

## **ASPEN HIGH SCHOOL AND ASPEN SISTER CITIES**

### **Student Exchange Programs with Bariloche, Argentina**

Aspen High School and Aspen Sister Cities are pleased to offer two student exchange programs with our sister city of Bariloche, Argentina. Bariloche is our newest sister city with whom we have had several successful exchange programs on the middle school and high school level. The two programs for students of Aspen High School are: the Intensive Spanish Language Program and the Extended Student Exchange Program. Both are described in detail below.

If you would like more information about participating in either of these programs please feel free to speak with the Spanish department at Aspen High School or write to [griff@sopris.net](mailto:griff@sopris.net).

#### **Intensive Spanish Language Program**

For the last five years, Aspen Sister Cities and Aspen High School have conducted a successful language and cultural program for juniors who are taking I.B. Spanish. In conjunction with Aspen's sister city of Bariloche, we have developed what we call the Intensive Spanish Language Program. The program is designed to be a practical learning experience that is a natural extension of the I.B. Spanish program at Aspen High School. In addition, the program offers a cultural element exposing students to a new country, its people, and its customs.

The students depart for Bariloche shortly after the end of the school year in June and return home approximately three weeks later. A faculty member of the Aspen High School staff will accompany them. While in Bariloche the students will stay with families who have children of a similar age. They will attend intensive language classes every morning for two hours. After lunch, which will be eaten at one of the three Bariloche private schools, the students will then have four hours of practical language instructions by taking field trips (all conducted in Spanish) to the supermarket, bank, museums, shops, transit system etc. There will also be several guided tourist excursions conducted during their stay so that our students can experience the tourist attractions of Bariloche. Weekends will be free for the students to enjoy with their home stay families. This program will be coordinated and directed by the chairman of the Bariloche Sister Cities Education Committee and a teacher from San Patricio School in Bariloche. Both have visited Aspen with student groups from Bariloche.

Students who are interested in extending this experience for a longer period of time may stay in Bariloche for the balance of the summer as an extended exchange student. Please see **Extended Student Exchange Program** below.

## **Extended Student Exchange Program**

### **Studying in Bariloche for an Extended Period**

Aspen students have the opportunity to extend their experiences of the Intensive Spanish Language Program by staying in Bariloche for the remainder of the summer. They will travel to Bariloche in early June as part of the Intensive Spanish Language Program. However, instead of returning to Aspen in late June with the rest of the students, participants would stay in Bariloche. After completion of the Intensive Language Program, the extended exchange student would first enjoy the Argentine winter holiday (remember the seasons are the reverse of ours) for two weeks. At that time they would get to know the community, ski, and meet their Argentine classmates in a social setting. After the winter vacation, the students would then attend regular classes at one of three private schools in Bariloche for the remainder of their stay. They would return to Aspen in late August or early September. While in Bariloche, our students would live with a family and would be expected to participate in all family activities. Application to this program will be limited to current juniors who are studying Spanish.

### **Hosting Bariloche Students in Aspen**

Bariloche has several junior level high school students interested in studying at Aspen High School each year. They would come for the beginning of the third quarter (early January) and stay through spring vacation. We need host families here in Aspen to provide housing for these students. Ideally, those families hosting a student from Bariloche would also be sending a student from Aspen to Bariloche in June or perhaps sent a student to Bariloche previously, but this is not a strict requirement. As a host family, you would be expected to provide food and housing for the exchange student, but the student would pay for most of his/her other expenses.

If you are interested in participating in any of these programs or would like additional information, please feel free to speak with the Spanish department at Aspen High School or write to [griff@sopris.net](mailto:griff@sopris.net).