

JUNE 2023

# STUDY ABROAD SEVILLA

This past month, June 2023, I was fortunate enough live in Sevilla, Spain for the Auburn PR Study Abroad Program. Read on to see what I've been up to in Europe this summer!

Sevilla - Córdoba - Cádiz - Sagres - Lagos - Málaga

## ARRIVAL & INITIAL THOUGHTS



I was terrified to go on this trip, as it was completely out of my comfort zone. That ended up being my top reason to go. I didn't know anyone else going on the trip, and I had some intermediate Spanish speaking skills to take with me. Staying with a host family was also something that was nerve-wracking. To stay in someone's home and speak their language would be a completely new experience that could make or break my trip. While I was nervous for this trip, I was also ecstatic to go to Europe for the first time and hoped I would get the chance to grow personally. I chose to immerse myself in the Spanish culture 100% and was ready to live in Sevilla for a month!



# SITE VISITS



For my study abroad program, I was taking a Global PR and a Non-profit PR course. Some days, in place of class we had the opportunity to visit multiple businesses and non-profit organizations in Seville and learn about what they do.

## RTVA



RTVA is the most popular regional news station in Seville. They focus on the Andalusia region and have live and pre-recorded segments. Their PR employees work on event planning and social media.

Things don't always go as planned. I got a bad stomach bug and had to go to the hospital in place of our second site visit. It was comparable to an urgent care in the U.S.

## HOSPITAL INFANTA LUISA



## SOLIDARIDAD INTERNACIONAL



Solidaridad Internacional is a nonprofit that works with the immigrant people in Spain and specifically Andalusia to fight for their human rights. They emphasized the importance of social media and visual aids to communicate with their audience.

Mas Altos produces men's shoes with a 2.75in insert to make them taller. They were the first company in Spain to use a website to sell their product. Key word search phrases bring potential customers to their website.

## MAS ALTOS



## DIARIO DE SEVILLA



Grupo Joly runs Seville's newspaper, Diario de Sevilla, and others in Andalusia. They value their credibility and are careful to only publish accurate information to their eight million monthly readers. Digital is now prioritized over print.

Fundacion Cajasol is a nonprofit cultural center for Spain and is unique to Andalusia. They have a private art collection, library, conference rooms, exhibitions, and theater spaces. They also provide financial education and summer camp for kids.

## FUNDACION CAJASOL



## SEVILLA FC



We got a full tour of the Sevilla FC stadium, including their museum and press room. Currently the team is working on sustainability efforts and increasing the popularity of soccer in the U.S.

# LIVING WITH A HOST FAMILY



DURING MY STAY IN SEVILLE, I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO LIVE WITH AN INCREDIBLE HOST MOM, CAMINO. SHE MADE MY ROOMMATE AND I HOME-COOKED MEALS, LAUGHED WITH US, AND SHARED HER LIFE WITH US. I LIVED IN A LITTLE APARTMENT IN LOS REMEDIOS AND GOT TO LIVE A SPANISH LIFESTYLE. THAT MEANT NO AIR CONDITIONING, UNFAMILIAR MEALS AND MEALTIMES, WALKING ALMOST EVERYWHERE, LOTS OF SIESTAS, OR NAPS, WHEN IT'S HOT OUTSIDE, AND COMPLETELY ADAPTING FROM WHAT I WAS USED TO. I AM SO GRATEFUL I GOT TO LIVE IN A SPANISH NEIGHBORHOOD WITH CAMINO, AS I HAVE A MUCH DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR SPANISH CULTURE. I REMEMBER ONE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH CAMINO ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SPANISH BREAKFAST. SHE SAID, IN SPANISH OF COURSE, NONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER, THEY ARE JUST DIFFERENT. THAT REALLY STUCK WITH ME, AND I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WHEN FACING A CULTURE I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH.



## EMBRACING THE SPANISH CULTURE

ONE MAJOR PART ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD IS GETTING TO EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE FIRST HAND. THROUGHOUT MY TRIP, I PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY GLOBAL ED AND PLANNED SOME OF MY OWN. THIS WAY I WOULD GET TO LIVE LIKE A SPANIARD.



