

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

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Student blog by Taylor Gibbs

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



ICS Holy Week Celebration

[Click here to visit our Facebook for more pictures and details](#)



IN-DEPTH CULTURAL IMERSION

EXTRACURRICULAR CLASSES

Click the pictures below to view videos of our most recent classes!



SEVILLANAS CLASSES

Perhaps the most widespread manifestation of Flamenco dancing, *Sevillanas*, is also one of its most accessible expressions. During their semester in Seville, ICS students have the opportunity to enroll in private dance classes at the *Escuela de Baile Rocío Albéniz*.

Our students find that learning to dance *Sevillanas* at ICS not only enriches their cultural experience, but that these lessons have a most practical use. During the April Fair when all of Seville is dancing till dawn, they too can join in on the fun. At the ICS Pre-Feria party we will all be able to brush up on the dance steps with the professors of the *Escuela* before heading to the Fair grounds.

COOKING CLASSES

Each semester our students have the opportunity to learn how to cook Seville's most traditional dishes! During the semester we provide classes to learn how to make Classic Mixed Paella, Fresh Fruity Sangría, Creamy Gazpacho, and Traditional Tortilla de Patata. Classes take place in the home of one of our host families, a short walking distance from ICS. After making our creations we are all able to sit down and indulge in a wonderful Spanish meal together.

STUDENT CORNER

Taylor's Guide to Visiting Sevilla

Places to Go

1. Real Alcázar

The Alcázar is a must visit when in Sevilla. It has a mixture of Arabic and Christian architecture that come together into an amazing palace. It also houses some amazing gardens. Game of Thrones actually did some filming here as well so make sure to check it out if you are a fan!

2. Catedral de Sevilla

You won't miss the Cathedral when you come to Sevilla because it is so huge. It's actually the 3rd largest church in the world and the largest cathedral in Spain! Christopher Columbus and his son are buried there alongside other important Spaniards. The Cathedral also boasts some great artwork. Make sure to climb to the top of the Giralda Bell Tower to get a great aerial view of Sevilla.

3. Plaza de España

The Plaza de España was built in 1928 for the Ibero-American Exposition and is right inside the Maria Luisa park. While it is now office buildings inside, it is still a gorgeous piece of architecture and should be seen. At night they light up the fountain in different colors and it is quite a scenic place to take pictures.

4. Barrio Santa Cruz

This part of town is a great place to go if you enjoy wandering the streets and exploring new cities. It is filled with tiny streets with tons of shops with great shopping and also has some great restaurants. This charming area will surely make you fall in love with Sevilla.

5. Torre del Oro

This place holds so much history for Sevilla. It is right on the banks of the Guadalquivir River and it used to be where the gold from the Americas would come to Spain. If you are into naval history, inside the tower is a naval history museum and the top of tower also has a great view. If you are visiting on a Monday, it is free to visit.

6. Metropol Parasol

This structure may not seem like it fits in with the antique charm of the rest of Sevilla, but it is still a really cool place to visit and I recommend at least seeing it. It is often called Las Setas (the mushrooms), by the locals and is actually the largest wooden structure in the world. You can also go up to the top and it looks even cooler from the top! Your admission to the top includes a free drink, but don't let the signs fool you that the only place to get it is at the bar at the top which only lets you get a 1 euro discount off the drink, not a free drink. Ask a worker where the free drinks are, and they will point out a bar that is at the base Metropol Parasol.



STUDENT CORNER

Taylor's Guide to Visiting Sevilla

Things to Do

1. Go Shopping at the Triana Market

The Triana Market has some great food stalls and gives you a taste of life in Spain. Make sure to get there before it closes in early afternoon. Great place to get a picnic lunch to take to the park or to get a midmorning snack to tide you over until a late lunch!

2. Get a Drink at a Rooftop Bar during sunset

Try out some local Sangria or Tinto de Verano at a rooftop bar near the center. At sunset you will get a breathtaking view of the city skyline while getting to drink a delicious refreshment. I have heard good things about John Fulton Studio Bar that used to be home to the famous American matador.

3. Have Lunch in the Maria Luisa Park

The Maria Luisa Park is a great place to take a lovely stroll and explore the grounds. There are tons of beautiful plants and fountains all around the park. Take a lunch and enjoy it next to a peaceful fountain under orange trees.

4. See a Flamenco Show

Get a taste of the traditional dancing of Sevilla and spend a night at a Flamenco show. I saw a show at the Museum of Flamenco and it was a great show!



STUDENT CORNER

Taylor's Guide to Visiting Sevilla

Food to Eat



Tapas: Tapas are not necessarily one specific type of food but more of a lifestyle here in Sevilla. They are basically appetizers that you get and share at the table that usually replaces a large meal for dinner. Get a few different selections of tapas and try a whole bunch of traditional Spanish cuisine.

Paella: Paella is one of my favorite Spanish dishes and a must try while in Spain. Paella can be made in many different types from seafood, to vegetable, to pork so get whatever sounds the best and try it out for lunch.

