

The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

In this month's Issue:

WELCOME WEEK

Read all about the activities that our Fall students enjoyed during their first week in town.

FIRST CULTURAL TRIPS

See the details of the first cultural day trips of the semester.

STUDENT CORNER

Don't miss our first two blogs of the semester, by Melissa Cala and Ava McKinney of Broward College.

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

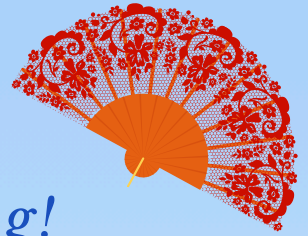
UPCOMING NEWS

Find out what's new and coming this month of October.





WELCOME WEEK



We began the month with a bang!

For our first morning walk through Seville we met with our group at the College. We walked through the María Luisa park, the University of Seville and then along the river over to the historic neighborhood of Triana. There we enjoyed a delicious typical Andalusian breakfast in the always pleasant Café Mundial!

The ICS Fall semester has begun and we look forward to a great term!



[Click on pictures to see full FB album.](#)



DISCOVERING DOWNTOWN



Traditionally, Saturday is shopping day in Spain. Where better to visit than the city's bustling commercial district, stop at the largest wooden structure in the world, *Las Setas*, and have some of the best *churros con chocolate* of all of Seville?! In the evening, we saw a fabulous Flamenco performance at *El Museo del Baile Flamenco*!



[Click on pictures to see IG post.](#)





RIVER CRUISE



Along the Guadalquivir

What a pleasant morning we had cruising along the river onboard a private luxury boat with music, refreshments and lots of laughs.



[Click on pictures to see full FB album.](#)

CULTURAL VISITS

TOURING A CITY RICH IN HISTORY

GUIDED TOUR BY
PROFESSOR DUDA POPOVIC

ITÁLICA

Itálica, founded in 206 a.C. and birthplace of emperors Trajan and Hadrian, was one of the first Roman settlements in Spain. Its remarkable mosaics, impressive amphitheater, and archaeological remains showcase life during the Roman Empire.



FIRST DAY TRIP OF THE SEMESTER



We visited the Cayetano del Pino cellars and learned about Sherry wine production and distribution.



After visiting the Roman ruins, we spent the day at one of Europe's most beautiful beaches.

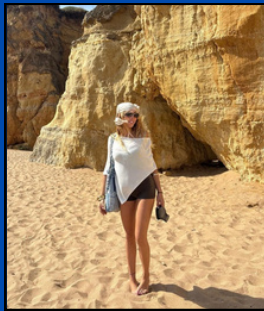
ICS SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

This semester we are fortunate enough to count on the collaboration of four very talented students as members of our Social Media team!



Shannon Reed

Shannon is a Senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying Psychology and minoring in Political Science and Spanish.



Fiona Barinek

Fiona is a Junior at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying International Business and Marketing with a minor in Psychology.



Alekssandra Gonzalez

Ale is a Senior at the Fashion Institute of Technology studying Advertising and Marketing Communications.



Melissa Cala

Melissa is an Accounting Major in her Sophomore year at Broward College.



TEAM



Ava McKinney

Ava is a Sophomore year Business Accounting Major from Broward College.



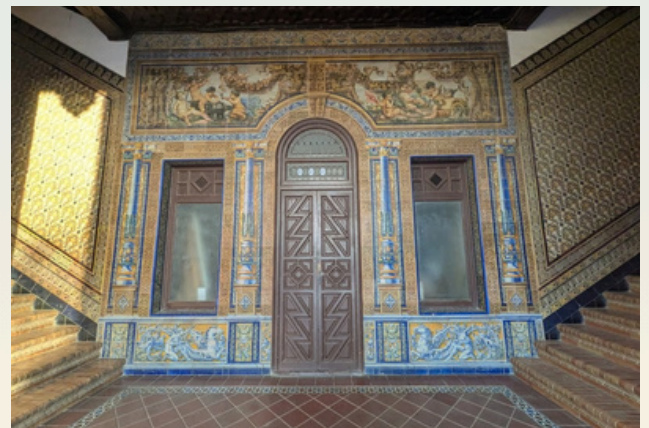
A VISIBLE COMMUNITY



A big part of culture is connection to history, especially in a way that is clearly visible. In the United States, there are structures like the Statue of Liberty, which serve as a sort of anchor for the philosophical concept of America: “give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”. However, I’m from Florida. I would have to get on a plane and travel to see that monument, given the sheer size of the United States. Here in Seville, I have had an entirely different experience with a connection to history through architecture and through beauty.

