



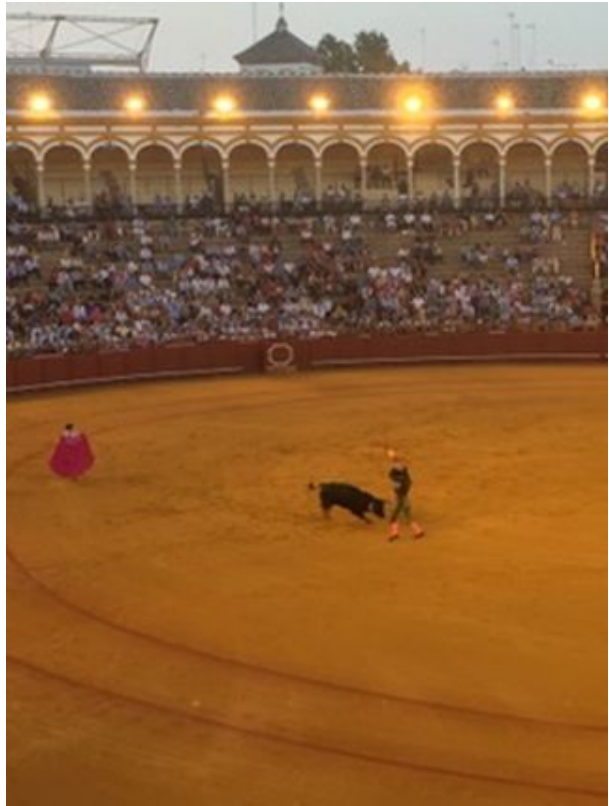
Welcome back!

It's crazy to think that we are halfway through our study abroad experience. It feels like we just began our classes! The ICS team has done such a great job to show us around Seville and its beautiful historic monuments that there hasn't been a single day that I can say was "boring." Many might think that welcome week will be the only highlight in Sevilla during the whole month. Boy are they wrong, it has just begun. Saturday some of the students and myself began our journey to PORTUGAL! We partnered up with the company "We Love Spain" and they took us to 3 parts of south Portugal. We were able to see 3 of the most beautiful beaches in southern Portugal, Lagos, Albufeira and Cape St. Vincent. We were also able to see some of Portugal's culture and markets. Don't take my word when I say it's B-E-A-U-T-I-F-U-L just look at the images.





After coming back from this stunning experience we continued our regular classes, learning Spanish and culture. It sounds crazy to say that it was midterm week. Although we only have a month the instructors here do an amazing job to help us learn quickly and efficiently. One of my favorite things from this program is that we are able to learn the history in person. We were able to see the Alcazar and the Cathedral “live in action.” Those two very important history buildings were amazing to see inside. Every corner was so detailed with so much history and culture. Sevilla has so many different historical groups like Roman, Jewish, Arabic, etc. Both buildings have so many different styles like gothic, renaissance and more. The cathedral had this amazing view on the thirty fifth floor, that’s right 35 floors that you walk through. It is completely worth it! You are able to see all of Sevilla from that one place.



We were also given the opportunity to really immerse ourselves into the Sevilla culture by learning one of the most popular dishes, Paella and going to a bullfight. Having the opportunity to learn how to make Paella was amazing because one, it was delicious and two, it was so authentic to their culture. As for the bull fight it was awesome to see how the crowd acted and reacted to the matadors and their long-learned skill. When the audience the matadors' performance was astounding they would take their white tissues and wave them as a sign to say he deserves an award! Sure, enough the award is not what you might think but it has great honor here in Sevilla. Although the show is heavy for some people, you should at least see it once to immerse into the culture. And just like that another week has gone by in Sevilla. Everything about this culture makes you want to dig deeper and truly live the Spanish life; with so little time, it feels like we can't but anything is possible in Sevilla.

We ended the week on Friday on our way to Portugal but you'll have to wait for the next blog for that. Until Next time!