



### What program are you here to learn about?

- Family Immersion
- General Immersion for adults
- High School Immersion
- Medical Immersion
- Teacher's Immersion

CommonGround INTERNATIONAL

### What are your burning questions?

Chat in your questions!

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### ¿Por qué quieren aprender español?

We are proud of you for taking your next step to improve your Spanish!

What is your *WHY* for improving your Spanish?

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### Key factors to consider in a quality immersion experience

- Health & Safety
- The atmosphere of the town
- Quality language instruction
- Host families
- Meaningful volunteer work
- Adventure

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## What does immersion mean to you?

Chat in your thoughts!



## Here is what our clients say immersion is...

- 24/7 Spanish learning
- Being surrounded by sounds, food, music, language, people of a foreign country and feeling out of my comfort zone at times
- Swimming in a new language and culture
- Experiencing everything in life again but through the filter of another language and cultural perspective
- Having fun adventures and doing meaningful work in Spanish

## The CGI story

1. Common Ground started in 2001 as a side hustle: a nights and weekends project.
2. Teaching professionals came first...
  - then travel
  - then travel w/ children
3. Then other language services that support our mission of: *Impacting communities through language*



## CGI Trips are a combination of...

### Classes



### Host Family



### Community Service



### Adventures



## All programs include...

1. Pre-departure course and guided preparation
2. On-site coordinator/trip leader
3. Airport pick-up and transfer to host family upon arrival
4. Medical travel insurance policy (meets Covid-19 requirements)
5. Free weekends to explore the beautiful country
6. CME, CEU & PDU's credits available for additional cost

## 2022 Travel Dates...

### Costa Rica

1. Jan 29 - Mar 12
2. Jun 25 - Jul 23



### Ecuador

1. Jun 11 - Jun 25



## Ecuador

- In South America
- Between Colombia & Peru
- 2nd smallest country in South America
- Straddles the equator, hence the name:)
- Diverse landscape: Andes mountains, Amazon rain & cloud forest, Galapagos islands, Incan ruins



## What it's known for

- Environmental sciences & biodiversity
- Rich cultural heritage - part of the Incan empire
- Diverse micro-systems and landscapes from Galapagos islands to 20,000 foot glaciated peaks
- Exportation of oil and the panama hats (not from Panama)
- 1 million indigenous language speakers
- Recognized languages: Spanish, Quichua, Shuar, & more than 10 indigenous languages exist



## Otavalo

- Otavalo is in the Andean highlands
- Province = Imbabura
- Population = 40,000
- Elevation = 8,307 ft.
- Plaza de Ponchos = the largest outdoor artisan market in South America
- Indigenous Otavalo people known for their textiles, weaving, crafts
- Beautiful scenery, lakes, volcanos

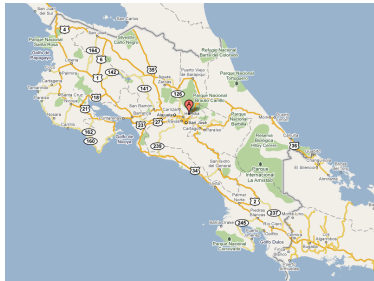


## Costa Rica



## Why Costa Rica?

1. Safe & Hospitable to N. American Tourists - Historically 1.5 million tourists annually ~U.S. Department of State
2. Small physical area (20k square miles ~ VT & NH combined) yet extremely varied terrain, ecosystems, and climate
3. Longstanding relationships with communities and organizations where we live, study, work, and travel



## Santo Domingo at a glance

- In the Central Mountain Range outside of San José
- Province = Heredia
- Population = 30,000
- Elevation = 4035 ft.
- Historical coffee plantation zone
- Not too hot, not too cold
- Not touristy at all, some modern conveniences



## Host families on program

- Host families live within walking distance of schools and meetup points
- Ages range from young parents to grandparents
- Mostly middle-class working families



