

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

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IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

CULTURAL VISITS

See pictures from the Itálica and Cathedral tours that our students took this month.

TRIPS IN ANDALUCIA

Discover all about our overnight visit to the town of Granada and our day trip to the mountain village of Ronda.

STUDENT CORNER

"New Experiences, New Memories", "Sandwiches", and "Reflections on Spain" by University of Hawaii at Manoa students, Tiffany Nasic, Sierra Choi, and Celine Arnobit, respectively.

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

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Learn all about this month's cooking class of *Paella* and how the students prepared for the April Fair by learning how to dance *Sevillanas*! In addition, see how they all collaborated to receive a group of children from Ukraine.

UPCOMING NEWS

Read about what our students yet have to look forward to for the latter part of this Spring semester.



New Experiences, New Memories!



I am already halfway through our program, with only a couple of months left in this beautiful city. I still remember the day I arrived, feeling overwhelmed, having language barriers, and not being able to communicate effectively or even knowing where to go. And now, I can order food in restaurants comfortably, talk to strangers on the street, or even have daily conversations with my host mother. Through this short amount of time that I've been here, I've grown so much in so many ways. There were many problems along the way, but I could make it through, and there were always people next to me when I needed them. So much has happened within these past few months, filled with beautiful memories. Around the end of February, my friends and I traveled to Switzerland just for a couple of days, and I am so glad that I went. I never really thought about visiting Switzerland, so I thought, why not go since I would never think of going there by myself. Switzerland is one of my favorite places to visit because of the beautiful scenery and the most genuine and sweet people willing to help or care for others. Words can't express how much love I feel for that country, even though I was only there for a short period.



With friends in the Plaza de España



Enjoying my travels with great friends

After I came back, I realized how stepping out of my comfort zone can lead to much greatness that you wouldn't know until you are there physically. I used to be so worried about my finances because they are minimal, but I've changed my mindset.



Swiss mountains



New Experiences, New Memories

By Tiffany Nusic



Travel is worth the money spent. Money comes and goes, but the experience you gain from travel can last a lifetime. If you miss that opportunity it is probably lost for ever. Changing that mindset was difficult, but it felt liberating, and now I enjoy travel more than ever.

Through the ICS cultural trips I've also gone to multiple locations in Spain, such as Córdoba, Granada, and Ronda. Granada is by far my favorite city after Sevilla. We had a tour of the Alhambra, the best preserved Islamic palace in Andalucia. I loved the art and architecture of it as well as the fascinating history of how this city was taken over by Christians later on, leading to the end of the the Islamic era in Spain. After the tour, we had free time, and we discovered the city on our own. My friends and I met new people, which I hadn't expected, and even more remarkable was that we later discovered the Granada nightlife with them. It's fascinating how when you travel you can build connections with people from totally different backgrounds. Our visit to Granada will always be a story I will tell to my friends and family back home.

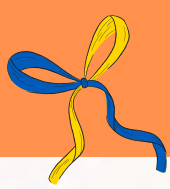


Alhambra palace



A day in Granada

I have made so many memories in these two months that I have been here, and all of them are filled with warmhearted people and unique cultures. I am nothing but grateful for the opportunities our school has provided us thus far and for the wonderful friendships that I've made here. I still have a couple more months in Sevilla, and I am excited to see what more is to come and to the adventures I will have! Little by little, I can slowly tell that I am growing by being more open-minded about life in general. Being here has been a journey that I needed to experience in order to remind myself of who I am and most importantly, who I want to be. The first step was perhaps the most important: stepping out of my comfort zone.



ICS STANDS WITH UKRANIAN REFUGEES



When the ICS learned that there was a busload of Ukrainian children enroute to Seville who needed logistical support we didn't hesitate in offering all the help we could give. What we hadn't expected was the outpouring of energy and love that our students also showed for them.

We bought food and decorations and set up the school to receive the children. Our students wrote welcome signs in Ukrainian, English and Spanish and prepared sandwiches for them.

Click on pictures to see full Facebook albums.

The following poem was written by our student, Sierra Choi:

Sandwiches.

Sandwiches, I have decided, are perhaps the greatest combinations in the world.

*The folded pieces of meat, the freshness of lettuce, the acidity of a tomato and the creaminess of mayonnaise
Wrapped within two leaves of grain.*

*There may exist different variations of protein, dairy or other items
Yet the resounding rhetorical question still persists:
What more can one ask for?*



Yet today, the sandwiches my friends and I made were different.

They consisted of the same ingredients

Yet somehow

It was a symbol of a life about to change.

It was the taste of relief after a three day journey

It was the gleaming colors of a rainbow standing proudly after a cloud of rain

It was the petal of flora to forecast the horizon of spring

It was the embodiment of hope

These children whom these sandwiches were for

Were only several years younger than my friends and I

Yet all of us came to Seville for reasons that could not have been more different.

Some to enjoy schooling and immersive language experiences for a blissful couple months

Others for security in a foreign land miles from the home they used to know.

There is no greater feeling than the joy of filling a belly during a meal,

And Seville has perhaps offered some of the best cuisine my palate has experienced:

Tortillas de patatas—an neat array of cooked potatoes encased in an omelette

Seafood paella—a seasoned platter of steaming rice with little surprises of clams and baby shrimp hidden between the grains

Churros con chocolate—light, fried dough dipped in thick, rich chocolate

However, the feelings of happiness that overwhelmed my senses today and plucked at the delicate strings of my heart

Were the greatest feeling one can achieve

Knowing that a mere sandwich

Was able to provide comfort;

Peace;

Hope.

