

# The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

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## IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

### CULTURAL VISITS & TRIPS

Discover what different guided tours our students have taken throughout the city.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

See all the photos from our last Sevillanas dance class which we turned into a Flamenco party!

### UPCOMING NEWS

Learn about the visits and trips yet to come this semester.

## STUDENT CORNER



"City of a Thousand Histories", by University of Hawaii at Manoa student, Celine Arnobit and "Finding My Way in Sevilla!", by Hood College student, Greighson Rowe.





# City of a Thousand Histories

Living in Sevilla, I am constantly in awe that the foundations of centuries past lie beneath my feet – indeed, sometimes make up the very ground I walk on – and it is a feeling I never tire of.

I have the great privilege of being able to study the history of Spain at *La Universidad de Sevilla*, and then being able to step right out of the university's doors and straight into the very streets where that history took place. Never in my life have I been in such close quarters with real, tangible history that I am able to learn so fully and so vividly.



University of Sevilla



Decorative ceramic tiles

For the first portion of this semester, my classes have focused primarily on the Islamic presence in the Iberian Peninsula (especially in Andalucía) starting in the year 711. I was excited to start these courses because Islamic history is not something that is covered much, if at all, in history classes in the U.S.

Islam was a religion that was vastly influential in shaping what we know as Spain today. Save for the Arabian Peninsula itself, the religion's birthplace, I believe that there is no better place to learn its history than right here, in Andalucía, and specifically, Sevilla, which used to be one of the most powerful cities in al-Andalus (the name for the Iberian Peninsula under Islamic rule, and where Andalucía gets its name). The very symbol of Sevilla, La Giralda, is an old Muslim minaret.

Buildings in Sevilla are decorated in the beautiful mudéjar style (meaning they were built or designed by Muslims in Spain who lived under the later Christian rule). The Alcázar, of course, is the most well-known example of mudéjar art in Sevilla, which I greatly enjoyed visiting. I also ventured to La Palacio de Las Dueñas, one of the most beautiful hidden gems of the city, which also boasted stunning examples of mudéjar architecture. Even some normal, everyday residential buildings still retain hallmarks of Islamic architecture, like central patios, often with a fountain, or decorated archways and columns.



Fine Arts Museum courtyard



Orange trees downtown



Giralda tower



# City of a Thousand Histories

By Celine Arnobit



Palacio de la Dueñas

Much of the food that I enjoy here I learned were introduced by the Muslims and even have Arabic roots to their names. Rice, or arroz, comes from the Arabic “al-rus.” Sugar, or azúcar, comes from the Arabic “al-sukkar.” Muslims also introduced citrus fruits to the Iberian Peninsula, and without them, Sevilla would not have its signature 40,000 orange trees that are on virtually every street corner today.



Patio in the Alcázar palace



Palacio de los Marqueses de la Algaba

It is fascinating to me that I can see, every day, almost everywhere, real remnants of history. I can walk the same streets people did 1,300 years ago when the city was young and newly built. I get to go to school every day in a building that is 300 years old. I use Spanish daily, a language that has its own unique and blended history.

In the twenty-first century, Sevilla has naturally adapted with the times, but luckily, has also never lost the richness that has come from centuries of various cultures making their mark on the city. And the novelty of being able to experience that richness firsthand as a student here has never been lost on me. Through my classes here so far, I have been able to learn just a bit of the vast and elaborate history of Spain. I feel I have learned so much already, and it excites me to know that there are still a thousand histories, a thousand untold stories of this place I've yet to discover.

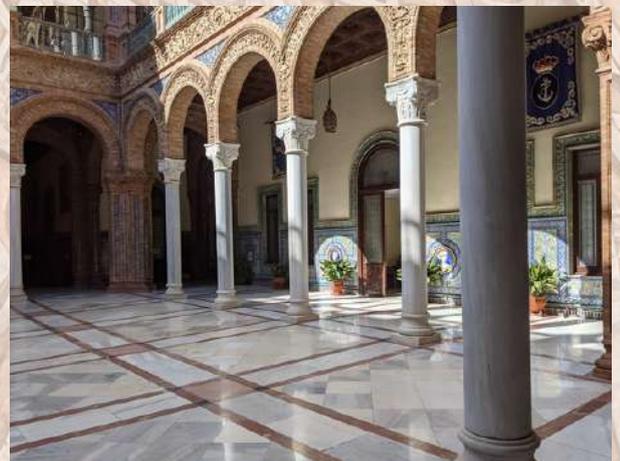
In Sevilla, I discover a new every day that history is not some two-dimensional idea on a page.

