The Porvenir Times

International College of Seville Newsletter

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THIS MONTH:

VISITS & TRIPS

Learn all about the Alcázar visit and three-day trip to North Africa that our students took this month.

ACTIVITIES

See photos from our cooking classes in which our students learned to make *Tortilla Española.*

UPCOMING NEWS

Discover the visits, trips and activities yet to come!

STUDENT CORNER

Don't miss this month's blogs, by Broward College students, Melissa Cala and Ava McKinney.

To view our student blogs:
https://ics-seville.org/journal/

Our second cultural visit

VISITING A CITY RICH IN HISTORY

GUIDED TOUR BY PROFESSOR DUDA POPOVIC









ALCÁZAR PALACE

Built by Castilian Christians on a former Muslim fortress, the Alcázar is a renowned example of Mudéjar architecture and Europe's oldest royal palace still in use.

📸 CLICK ON PHOTOS TO SEE FULL PICTURE ALBUM

Our most awaited trip to

NORTH AFRICA, MOROCCO









Three days in Morocco

We spent three incredible days touring the towns of Tangier, Tetouan and the "Blue Pearl of Morocco" in the city of Chefchaouen.

📸 CLICK ON PHOTOS TO SEE FULL PICTURE ALBUM















SPANISH COOKING CLASS





















STUDENT CORNER - MELISSA CALA (BROWARD COLLEGE)

Reconnecting in Morroco

Much about my upbringing is what I would describe as simply "statistically uncommon". I am a Latina who grew up in Miami, Florida, attended a Greek school, and was raised Muslim. Growing up in the United States, my family's religion was only visible in passing when I would stumble upon another Muslim family out in the wild or when I would go to Arabic school at my sister's mosque on Saturdays. Though I am no longer practicing and have a relatively complicated relationship with that part of my childhood, I won't deny the nostalgia and emotion I felt when our program went to Morocco earlier this semester.

Funnily enough, the trip started the day after my 30th birthday here in Sevilla. It felt very symbolic that I should start the next decade of my life with a visit to a place that reminded me so much of my childhood. On our first night in Tangiers, I turned to one of my classmates at told him that it felt like someone had cracked open a mosque and Islam had leaked out all over the city. Before October 16th, I had only ever heard that adhan inside a mosque or crackling from my mom or sister's phones. In Morocco, the call to prayer was inescapable, blaring from speakers all over Tangiers, Tetouan, and Chefchaouen five times a day.







Though Spain is obviously very different from the United States, there are certain aspects that intersect with Latin culture, so it wasn't a complete culture shock to me. Morocco, however, was a completely different pace of life. In the States, I was never welcomed into the fold, religiously-speaking. I was never Christian, though I did attend church with some of my friends from time to time, more out of curiosity than anything else. Even in Sevilla, I am not Catholic nor have I ever been. In Morocco, though, I felt an immediate kinship with our tour director as soon as I told him my family was Muslim.



Reconnecting in Morroco - Part II

During our free time, I made it my mission to find my sister a pretty Qur'an in Arabic since she moved to Saudi Arabia over a decade ago now. When I told the salesman exactly what I was looking for and why, he lowered the price and I only ended up paying about 1 euro. I had explained to our tour director that my mom has been trying to make Hajj for three years now, but she's not been able to make the trip. On our final day in Tetouan. It was pouring



when we went to visit an apothecary where I bought almost all the saffron they had packaged for us. As we were getting ready to leave, our tour director tossed an extra product into my bag and said it was for my mom since he understood how difficult it must be that she hasn't been able to go on her pilgrimage yet. I was extremely touched that he had even remembered, honestly. Though we're a very small group this semester, I still wasn't going to assume that he would remember such a specific detail about one specific student.

There are no perfect places. Therefore, there is no place on Earth where I will feel completely understood, accepted, and welcomed in with open arms. That's kind of a tall order. However, it was very special to go to Morocco and reconnect with that admittedly very complex piece of my childhood.







STUDENT CORNER - AVA MCKINNEY (BROWARD COLLEGE)

October Highlights: Culture & Connections

October was an unforgettable month during my study abroad experience in Sevilla, Spain. I had the opportunity to travel to Morocco, experience different cultures, and build meaningful relationships with my classmates. These experiences helped me expand my perspective and appreciate the different ways people live around the world.



One of the highlights was visiting Tangier, Chefchaouen, and Tetouan in Morocco. Although Morocco is only a short journey from Spain, I was amazed by how different the atmosphere, language, religion, and lifestyle were. One of my favorite moments was riding a camel while wearing traditional-style garments and headscarves, allowing us to experience elements of Moroccan culture. I also gained a deeper appreciation for the importance of religion and how people center their daily lives around their faith and beliefs.

Exploring the local marketplaces was another eye-opening experience. I observed vendors selling spices, oils, clothing, and food in large quantities. It was fascinating to see how people created business opportunities using the resources available to them. This reminded me that success does not always require having more but knowing how to make the most of what you have. Experiencing different languages, especially Spanish and Arabic, also encouraged me to appreciate cultural diversity and the importance of communication.



Another memorable experience was preparing traditional Spanish tortilla de patatas and sangria with my classmates at Esther's house. We came together to cook, share responsibilities, and enjoy Spanish traditions. It was a beautiful bonding experience that allowed us to strengthen our friendships and create meaningful memories. I realized that cultural immersion is not only about exploring new places but also about connecting with people through shared experiences.

Overall, October taught me that traveling opens your eyes to new possibilities, lifestyles, and perspectives. Something that may seem unfamiliar or impossible in one place can be completely normal in another. From exploring Morocco to sharing cultural traditions with my classmates in Spain, these experiences helped me become more open-minded, culturally aware, and appreciative of the world around me.

UPCOMING AT THE ICS

Cultural Visits

During November we will have a guided tour of Seville's Cathedral.

Granada & Córdoba

We will visit the historic and breathtaking cities of Granada and Córdoba!

Thanksgiving

And, of course, we will have a wonderful All-American Thanksgiving dinner!!

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

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