*Perhaps others may consider it a few pieces of bread with various components in it I, however
Will never see it the same.*





Reflections on Spain

By Celine Arnobit



A moment that is embedded in my mind forever was on a trip to the beach in Bolonia, in the very south of Spain. As someone who grew up in Hawai'i, I spent my whole life going to the beach, but this was different. I had never been so far from home, and thus, had never swum in any ocean except the Pacific. In the southernmost part of Spain, at the Strait of Gibraltar, the waters of the Atlantic begin to mix with the Mediterranean. And I realized, treading water in the sea, that I could tell. I could tell that the ocean itself felt unlike what I had known my entire life. The water was a different shade of blue-green, a different temperature, the saltiness of it even tasted different. It struck me that I was no longer back home in Hawai'i, in the waters of the Pacific.



At the beach of Bolonia



In the Maria Luisa park

When I looked out into the sea, in the distance I could see the hazy form of Morocco – another world, another culture, another life, just a stone's throw away. It was the first time, of what would later be many, that I thought to myself: Look how big the world is, and how small I am, and how lucky I am to be alive to witness it all.

It has been a bit over three months since my study abroad experience in Sevilla, and now, in retrospect, I am able to more clearly reflect on my time there and how it has impacted me.

There are many little things I miss about Spain, and my life in Sevilla:

The smell of jasmine, for one.

Sitting down at a restaurant and being greeted with a warm smile and a “¡Buenas! ¿Qué te pongo?”

Walking countless times through María Luisa park in the heat of summer, and later in the chill of autumn, as the leaves fell from the trees.

Sitting on the steps of the Cathedral, enjoying the best gelato I've ever had in my life.



With friends in Aracena



Reflections on Spain

By Celine Arnobit



Hearing Sevillanos say “¡Hombre!” in conversation with one another, all the time, everywhere.

My friends at la Universidad de Sevilla. (We still keep in touch, although we live in different places all over the U.S. We still send WhatsApp voice notes to each other. We reminisce and laugh and smile about the time we spent in Sevilla together, all those days and nights exploring and getting lost and finding our way again.)

How did my experience change me? I’m not sure I have an easy answer. What I can tell you are the following: When I speak Spanish in my classes today, I can hear subtle notes of the Andalusian accent in my own voice. Sometimes, I eat lunch at 3 p.m. and take a siesta during the day. I cook using exclusively olive oil now. I make a greater effort to be fully present with my loved ones, to share meals with them and to enjoy the company after – to sobremesa, as they say. As a person, I am more open – to life, to people, to experiences. I am more curious – I want to know everything there is to know about the world! I am more courageous – because I have been brought miles outside my comfort zone and found ways to thrive there.

When people ask me what the experience was like and how it feels to be back, my reply is always this: “You know at the end of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, when the kids come back through the wardrobe after having lived an entire lifetime in another world? They witnessed something amazing, and then return to their normal lives where everything is the same as it was when they left, all the while being forever changed inside. It’s like that.”

Sitting here in Hawai’i, a world and two oceans away, Spain feels almost like a fantastical faraway land. Sometimes I wonder if I dreamed it all.



With my dog, Domino



My brother and I in Sevilla shirts

Although I have returned to life here, the experiences, lessons, and memories I acquired through study abroad continue to influence the way I view myself, others, and life in general, in beautiful and sometimes unexpected ways.

That is perhaps one of the greatest gifts my time in Spain gave me: it showed me that even here, back on the other side of the wardrobe, there are so many reasons to say, “Look how big the world is, and how small I am, and how lucky I am to be alive to witness it all.”

TOURING A CITY RICH IN HISTORY

Guided tours by Professors Rocío Rojas-Marcos and Duda Popovic.



[Click on pictures to see full Facebook albums.](#)

ITÁLICA

The city of Itálica was the birthplace of the Roman emperors Trajan and Hadrian.

Founded in 206 BC, it was one of the earliest Roman settlements in Spain. There are remarkable mosaics, an impressive amphitheater and archeological remains that give more than a glimpse of life during the Roman Empire.

THE CATHEDRAL

Built on the site of the former Muslim Great Mosque, the Seville Cathedral is the largest Gothic church in the world. Legend has it that those who designed the Cathedral of Seville claimed "Let us build a church so beautiful and so grand that those who see it finished will think we were mad".

VISITING GRANADA & RONDA

EXPLORING UNIQUE PARTS OF SPAIN .

GRANADA

In our two-day and one night trip in the city of the ancient *Al Andalus* we visited the magnificent Arabian palace of *La Alhambra*, the *Albaycín* and the tomb of the Catholic Sovereigns.



[Click on pictures to see full Facebook albums.](#)

RONDA

Perched high up in the mountains of Málaga and surrounded by lush river valleys is this town that literally took our breath away. The most unforgettable views were seen over the gorge at the 18th C. "New Bridge".



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



SPANISH COOKING CLASS



SEVILLANAS DANCE CLASS



Having learned how to make Tortilla Española our students learned Spain's other favorite dish: Mixed Paella.

And just in time for The April Fair our students have learned how to dance "Sevillanas". Olé!



UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Holy Week.

During this month we will celebrate our annual Holy Monday reception with students, faculty, family & friends.



Trips.

In April our students will take part in a three day - two night visit to the north of Africa in an unforgettable journey to Morocco.



Activities.

We will have a 2nd session of *Paella Mixta*. And, our students will brush up on their *Sevillanas* dance steps at an ICS Flamenco party!



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



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