

## **Visit Mexico: Participate in a“Learning Vacation”!**

### **Spanish Immersion Program for Adult Learners: Beginner to Advanced**

**Cuernavaca, Mexico, February 25-March 7, 2010**

#### **Dr. Ray Glass, Trip Coordinator**

Last year, nine adults ranging in age from 60 to 83 participated in this stimulating and informative study trip to Cuernavaca, Mexico. The current trip repeats many aspects of the one taken last year and offers participants an opportunity to spend an additional week in a different town, San Miguel de Allende.

Cuernavaca, the “City of Eternal Spring”, is located about 50 miles southwest of Mexico City and is a center for tourism and Spanish language schools. There are many shops, restaurants and parks as well as open air markets and museums. It is safe to walk throughout the city during the day and evening. Taxis are abundant and safe for late evening transportation.

In February and March the weather is sunny and dry with morning temperatures in the high 60's and afternoon temperatures in the high 70's. The trip consists of three parts:

- (1) Daily language instruction;
- (2) Cultural visits; and,
- (3) A unique home-stay program.

An optional one week trip to San Miguel de Allende at the conclusion of the Cuernavaca trip is also available.

Daily language instruction takes place M-F from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a short break around 11:00 a.m. Upon arrival at our school, the Cemanahuac Educational Community, each person will be given a written test and then assigned to one of five levels from absolute beginner through advanced. Classes are small, informal, and range from 1-5 students.

All instruction is provided by trained native speakers with emphasis on conversational skills.

Cultural visits consist of a variety of scheduled trips as follows: Taxco is a colonial silver mining town nestled in the Sierra Madre Mountains. We will tour several silver shops as well as the 17th century baroque church in the town square. Xochicalco is a partially reconstructed pyramid site. We will have a guided tour with a detailed explanation of the stone carvings on the pyramids. We will have a guided walking tour of the historic section of Cuernavaca including the Palacio Cortez, Cathedral of Cuernavaca and Borda Gardens. In addition to the above trips, you will be able to participate in optional Saturday or Sunday trips (\$45.00) to Mexico City and Teotihuacan, one of the major pyramid sites in Mexico.

Home stays are in quiet, private homes usually owned by retired individuals or couples with grown children. Homes are clean and spacious and provide an important opportunity for practicing language skills around the breakfast and main afternoon meals that are provided each day. Accommodations can easily be made for vegetarians. Single and double rooms are available. The -adults who participated in this trip last year were particularly impressed with the quality of the home-stays and the hospitality of the host families.

**Cost:** The cost of this trip is \$835.00 plus airfare (approximately \$600.00). The cost includes tuition for five days of instruction, registration fees, room and board (home-stay) while in Cuernavaca, and the scheduled trips mentioned above.

**More about the trip leader and language school:** Ray Glass is a professor emeritus at the University of Maine at Farmington. For the past seven years he has taken groups of college students to Cuernavaca for intensive Spanish language study. The Cemanahuac Educational Community in Cuernavaca is a well established school dedicated to providing intensive Spanish language and cultural learning opportunities for college students and adult learners for over 35 years.

**Registration and further information:** For further information and or to register, contact Ray Glass at 778-6785 or rglass@maine.edu.

**Deposits, payments and refunds:** A \$200.00 deposit will be required by November 15<sup>th</sup> to hold a place for you. A minimum of 5 participants will be needed to conduct this study trip. Deposits will be fully refunded if the trip is cancelled due to low enrollment.

Once we have received at least five deposits, we will proceed with purchasing airline tickets. An additional \$400.00 payment will be due by December 1 to purchase tickets. The balance will be due on or about February 1, 2010.

**Sample Itinerary:**

Below is the 2009 itinerary that we followed last year. This is presented to give you a more detailed explanation of the trip. The itinerary will be updated in the near future and will include details about the San Miguel option.

**February 20th,:** Depart Logan at 7:00 am on Continental #683 to Houston.

Depart Houston on Continental #1424 at noon arriving Mexico City at

2:25. Take Pullman de Morelos bus to Cuernavaca, arriving approximately 5:00 p.m.

Take taxi to Cemanahuac Educational Community. Get settled in home-stays.

Note that Matiana and I will go to Boston the night before staying at the Comfort inn, Revere, MA (781 485 3600; kdargenis@comfortinnboston.com. They have a “park and fly” option and free shuttle to and from the airport.)

**February 21:** Meet at Cemanhuac Education Community at 10:00 a.m. to take written placement exam.  
At 10:30 Ray and

Matiana will lead an informal walking tour of the historic section of Cuernavaca. Return to homes by 2:00 for afternoon meal (comida) and spend rest of the day on your own.

**February 22:** Participate in optional trip to Mexico City (\$45.00). Ray will also lead an optional trip (\$3.00 for 45 minute public bus fare) to the historic town of Tepoztlan. We will meet at Cemanahuac at 9:30 am, walk to the bus station (25 minutes) and then take a public bus (45 minutes) to Tepoztlan where you will be free to tour the colorful markets and walk the streets of this traditional town.

**February 23-27:** Attend daily classes from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. During this week two pre-paid scheduled events will take place during different afternoons: (1) A guided walking tour of Cuernavaca including a visit to the Borda Gardens, Palacio Cortez, and Cathedral of Cuernavaca; and (2) A guided trip to Xochicalco, a pyramid site. An optional down-town visit to the Brady Museum (\$10.00-\$15.00 admission) is recommended on your own, but is not included in the cost.

**February 28:** Pre-paid trip to Taxco, a colonial silver mining town, with ample opportunity to visit the historic baroque church, walk the narrow streets, and visit the many silver shops.

**March 1:** Depart early (perhaps 5:00 am) from Casino de Selva Bus Station on Pullman de Morelos bus for Mexico City and flight home. Most of us will depart at 9:00 am on Continental # 1741 for Newark and then take Continental#1180 from Newark to Boston arriving in Boston at 6:29.