

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

VISITS & TRIPS

Learn all about the Alcázar visit and three-day trip to North Africa that our students took this month.

ACTIVITIES

See photos from the second and third cooking classes in which our students learned to make *Paella Mixta*, as well as from our fun day of Halloween celebration.

UPCOMING NEWS

Discover the visits, trips and activities yet to come!

STUDENT CORNER

Don't miss this month's blogs, by McHenry County College student, Kaitlyn Guanci, and Broward college student, Joshuva Johnson.

To view all our student blogs, visit: ics-seville.org/blogs.



OUR SECOND CULTURAL VISIT VISITING A CITY RICH IN HISTORY

GUIDED TOUR BY
PROFESSOR
DUDA POPOVIC



ALCÁZAR PALACE

The Alcázar was built by Castillian Christians on the site of a Muslim residential fortress. It is a preeminent example of Mudéjar architecture on the Iberian Peninsula and is universally renowned as one of the most beautiful of its kind. It is also the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe.

[Click on photos to see full picture album](#)

OUR MOST AWAITED TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA

Three days in Morocco

We spent three
incredible days touring
the towns of Tangier,
Tetouan and the "Blue
Pearl of Morocco" in the
city of Chefchaouen.

A Trip to Remember!



[Click on photos to see full picture album](#)



[Click on photo to see YouTube video](#)



SPANISH COOKING CLASS



Click on photos to see full picture albums

THE PLACES YOU CAN GO

EPISODE 2:



THE WILD RIDE



SPECIAL GUEST

GAVIN HUISMANN,
2017 ICS ALUMNI

In this episode, we dive deep into the transformative journey of studying abroad with Gavin Huismann, a 2017 ICS alumni, as he relives his enriching experiences. From setting realistic expectations to navigating cultural nuances with host families, Gavin sheds light on how studying in Seville shaped his personal growth and world view. Also, discover the ripple effect of these international experiences and how they can inspire students to foster cross-cultural connections back home.



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HALLOWEEN AT THE ICS

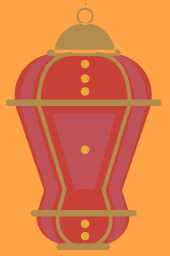


What a fun celebration we had! In the morning we dressed up, and in the evening we had a Trivia - Costume party, complete with prizes for the winners!





Good surprises!



While taking notes in my Art History class at the beginning of the month in October, a name of a particular city kept coming up: Mérida. The capital of the neighboring province of Extremadura, this humble city of 60,000 people was and is still famous for one very intriguing phenomenon: Roman architecture. I, of course, only had the vaguest notion that the Romans had existed in Spain at all, let alone that they had such an influential and dominating presence, so the prospect of getting to see the remnants of a brilliant world was hugely intriguing to me. And when would I ever be this close to Mérida again?



In the Roman theater, in Mérida

And thus, I did something I never thought I would: I took a solo trip. I hopped on a bus, hopped off that bus, and stumbled, blinking, into a deeply beautiful city where the historic relics of a long-dead kingdom rested casually and commonly next to modern buildings. For only 16 euro, I purchased a ticket to see the Roman circus, theater, amphitheater, place of worship, and funeral areas. It was wonderful. I learned everything I hoped I would, and I was stunned and in awe by the remnants of this brilliant land, and more than that, I realized something absolutely mind-blowing: this was manageable. Small adversities like the bus being late or my phone needing more power weren't as intimidating as I thought they would be. With my entrance ticket and portable charger in hand, I could conquer any ancient empire.



Enjoying solo travel in Madrid

And so I did. I went to visit Madrid during the puente weekend, taking the train by myself for the very first time, and immediately discovered endless streets flooded with flags and soldiers, with people proclaiming "Feliz Dia de España!" on every street corner. It was truly wondrous to get to see and watch.

In order to describe my Morocco experience, I need only one sentence: Yes, I did ride a camel! Everyone was equally enamored with that concept, their eyes lit up in wonder, and for good reason. It may sound silly, but I genuinely could not stop giggling the entire time. I was just thrilled. I'm just so grateful I got to witness this small piece of Northern Africa through the ICS program. I never thought it would be something I would get the chance to do.



In Cape Spartel, Morocco

I guess in all this, there's one overarching theme that I should take away: I'm surprising myself. I am accomplishing things I thought I couldn't, and I am becoming better for it. If I have done all this growing in just the past month, I cannot wait to see where I am one more month from now.

For the unabridged version, please click here: ics-seville.org/blogs.



Seville, The city that oozes with magic and delight!



Ah, Sevilla! A city that's truly one of a kind, where every corner oozes with magic and delight. It's like the streets themselves come to life - imagine bustling streets on a sunny Sunday afternoon, with laughter and lively conversations filling the air. In the evenings, tapas bars are filled with the joy of friends sharing dinner, clinking glasses of sangrias and vinos. And when the night falls on Sevilla, the cobblestone streets are like a stage for Flamenco, with its passionate singing and the soulful strumming of the guitar drifting out of cozy *tabernas*.