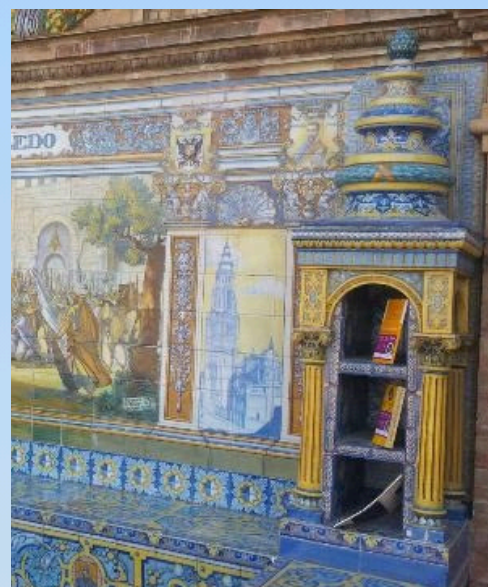


Every day as I’m walking to class through the gorgeous María Luisa Park, I pass by the Plaza de España and I’m aware of how many generations have stepped exactly where I am stepping since it was built in 1928 for that year’s World Fair. One morning, I decided to explore the building on my own to take it in without the crowds of tourists that understandably flock to it. The architectural style of the building feels uniquely Spanish, with a stunning mixture of Seville’s iconic ceramic tiles



A VISIBLE COMMUNITY. PART II

with Neo-Mudéjar patterns alongside Renaissance Revival pillars and paintings of cherubs and horses. The center of the Plaza also contains little alcoves dedicated to the different parts of Spain, aptly titled Alcoves of the Provinces, where I could comfortably sit and watch the city slowly come to life around me. Each alcove also contains little covered bookshelves, which I later learned some visitors use as charming anonymous free book exchanges similar to the non-profit “Little Free Library”.



Last week, I had the pleasure of taking a guided tour of the rooftops of Seville Cathedral, which left me genuinely awestruck at multiple points. The beauty and the majesty of the structure moved me deeply. It was originally a mosque in the 12th and 13th centuries during the Ottoman reign of the Iberian Peninsula but was then converted into the largest gothic cathedral in the world after the city was reconquered. Parts of the original structure remain as a constant visible reminder of

that history, most notably the Giralda tower. The cathedral isn't just a historical monument, though. They have mass every morning, where you can listen to organs which were rebuilt over a century ago following an earthquake in the year 1888. It's hard not to think of the many generations of people who have found peace and belonging within those very walls the moment you step inside and gaze up at the colorful stained-glass windows.

There's a level of empathy and awareness of your fellow human that comes with this ever-present tie to the history of Seville and of Spain as a whole. The number of pedestrians here make it nearly impossible to forget that you are part of a collective and to feel a deep responsibility and connection to the people next to you in a way that is very different from the culture in the United States, which is a mere 250 years old and where most people choose to drive.



OUR FIRST STEPS INTO SPANISH LIFE



September brought new faces, new beginnings, and our first glimpse of the beauty of Sevilla. During our introduction week, we joined Lisa for a walk through Plaza de España, where each turn gave us something new to admire.

From the beautiful architecture to the boats gliding along the water, there was plenty to catch our attention—and our cameras! As Lisa helped us learn about our surroundings, sightseeing became an opportunity to connect what we were learning with the city unfolding before us.



We wandered along beautiful pathways, paused to appreciate the nature around us, and watched familiar views change as we explored from different angles. Between conversations with classmates and moments spent taking it all in, we began to feel a little more at home.

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As September came to a close, those first walks remained a lovely part of our introduction to Sevilla: a chance to be curious, immerse ourselves in the culture, and discover how much we could learn simply by slowing down and looking around.

It was truly magical—a wonderful way to begin our first week in Seville, surrounded by beautiful sights, new friendships, and the excitement of everything still to come.



UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Cultural Visits

During this month we will
visit Seville's Alcázar
palace.

Trips

We will make our three-
day tour through North
Africa and overnight trip
to Granada.

Activities

And... our students will
learn how to make Spain's
most iconic dish: Paella
Mixta!

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



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