

# Mexico Immersion

May 9 – June  
4 2010

## Experience 2010

~ Daisy Ochoa ~

### Cuernavaca



Throughout a whole month in Mexico, I along with 7 other students studied Spanish at a language school with a focus in agriculture. We stayed in Cuernavaca with host families for 2 weeks. There, we had class 5 days a week for four hours. This was an intense learning experience, for one had to completely immerse oneself in the language and culture. Everyone was placed at one's own level of Spanish and the instructors were very patient and helpful. When not in class, we went on field trips to see ruins and museums in nearby cities and Mexico City. In Mexico city we visited Teotihuacán, where we climbed various pyramids, art museums,

the national palace, and Templo Mayor (to name a few). In Cuernavaca we visited various historical sites and we went to the cathedral, which was gorgeous. The "Zocalo" was always a great time. There, we did lots of shopping and ate a ton of food. Living with host families made the experience more memorable. Our Mexican families were very generous and loving. I always enjoyed sitting at the dinner table and having hour-long conversations.



### Buenavista

After two weeks in Cuernavaca, we moved to our next destination, Buenavista, Guerrero. We stayed there for a week and lived with different host families. Buenavista was very different from Cuernavaca. Buenavista is a small rural town where everyone knows everyone, as opposed to the city life in Cuernavaca. As in Cuernavaca, we had class in the mornings and went on field trips in the evenings, with the exceptions of a few days. We visited a tannery workshop, greenhouses, and a research center at a University. We also had the opportunity to take classes such as

cooking, guitar, and embroidery. As a class we also cooked dinner one night, where we made tamales, tacos, and tortillas. Very tasty! Buenavista is a small town with tons of outdoor activities to do. I along with a few classmates went on hikes and runs to see the gorgeous scenery. We all enjoyed having their ice cream everyday after class.







## Acapulco

After three weeks of studying hard, we took a trip out to the beach for a few days. We went to Acapulco and stayed at a gorgeous hotel with a lovely view of the beach. There were tons of activities to do. We enjoyed going for swims out in the beach, sun bathing, snorkeling, cliff jumping, and making friends with the local people. The food was amazing and we all had a great time listening to live bands and salsa dancing.



## Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos

Our last week in Mexico we spent it at an Orphanage. At the orphanage we spent time with the children teaching them about the importance of agriculture, and the nutritious value of the Moringa tree. We planted three beds of Moringa trees with the children. The children really enjoyed learning about the trees and especially helping plant them. Everyday we ate with the children at every meal and socialized with them. We played sports with them everyday. They are all, of course, great soccer players. The children loved to talk and by the end of

the week we had all bonded and did not want to leave. It is amazing what the coordinators and volunteers do for the kids at this orphanage. Although out of our comfort zone, it was a great unforgettable experience that one should experience.



## Summary

Overall, my experience in Mexico was an unforgettable one. I cannot say there was one thing I did not like; I enjoyed every minute I was there. My Spanish improved a lot, and I got more out of this experience than I expected. On top of becoming proficient in the language, I learned a lot about the culture and daily living of Mexican families of different backgrounds. I especially enjoyed going to the orphanage and visiting the many pyramids.