Andalusian Breakfast: The Andalusians do not eat nearly as early as us Americans are used to for breakfast and so it is normally the smallest meal of the day. Typically, it has tostada which is toast that is topped with olive oil, tomato, ham, or many different toppings. Try it out with some of the famous jamón ibérico, the famous type of ham from Spain. Alongside the tostada is coffee. Here it is called café and it is very different from the coffee in the states. It is typically smaller because it is just espresso and not watered down. I recommend getting a café con leche if you are looking for something similar to coffee in the States.

Churros con Chocolate: Churros con Chocolate is the perfect midday snack to get you from lunch to the late dinner. The chocolate is thicker than American hot chocolate and isn't meant to be drunk but to dip the churros in. The churros here aren't covered in cinnamon sugar like they are in America and instead come with a packet of sugar to sprinkle on top. You can get the churros to go and they are great to eat while walking through the city or alongside the river.

Tortilla Española: This potato and egg omelet is one of my favorite foods here. Depending on the place you get it at, it may have more than potato and egg in it but traditionally it is just potato and egg. You may also see it called tortilla de patatas at some places. While this seems like it would be the perfect breakfast food, it is not eaten for breakfast here but instead at lunch or as a tapa at dinner.

Garbanzos y Espinacas: This is my favorite food that I have had here in Sevilla. As a vegetarian, it can be sometimes a little more difficult to find vegetarian options in restaurants, but they do usually have this dish. I highly recommend it, even if you are not vegetarian because it is so delicious and also has roots in Moorish and Jewish history in Sevilla.

Student Corner

Our Trip to Granada - March 9-10th



Click picture above to view a video made by student, Alex Larsen

Granada Essay Winner

Granada is one of the pearls of Spain, an ideal place to make your next destination. It is a very welcoming city, not only because of its people, but also because of its history and multicultural wealth. It is a city that ranges from exotic foods to admirable views. It is located in the Sierra Nevada mountains in Andalusia, which allows us to have a broad view of the city. Our exploration trip consisted of being able to appreciate and discover the different perspectives offered by this beautiful city. Granada was once the most important outpost of Islam in Europe. In fact, it has a palace categorized as a World Heritage Site by Unesco, and called "A pearl set in emeralds". The "Alhambra" palace is characterized by its elaborate engravings, which reflect its value. In the Koran, it repeats the idea that the sky is a garden with running water. This concept is not only reflected in the Alhambra, but it also defines the city. Not only is the Arabesque



"Mudéjar" style of art appreciated throughout the city, but Renaissance and Baroque architecture can also be seen in places like the Royal Monastery of San Jerónimo. Incredible to appreciate and difficult to describe with only words, it is pure art in a spiritual space. Another magnificent place to visit is the Royal Chapel. As Granada was the last kingdom to be reconquered by the Catholic Monarchs, it is here, in this vast majestic structure, where they are buried and where their tombs are venerated by all those who come to visit. Visiting Granada allowed me to feel the city's socio-cultural reality through its monuments, streets and gastronomy. Now I know what makes the city unique, and I am able to say that I saw "the Seventh Heaven" in Granada.

*By Andreina Sojo
Broward College*

APRIL FAIR

April 14th – April 22nd

Every Spring, the city of Seville throws a week-long party and close to a million people show up. The April Fair or Feria de Abril, began as a cattle trading fair in the mid 19th Century and over the years has evolved into a Spanish spectacle of flamenco, bullfighting and fun.

The site of the April Fair is known as the Real de la Feria (Royal Fair Grounds), and is a complete artificial city of canvas-covered tent-houses, or casetas. Some casetas belong to trade associations, some to groups of friends, and others to clubs or political parties.

Although they may vary in size, all casetas have common attributes. All are beautifully decorated with paper lanterns, ornately painted tables and chairs, bright striped curtains, and cheerful motifs throughout. All serve delicious typical foods and wines.

Most importantly, all are happy places to gather with family and friends where you can laugh, sing and dance the night away to upbeat, foot-stomping Flamenco music. At the Fair most women wear colorful Gypsy-inspired Flamenco dresses with flowers in their hair. Men often dress up in special Flamenco attire, as well. Many people visit the Fair Grounds at noon in order to catch the colorful horse and buggy parade in which one can easily spot famous movie stars, music performers, well-known politicians, etc., all in their best attire.

During the April Fair, the famous bullring of Seville programs bull fights with the most popular and talented matadors of the day. These bullfights generally are considered to be the best of the season.

The ICS always gets into the April Fair spirit during its annual “Pre-Feria” party. Students, faculty, and friends gather and enjoy a fun evening of music, refreshments and dancing Sevillanas.



UPCOMING TRIPS & VISITS



TRIP TO MOROCCO

APRIL 6TH-8TH

During our weekend visit we will tour the cities of Tangier, Chefchauen, and Tetuan. We will ride camels on the beach and attended a special Moroccan dinner show.

TOWN OF RONDA

APRIL 28TH

We will have our guided tour through Ronda where we will visit the 18C Plaza de Toros, Palacio de Mondragon, and El Tajo gorge.



UPCOMING TRIPS & VISITS



TRIANA MARKET

APRIL 27

We will visit the Triana Market which is a typical Spanish food and gourmet market.

SAN JORGE CASTLE

APRIL 27TH

We will visit the ruins of The Castle of San Jorge which was a medieval fortress built on the west bank of the Guadalquivir river in Seville. It was also used as headquarters and prison for the Spanish Inquisition.



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