WALKING TOUR OF SEVILLE, FT. PLAZA DE ESPAÑA



TASTING TRADITIONAL SPANISH TAPAS. OR SMALL DISHES TO BE SHARED WITH FRIENDS



HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDE THROUGH THE CITY



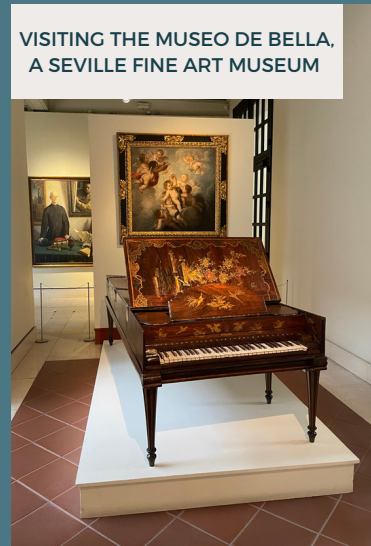
CELEBRATING CORPUS CHRISTI WITH THE LOCALS



VISITING THE CATEDRAL DE SEVILLA



CLIMBING THE GIRALDA FOR THE BEST VIEWS OF SEVILLE



VISITING THE MUSEO DE BELLA, A SEVILLE FINE ART MUSEUM



PAELLA COOKING CLASS

Each weekend, I went on trips to experience different cities in Spain and Portugal. Trips to Córdoba and Cádiz were planned by GlobalEd, Auburn's partner for this program. Trips to Portugal and Málaga were planned by me and the new friends I made from my program.



### **CÓRDOBA & CÁDIZ, SPAIN**

In Córdoba, the group went on a guided tour of the city, which included the Jewish neighborhood and the Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba. The cathedral had the most amazing architecture and a seamless mix of Islamic and Catholic influence. The next day the group went to Cádiz and started the day with traditional churros for breakfast. We got to see the city through Spain's first camera obscura, Roman theater remains, the city streets and markets, and the beach.



### **SAGRES & LAGOS, PORTUGAL**

Portugal is one of the most beautiful countries. One of my favorite moments from this trip was going on a speedboat ride with our Auburn group. On the way to the beach we stopped at a few lookout points like Cabo San Vicente, Sagres, or "The End of the World" and Ponta de Piedade, Lagos. I could barely process all the scenery I was taking in. I bought a handmade Portuguese ceramic dish as a gift and a cork magnet. I learned 50% of the world's cork comes from Portugal.



### **GRANADA, SPAIN**

Granada was my favorite trip of the month. We had a native guide us on a walking tour through the 2000+ year old hilly city. We climbed up to a convent and got incredible pastries from the nuns, who have not been seen in over 90 years. Granada is famous for their Tapas, so we had to get some! The next day we visited the Alhambra, the palace of the Islamic empire. When Christians took over, they added in elements of Spanish gothic and renaissance influence. It was breathtaking.



### **MÁLAGA, SPAIN**

Our last week and a half in Seville, it started to get extremely hot with over 110°F weather almost every day. As the locals do, we decided to visit a beach city, Málaga, to beat the heat in Seville. This trip included exploring a new city, visiting the Picasso museum, and enjoying the air conditioning in our Airbnb. Most of us, including me, did not have AC in our host homes. We also did a catamaran trip and got to swim in the Alboran Sea.



# MY TYPICAL DAY IN SEVILLA



MAKE BREAKFAST OF TOAST WITH MARMALADE AND COFFEE



GO TO CLASS OR A SITE VISIT



EAT LATE-NIGHT GELATO



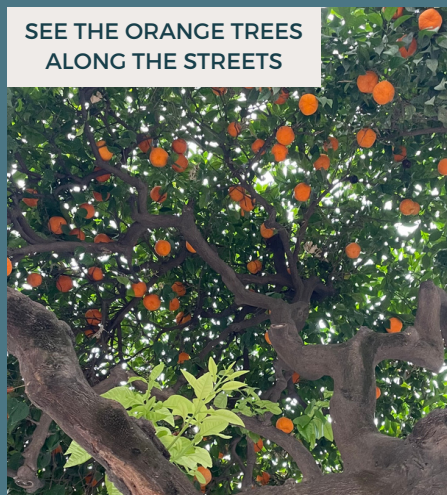
STAY COOL IN MY HOST HOME DURING THE AFTERNOON



SEE A SWAN IN MARIA LUISA PARK AFTER CLASS



TRY NEW FOODS PREPARED BY MY HOST MOM AND WATCHING THE SPANISH VERSION OF "WHEEL OF FORTUNE" WITH HER



SEE THE ORANGE TREES ALONG THE STREETS



WALK ALONG THE GUADALQUIVIR RIVER TO HEAD BACK HOME

# THANK YOU AUBURN & GLOBAL ED!



## DEPARTURE & FINAL THOUGHTS

If I am being honest, I was not at all ready to leave Spain. I had gotten so comfortable living in Seville and having the best time of my life. I did not want it to end. Something that helped me combat my sadness was to remember all of the memories I made and how grateful I am that I had the opportunity to go on this trip. I have so much appreciation and gratitude for this study abroad experience and how it challenged me and helped me grow personally, professionally, and academically. I am also proud of myself for taking a leap of faith and getting out of my comfort zone by going to Spain for study abroad. It was truly one of the best experiences of my life, and I would not change my time in Seville for anything. If you ever have the chance and are capable of doing so, I highly recommend studying abroad or even visiting Europe. Participating in the Seville culture was such a unique experience that opened my eyes to another way of life across the world. I am counting down the days until I can go back and visit Seville again!

