus to Montañita doesn't depart until 5am)

Once in Guayaquil follow the instructions above regarding taking a bus onwards to Montañita. The total journey is approx 10 - 12 hours.

From Manta

Go to the bus terminal. From there catch the bus to Montañita. Some will go direct (taking about 3 hours) and some will have a stop over in Jipijapa or Puerto Lopez (taking about 4 hours).

*Be aware, just because a bus says "Directo", it does not mean that it will not make stops.

ONCE YOU ARE IN MONTANITA

The school is open weekdays from 8am to 5pm. If you arrive during these hours please come directly to the school so we can assist you.

How do you find us? The school is about 100m south of the bus stop upon the hill. We have a very large yellow advertising banner running across the street pointing to our stairs. To reach the school, you'll have to walk up these quite steep stairs. If you don't want to walk up the stairs with your luggage, you can go to your accommodation first and then come to us.

*If you arrive outside our open hours do not come to the school, please go directly to your accommodation.

YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

FIRST MONDAY

@ 07:30AM - Arrive at the school

For an orientation of important information, introductions, and an assesment test
Please bring something to write with and something to write on (a pen and paper!)

@ 12:00 - Lunchtime

Walk through town with the interns who are always happy to share local tips and advice on all things in Montañita: ATMS, restaurants, barber, tiendas, taxis etc.

SCHOOL HOURS

8AM-5PM

CLASSES

8:00 - 9:55
10:05 - 12:00
13:00 - 14:55
15:05 - 17:00

TIMETABLE

The timetable for each week will normally be displayed at the school by the Friday morning of the week before.


If you have any requests or need any changes for the following week, please contact Liliana, our academic director, or the interns by Wednesday morning at the latest.



Occasionally there may be changes to the timetable so please check regularly.



If you are on the timetable for the next week, and didn't inform Antonio a week before a non-attendance, you are stillexpected to pay for your classes.






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THE SCHOOL

Text Books: Your Grammar, Exercise, and Beginner book can be either Rented or Purchased.
(These books are not compulsory and are not part of the class structure, but we strongly recommend them for self-study outside of class)

Rental option: Pay the deposit and they are yours for the duration of your stay. If you return the books in the same condition that you received them, you will get your deposit back.

Deposit prices: Grammar \$13, Exercise \$13 and Beginner book \$5

Purchase option: Your deposit becomes the purchase price and they are all yours.



There is always so much to do!
Check out what is happening this week from the boards in the Communal Area. Make the most of your time in Montaña and sign up for any activities or events that interests you.

We hold a Welcome Dinner every Monday, our famous Parrifiesta every other Friday, and a Surf trip every other Saturday. Other than these iconic experiences we also often organize beach volleyball, water volleyball, sunset trips, and cooking classes to name a few!
(Activities are a service we are happy to provide to our students, we do not make any money on these activities, the price is the actual cost)

Payments: We request that you prepay your course prior to arrival. If this is not possible, please pay on the first day of classes (before 3pm). The Montaña bank is open Monday to Saturday and they have their hours posted outside the building. You can take up to \$1000 out of your credit/debit card with your passport, or \$300 out of the ATM. There are at least ATM's to choose from.
(Students extending their course should pay the Friday of the week before lunchtime 12:00)

Feedback: There are evaluation forms available at the front desk. Please fill one out on your last Friday and return it to the interns. We appreciate your feedback.

General maintenance: If something is not working at the school, please tell the office and at the Cabañas please tell Ronny. If you run out of toilet paper tell Ronny at the Cabañas (preferably before you need it!), Ronny is the man! If you have asked & nothing happens, then inform the management team.



SURFING

Jorge is our local surf instructor. The interns keep a record of your lessons, so please pay them directly for the lessons you follow.

Jorge provides our surf classes in the morning and in the afternoon. It could be that the surf classes only take place in the morning or only in the afternoon, it depends on the tides.

Students are always able to join a surf class besides their Spanish classes.



If you would like to do a surf class, please bring your towel, sun block, drinking water & bathing suit to school on the Monday morning, in case you have Spanish class at 8am followed directly by surfing at 10am.



Surfboard Rentals: These can be rented from us. The rules are simple: You break it, you fix it/pay for it! Please check carefully before you take it out - if it is damaged (and not recorded in the book) do not use it - tell **Jorge** immediately, otherwise you will be responsible for the damage. Please speak to **Jorge** for rental prices.

Buying surfboards: For students staying longer we often recommend that you buy a board, use it, and a week before you depart sell it again. This can work out to be a very cheap "rental." We might have some boards for sale at the school.



NEW FOR 2016

If you are staying for four weeks or more, you can shape your own Balsa Surf Board, one that is specific to your skills and body. Ask in advance for details.

LODGING

Montañita Cabañas

We recommend our purpose built tropical oasis for its great vibe, excellent facilities and excellent customer service. Totally safe and where the fun begins!

If you want to find out more about room types and prices just send us an email

How do you find the Cabañas?

