

# Holy Week!

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There is nothing quite like Semana Santa (Holy Week) in the lovely Sevilla. I truly have never seen anything like it in my life, it is so special to Spain that you have to come here to really experience anything close to it.

For the first part of Semana Santa, I traveled to Amsterdam and went to the beaches in Malaga for a day to relax. It was so incredible, and I still got to see a good few days of Semana Santa aqui en Sevilla! The most amazing night was the night after I got to sleep in after my travels in Europa. I went out with 3 of my very close friends to the center and I really couldn't believe my eyes. I saw people from all over the world, including many Americans, and everyone was here to see the festivities. People were dressed up from head to toe, and the streets were covered in wax from the candles of the processions as well as some unknown objects...it was awesome. I had never seen Sevilla like that before! There were hundreds upon hundreds of people and I could barely recognize the streets! Sevilla completely transformed.



May look like something else...but these are traditional robes of Holy Week in Spain. These people are supposed to be humbled by their anonymous identity, giving themselves up for their religious beliefs and higher powers.

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One of the absolutely incredible floats. The smells of the incense, the light of the candles, and the people in the streets make the Holy Week experience complete. I am not Catholic, although this was still a very intense and eye-opening experience for me.

Photo credit: Crystal Resendiz

My friends and I went down into the depths of the city to try and find the processions for the first time since our travels. And boy, did we find them! I think we ran into 5 processions throughout the night and I remember being worried that we would miss them or not know what time they were at. **2 tips:** Always follow the musicians, they are usually on their way to the next procession when you see them rushing with instrument in hand, and two, never go against the crowd...you will never find the place you're going and the majority will win.

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One of the most shocking parts of Holy Week for me was the fact that the hundreds of people in the streets became silent within 10 seconds as a procession came by. No one spoke, people stood up straight, sometimes getting very emotional. And as soon as the float and musicians of the processions left, it became a giant fiesta!!! The bars were crowded again, the beer was flowing, and people were talking up a storm. The change from the serious, emotional, and religious procession turns to the nightlife I love about Seville. It's so cool!

I highly recommend coming to Sevilla for Holy Week, but I will say the same thing about Feria so maybe take a few weeks off of work and come for both. :) I am so excited for our trip to Ronda, the last WEEK of school (unbelievable), and Feria! One thing I am not excited for: going home.