It is not dates and facts and paragraphs in a textbook.

In Sevilla, history is alive, and vivid, and colorful.

It leaves its footprint in more places than one might realize.

And I need only to walk out my front door to witness it.



Capitanía

# Finding My Way in Sevilla



I am now officially halfway through my amazing semester in Sevilla. As the city's version of Fall begins to creep in, my walk to the university has become automatic, siestas are now a necessary part of my daily routine, and my walking shoes are very much broken in. Although I'm still very much in love with the city, the honeymoon phase is over.

A couple of things that I miss from back home are my family, chilly weather, and last but not least, diversity. Being the fourth largest city in Spain, I was expecting to see a lot more people of color in a wider variety of social positions, but I often don't see a single Black person on my daily commute, and I can count the number of Black students in my very large school (the University of Seville) on one hand.

For the first time in a long time, I feel like people see my blackness more than they actually see me. My advice to students of color who are planning to travel to Spain is to make sure you have a strong support system to help you navigate through this challenging, but very rewarding experience.

We live in a time where an unprecedented number of doors have been opened for people of color, so it's incredibly important that we take advantage of these resources and opportunities that have not always been available. There is absolutely a space for students like us in Sevilla.



Sevillanas dance class at the ICS.



The Ambassador's Hall of the Alcazar



Day trip to Ronda



# Finding my way in Sevilla!

By Greighson Rowe



Cultural experiences like these are one of the many things that I'm learning in my time here, and ICS has taken us on some awesome culture trips around the city and surrounding Sevilla to enrich our experience even more. We took a day trip to my new favorite mountain town, Ronda, and learned about the impressive (and leg-burning) incline and architectural make-up of the ancient city and its influence on many of the works of Ernest Hemingway. We also took a visit to the *Real Alcázar*, the oldest palace still occupied by royals in Europe. The Mudéjar style and combination of cultural influences is breathtaking, and it's no surprise that people flock from all over the world to visit this Iberian oasis - I could definitely make myself at home lounging by the *Patio de las Doncellas*.

I can't believe that this incredible period of my life is already halfway over. I plan to appreciate every single challenge and gift that comes my way from now until then.