## How do we select the families?



- **General like-ability & pleasantness**
- **Accommodations:** Must have a separate rooms available for participants
- **Home safety:** no criminal history, unsafe animals, etc
- **Proximity to language school:** within a 20 – 25 minute walk to school

## How are travelers and families matched?



- Family availability
- Traveler preferences for children, pets, etc
- Special traveler requirements: diet needs, mobility, etc

## Las clases de español

- **Intensive Spanish classes** with native Spanish speakers
- **Small class sizes:** 2 - 6 students.
- **Classes held Mon.-Fri. 4 hrs. a day, 20 hours per week**



## Daily Spanish classes

- Oral communication focus
- Placement tests to make sure you're learning at your level



## Cultural Classes

- Cook the traditional dishes that your mamá cooks
- Dance the popular salsa and merengue dances



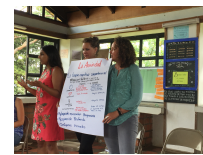
# Community Service Projects

## Objective:

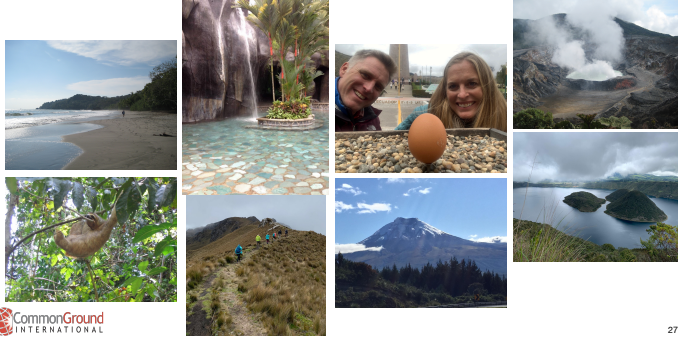
Support local organizations and underserved communities while strengthening your Spanish



# For example:



# Weekend adventures



# What about CR & EC COVID Requirements?

## Costa Rica: 11/8/21

- Complete Costa Rica [Health Pass](#) & attach proof of vaccination to submission
- Unvaccinated travelers need to have COVID travel insurance
- No quarantine requirements upon entry

## Ecuador: 3/22/21

- Must complete [Traveler Health Declaration Form](#)
- Must present Proof of Negative PCR - or - vaccination card
  - No rapid antigen test
  - If recently recovered from COVID, Medical certificate from provider
- No quarantine requirements upon entry unless presenting symptoms
- For Galapagos, vaccination card required for ALL TRAVELERS 2y/o and older

# CGI COVID Requirements

- Fully vaccinated
- Proof of negative test 3 days prior to travel: Antigen, PCR or home test (with witness)
- If recently recovered from COVID and you are unable to be vaccinated due to your COVID treatment/recovery, your unique situation will be reviewed by our medical advisory board.

# USA Re-Entry requirements

## USA 10/25/21:

- If not fully vaccinated, must provide negative COVID test w/in 1 day of return flight
- Vaccinated travelers must provide proof of vaccination and negative COVID test w/in 3 days of return flight.

## Why choose to travel with CGI?

1. We're a US-based small business. You know who we are and where we live.
2. You're not alone. You're surrounded by like-minded travelers that form a cohesive group
3. We prepare you before you travel. No day to day distractions from your learning
4. The program design is like a mini study abroad & Spanish is integrated into everything you do.



## Next Steps...

1. Get all your questions answered:
  - FAQs now
  - Email or schedule a call
2. Reserve your spot with \$500 deposit
3. Begin tracking flights and preparing for your trip

## What else should I budget for?

### Flights:

- San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO is airport code)
- Quito, Ecuador (UIO is airport code)

### Lunches:

- (\$5 - \$7/day on average)
- Brownbag \$2 - \$3/day

### Day tours and Optional weekend excursions

Taxi / bus fare back to airport for departure

Any COVID expenses (testing, etc)

## What questions do you have?

