

# FERIA DE ABRIL AND OTHER TRAVELS



We had another week off this past week to celebrate Feria de Abril in Sevilla! Feria officially started on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> and so friends and I decided to take off traveling for a few days before it started and then catch the last few days of Feria. Our first destination was London! First off, London is huge and we walked to all of our site-seeing locations and so ended up walking over 10 miles every single day but I think we got to see more of the city this way, rather than taking the subway. We also expected (and were excited) to go to a country where English is the main language, but we were all super surprised at how little English we actually heard. London was such a multicultural city and we decided to partake in this by choosing a different ethnic food every night for

dinner. We had some Asian, Italian, and of course the traditional English food, Fish and Chips. We also discovered that London is a super expensive city but we found lots of free sites to see such as the British Museum, Tate Modern Museum of Art, the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace, and much more! There are definitely ways to make London a more affordable destination, but I can't wait to go back when I have some money to go into some of the sites that cost money to go in. Overall, I really loved the environment of London, even though huge cities are not normally my cup of tea. I live for English History and it was so exciting for me to go to these places that I have spent so much time learning about.



Next, we hopped on a train at Kings Cross Station and took it through the English country-side up to Edinburgh, Scotland. The train ride was beautiful, and I enjoyed seeing the green fields filled with cute fluffy sheep. A big difference between London and Edinburgh is the size. Edinburgh is much smaller, and everything was within a reasonable walking distance except that Edinburgh is much more hilly. Basically, we exercised a lot on this trip from all the walking and hiking up hills. Edinburgh also feels much older because most of the buildings are older than the majority of the buildings in London and it felt much more like a small town which I appreciated. In Edinburgh, we also checked out a haunted tour of Edinburgh and found out about the creepier side of Edinburgh's history which was super fun. We wish we had more time in

Scotland so we could have gone and checked out the Highlands, but Edinburgh does have a park area very close with hiking trails that transport you into the highlands, only a 15-minute walk from the city.



Edinburgh and Scotland ,in general, is another place that I would really love to return to some point in my life because I know there is so much that I didn't get to see and experience there. Our time in the UK ended way too soon and before we knew it we were on a plane back to Sevilla. We needed a good night's sleep to prepare for the event that is Feria de Abril.



So, Feria de Abril originally started out as something similar to what the American fairs are. It was a place to show off livestock and had contests and the like, however, it has changed quite a bit. Now, there are rows and rows of elaborately decorated tents that are owned by different Sevillanas (the people of Sevilla) and the people spent the week eating, drinking, and dancing in these tents. The women wear the traditional Flamenco style dresses and they all dance a specific dance called sevillanas. In the afternoon, people ride around in fancy carriages or ride around on horses that were beautiful, but you had to be careful not to get run over by them all when walking around the streets. You can also ride a whole bunch of carnival rides, similar to American fairs. I loved walking around feria and just seeing how beautiful it all was, especially when all the lanterns and lights turned on when it got dark. I was thankful to know some people that owned tents and so even got a chance to go inside to eat and drink with the Spaniards. Even though I took sevillana lessons this semester, I was too nervous to try it out myself and enjoyed myself by watching everyone try it out. There really is nothing quite like feria in the states. Feria wrapped up with a great firework show that colors were just as bright as all the colors that could be seen in the streets of the feria.

