



Spanish Courses in

Colombia

Bogotá

*¡Vívelo!*

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International  
House  
Bogotá



The city of Bogotá

# Spanish Courses in Bogotá, Colombia



The school entrance



The school building



El Chiva Bus

## Colombia

Occupying the northwest corner of South America, Colombia is bordered by the Caribbean to the North, by Venezuela to the East, by Brazil, Ecuador and Peru to the south and by Panama and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Roughly the size of Spain, Portugal and France combined, Colombia has a wide variety of landscapes including mountains, high plateaus, rain forests and tropical beaches. It is also one of the countries with the highest biodiversity in the world. The population of Colombia is around 44 million. Over the past 500 years indigenous people have mixed with immigrants from Europe, Africa and elsewhere to form the current amalgam of ethnic groups. Internationally renowned Colombian artists include novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, painter and sculptor Fernando Botero and singer/songwriter Shakira.

## Bogotá

Located in the centre of the country at an altitude of approximately 2,600 metres Bogotá enjoys an almost perfect climate with average temperatures varying from 9 to 23 degrees centigrade. The city has a population of around 8 million and is divided into a number of different areas including the historic centre 'La Candelaria', the downtown business district and several modern and prosperous suburbs. Getting around is relatively easy and inexpensive thanks to the city's innovative TransMilenio metro-bus service. There are too many things to do and see in the city to list here but among the highlights are the colonial style buildings of La Candelaria; the Gold Museum with its unique collection of pre-Colombian gold work; the view from the Monastery of Monserrate which overlooks the city and the Botanic gardens which are like a miniature national park.

## IH Bogotá

The school is located in an astonishingly beautiful building in the heart of the historical district of La Candelaria. Nicknamed 'el palacio' by the school owners, it is famous for being the building that several former presidents used to dress and have refreshments in before their ceremony of investiture. The building has many original features including beautiful tiled and wooden floors, carved wooden ceilings, a wide, wooden staircase that sweeps up to the first floor, and a spacious interior courtyard that lets in plenty of light. Apart from the reception and offices, the school has 12 spacious classrooms and a study room with computers that students can use before or after class. IH Bogotá also teaches English to people from the local community so there are plenty of opportunities for our international students to meet and make friends with people from Bogotá.

**Safety:** Colombia still suffers from an image of lawlessness caused by the activities of guerrilla groups and drug cartels. Thankfully, violent crime has tumbled dramatically over recent years. So much so that Lonely Planet, a travel publisher, chose Colombia as one of its top ten travel hotspots for 2006, in large part because of improvements in safety. Of course travellers to Bogotá still need to take care, as indeed they have to in any large city, but the vast majority of visitors will experience nothing but warmth, hospitality, honesty and politeness.

# Spanish Courses

## 1. Intensive Group courses

This is our standard Spanish course which consists of 4 hours tuition per day, from 09.00 to 13.00, Monday to Friday. Courses are offered at all levels from complete beginners to very advanced.

**Please note:** The maximum number of students per class is 8 and the minimum age is 18.

**Included in the course fee:** Registration, classes, level test, certificates, programme of social & cultural activities and advice on tours and travelling in Colombia.

## 2. One-to-one (or one-to-two) classes

The dates, times and linguistic focus of these private language classes can be scheduled to suit the needs and preferences of the students concerned. We are able to offer private classes at all levels and students can start any Monday of the year (except public holidays).

## 3. Closed Group courses

IH Bogotá is able to organize courses for closed groups of students at any time of the year. The duration, intensity and linguistic focus of these courses can be tailored to the needs and preferences of the students.

## 4. On-line Spanish courses

In collaboration with our partner company Net Languages, IH Bogotá is able to offer Spanish courses via the Internet which include a personalized tutorial service. All levels are available from beginners to upper intermediate.

**GENERAL NOTE: 1 hour = 55 minutes**

### What's more:

We offer the possibility of combining a Spanish course with some **voluntary work** with children, the elderly or internal refugees.

For those students who love nature and adventure, IH Bogotá offers the opportunity of combining a Spanish course with **an eco-adventure in the Amazon rainforest**.

# Accommodation

IH Bogotá offers a range of accommodation options for students including:

## 1. Local host families

Students are normally provided with single rooms although students who want to stay with a friend or relative can also share bedrooms. Host family accommodation is offered on a bed and breakfast basis or half board (which also includes the evening meal). Some families are also able to offer students their own private bathroom.

## 2. Rented apartment

Students staying for 2 weeks or longer can choose to rent a fully furnished apartment close to the school. No meals are provided but a weekly cleaning service is included.

## 3. Hotels

Bogotá has a wide range of hotels to suit all budgets. Some are just 5 minutes walk from the school.

### Social and Cultural Programme (for Intensive Group Courses)

IH Bogotá will organize a range of social and cultural activities which includes guided visits to places of interest in Bogotá as well as excursions to natural parks and other tourist attractions outside the city. The cost of the guide is covered by the course fee although students will be asked to pay any entrance fees or transport charges themselves. IH Bogotá will be more than happy to help students organise visits and excursions on request.

**Insurance:** We strongly recommend students to take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance in their country of origin to cover any loss, sickness or accidents, which may occur during the course.



IH Students



Spanish Class

**How to get to Bogotá:** There are direct flights from most major cities to Bogotá International Airport which is just 20km from the city centre. The journey from the airport to Bogotá city by bus or taxi is very affordable and should take less than 40 minutes. Alternatively the school can arrange an airport meeting and transfer service on request (see details on the price list attached).

### Map of 'La Candelaria'





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IH Bogotá is a member of The Viva Group.  
[www.viva-group.info](http://www.viva-group.info)