From the moment I arrived in Sevilla, I was captivated by the city's charm. The perfect Mediterranean climate, the narrow winding streets of the old town, and the vibrant colors of the buildings all welcomed me with open arms. As a study abroad student who has been currently living in Sevilla for more than two months (tear-tear), I am going to share with you all my experiences and secrets to truly experience the magic of Sevilla (like a local). Let me list some of the Sevilla essentials that you can't miss:

Plaza de España: A Scene Straight Out of a Movie.

The experience at Plaza de España can be described as stepping into a movie set or history. It's the kind of place that, for me, felt like stepping into another world. Its sheer beauty is striking, with its stunning architecture, ceramic-tiled alcoves, and an overall sense of grandeur. Speaking of movies, you might recognize Plaza de España from famous films like *Star Wars* and *Lawrence of Arabia*.



North Tower of the Plaza de España



The Maidnes' Court, in the Alcázar palace

The Alcázar Palace. A Moorish Splendor.

Upon visiting the palace with ICS I was left utterly spellbound with the thought of being transported back in time. Just standing in the same room as Christopher Columbus was like witnessing history. The Alcázar palace is a true masterpiece and throughout, you will find a mesmerizing blend of Moorish and Spanish architecture. It's no wonder it was featured in *Game of Thrones*!

The Cathedral: The Largest of its Kind!

As part our cultural immersion at ICS, one of the field trips we will be going on is to the Seville Cathedral and if you ask me, it is one place that should be on everyone's list. Not only is it the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, but it's also a marvel of art & architecture and an iconic part of the city's skyline. The awe-inspiring interior, stunning stained glass, and famous Giralda Tower make this cathedral an absolute must-see. Don't forget to climb the Giralda Tower for panoramic views of the city.



Seville's Gothic Cathedral



Seville, The city that oozes with magic and delight!

Part II



Las Setas monument: Sunset and churros con chocolate:

While Seville is steeped in history, it is also a city that beautifully blends the old with the new. A prime example of this is *Las Setas* monument. It is the largest wooden structure in the world. Atop this modern architectural marvel, you can catch one of the most breathtaking sunsets of your life. The views from here are absolutely mesmerizing. And the best way to enjoy this spectacle? With *churros con chocolate* at *Bar Centuria*, where ICS took us right at the very start of the semester!



Las Setas de la Encarnación

From day one of my arrival, I have been immersed in traditions and customs that are deeply ingrained in the daily life of Sevillanos, like my house mom Miriam, and the warmth and hospitality of the locals, have made me feel right at home. Now, two months in, I've been fully embracing the Spanish way of living. I now live at a slower pace in life, fully appreciating the value of friends, family and the community around me. Here are some ways to get you started:

Vamos a tapear": Tapas!

Ah, tapas! This Spanish tradition is not just about food; it's a social activity, it's a ritual. This tradition has deep roots in Spanish culture, dating back to the 13th century. Tapas bars aren't just places to eat; they are vibrant hubs of social interaction, hence the phrase "Vamos a tapear" (Let's go have some tapas). And I can admit that I have spent countless evenings hopping from one tapas bar to another ever since my arrival to Seville, savoring delightful dishes and bonding with friends. It's a fun way to explore the diverse cuisine of Seville while feeling like a local.



Paella: Taste of Spanish cuisine.

Paella is one of Spain's most universally known and loved dishes. Originally from Valencia, it is now eaten in all of Spain, and in particular, in Seville. But to truly experience authentic Paella, I recommend that you ditch the market paella and join ICS for a fun-filled Paella cooking night. The Paella cooking night was one of the most memorable experiences during my study abroad. Not only was it a journey into the heart of Spanish culture, but I had a blast cooking it from scratch with my friends. Together, we made the night come alive with our combination of lively music, the sound of sizzling ingredients, and shared laughter. Finally, when we sat down to eat, we were like a big Spanish family with our plate full of Paella, our ridiculous jokes, singing and dancing.

Seville is a city that effortlessly blends history, culture, and modernity, making it an ideal destination for travelers seeking an authentic Spanish experience. Whether you are fascinated by architectural wonders, traditional music and dance, or culinary delights, Seville offers something for everyone. Enjoy your journey through this captivating Andalusian city, and let its magic leave a lasting imprint on your heart. Adiós!

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UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Cultural Visits

During November we will have a guided tour of Seville's Gothic Cathedral.



Granada & Córdoba

We will visit the historic and breathtaking cities of Granada and Córdoba!



Thanksgiving

And, of course, we will have a wonderful All-American Thanksgiving dinner!! At Seville's Hard Rock Cafe!



Follow us to stay updated and visit our website to learn more about our programs!



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