In the Alcázar gardens



In the Seville Cathedral



In the Alcázar gardens with my classmates and friends



The New Bridge of Ronda

CULTURAL VISITS

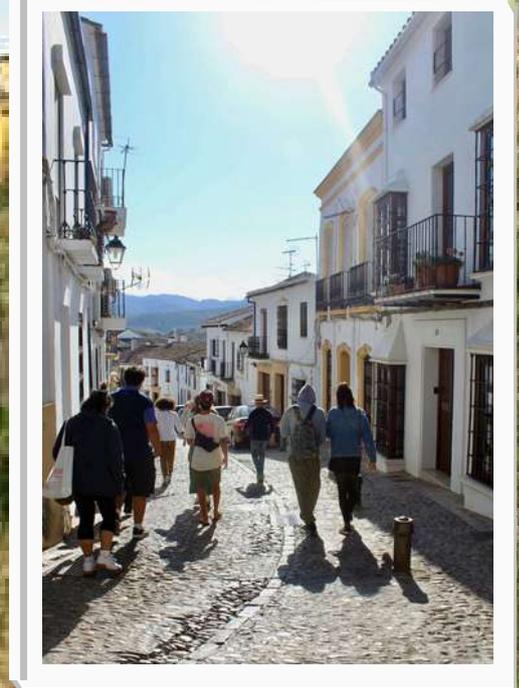
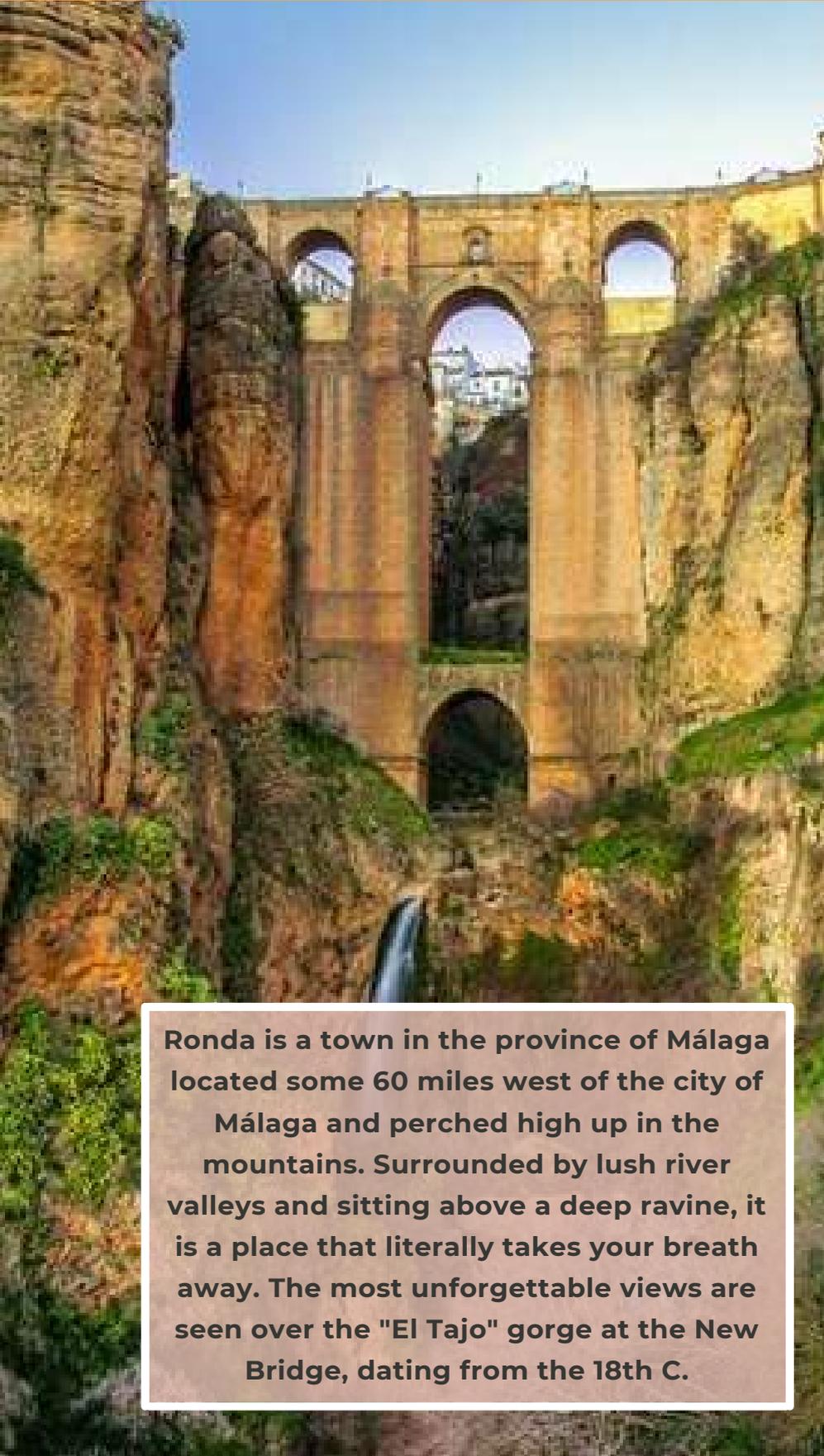
# VISITING A CITY RICH IN HISTORY



## THE ALCÁZAR PALACE

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

# DAYTRIP TO THE BEAUTIFUL TOWN OF RONDA



Ronda is a town in the province of Málaga located some 60 miles west of the city of Málaga and perched high up in the mountains. Surrounded by lush river valleys and sitting above a deep ravine, it is a place that literally takes your breath away. The most unforgettable views are seen over the "El Tajo" gorge at the New Bridge, dating from the 18th C.

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



# SEVILLANAS DANCE CLASS



And April Fair party!!



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

Our students learned how to dance "Sevillanas", a style of Flamenco that is the most typical dance of Seville and the best known folk dance of Spain. To end the course we threw an April Fair party.



# UPCOMING AT THE ICS

## Cultural Visits.

During November we will have guided tours through the Cathedral and Seville's Fine Arts Museum.



## Granada and Córdoba.

And visits to the historic and breathtaking cities of Granada and Córdoba!



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



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