Walk north on the main road from the bus station (i.e. towards the river). After about 150 meters, you'll cross the only bridge. Look up and you will see a big green banner stretching across the road saying "Montañita Cabañas 50 meters" pointing to our street. Walk down about 80m and we are on the right (the map is attached). The code for the entry is 1245.

The staff at the Cabañas can easily be identified by their green shirts with the Montañita Cabañas logo on them. Ronny and Pancho are in charge of check-ins during the day and at night it is Antonio.

Please call if you can't find your way there. The staff only speaks Spanish, but one of our interns is usually around to help. And they speak English :).

The phone number of the cabañas is +59395928393

*Please note that bookings are taken under the condition that you may be required to change rooms during your stay






Homestay Accommodation



If you are staying with a host family, we will send you a homestay confirmation email about two weeks before you arrive. This email will have details about your family, their contact information, directions of how to get to their house, a photo of the family, and a map showing where their house is.




*Please note there are no street addresses (or in fact a postal service) in Montañita - so you will have to follow the directions and/or use the map that is attached!









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MONTAÑITA SPANISH SCHOOL

Please Note That The School Is Not Open On National Holidays Or Weekends

National Holidays

If there is a holiday during the week, we will adjust the lesson plans for you to get the same material over the four days, and normal weekly prices apply.

2023

2nd of January, 20th & 21st of February, 7th of April, 1st and 26th of May, 11th of August, 9th of October, 2nd and 3rd of November, 25th of December*

*Sometimes the Ecuadorian government spontaneously adds a public holiday, please keep this in mind.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us before, during and after your stay!

Find more information on our website <http://www.montanitaspanishschool.com/>

Add us as a friend on Facebook and Instagram to see all our latest 'going's on'

General Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/montanitaspanish>)

Our Facebook User Page (<https://www.facebook.com/montanitaspanish>)

Our Instagram Page (<https://www.instagram.com/montanitaspanishschool>)



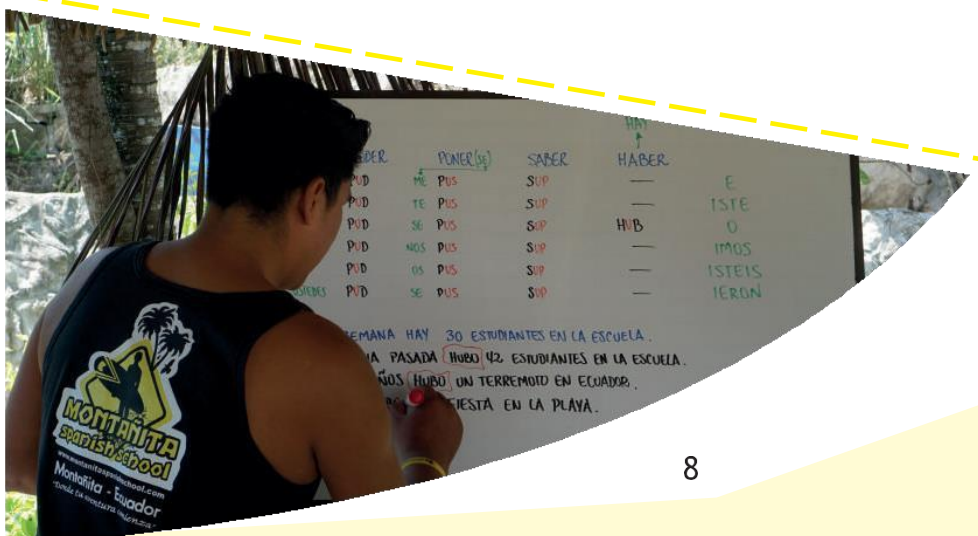
STEP-BY-STEP ARRIVAL PLAN

ARRIVAL ON WEEK DAYS

- 1 Go to school to do your Spanish test. (8:00am - 5:00pm)
- 2 After indicating your Spanish level, you will be placed in the most suitable class.
- 3 Check in at the Cabañas, your Homestay or your own accommodation.

ARRIVAL ON WEEKENDS

- 1 Check in at the Cabañas, your Homestay or your own accommodation.
- 2 Arrive at school on Monday morning at 07:30 for your Spanish test and orientation. Our interns are waiting for you to give you the test so our teacher Antonio could indicate your Spanish level.
Do not forget your notebook, pen and the most important your smile!
Bring your swimwear, towel and sun block if you have surf classes with us.
- 3 Your test will indicate your Spanish level and your teacher will call out your name to start with your first Spanish lesson. Enjoy and good luck!



WHAT TO BRING

When coming to Montañita, it is good to make sure you are well prepared. Not only for school but also for the climate that we have here. Here is a list of the most important things to bring:

- Light clothing
- Mosquito repellent (also long sleeved tops and light long trousers are recommended)
- Sunblock
- Swimming wear
- Sunglasses
- Towel
- Adapter for type A or B.
- Dollars (notes no larger than \$10 if possible, as change can be a problem)
- Notebook
- Pen

Have in mind that you will be in a small surftown in Ecuador. Buying any electronics, phones, storage devices, clothing and shoes etc. will be nearly impossible. Bring what you need with you!



MAP

