



Sevilla

Student Newsletter

Week 3

High School Summer Study Abroad

Summer 1, June 2009

NERJA

Nerja was so beautiful. The rocky beaches and the clear blue water were mesmerizing. When we arrived in Nerja we went to the caves. As we climbed down into the caves the temperature dropped and there was a lot of moisture in the atmosphere. The stalactites and stalagmites were fascinating and enormous. Some of them were formed in different shapes such as a boot, Homer Simpson's head, Virgin Mary, the Leaning Tower of Pisa and some others. We walked around the caves for about an hour and then left for the beach. The town of Nerja was very quaint and had lots of people walking around. There were a lot of ice cream places and many good paella restaurants. The weather was perfect, but the water unfortunately was freezing! Everyone still went in anyways. The water had many shades of blue and was clear all the way through. Large rocks and boulders surrounded the beach area and instead of the typical white sandy beaches, Nerja had pretty black, rocky beaches. The beach was small with many coves. We all had a blast sun bathing on the rocks and enjoying the weather, as well as playing frisbee. Everyone had a great time and we wish we did not have to leave!

Arianna Krajcer, Episcopal High School, Houston, TX
Kelsey Brooks, Episcopal High School, Houston, TX



Arianna Krajcer and Charlsie Neutzler Inside the Caves of Nerja



Nerja, Spain



LPI Sevilla Students Visit Cadiz



Monument to the Constitution of 1812 in Cadiz

CADIZ

This past weekend, we took a trip to the southern city of Cadiz. Upon arrival, we climbed the bell tower at the cathedral and had a magnificent view of the historic city alongside the beautiful Mediterranean. Then we took a walk through Plaza de la Constitucion (Constitution Square) where we saw a large monument symbolizing the writing of the Spanish constitution in Cadiz. We checked in to our hotel and had the afternoon to ourselves to explore after our walk. Most of us spent our free time relaxing at the beach. The crisp, blue water was much warmer than Nerja so we were actually able to go in. Because it was a special day for us Americans (the 4th of July), we had an extended curfew. The weather was of course hot, and the sun so strong, that just about everyone suffered from sunburn. However, the fun times in the sun were almost worth the pain. On Sunday, we had a continental breakfast buffet at the hotel and then had the afternoon to ourselves once again. Some went to the beach, while others walked around and shopped. La Plaza de Flores was a popular central area to shop and congregate. The food was great along with everything else. Promptly at 6:00 we met in front of the hotel, boarded the bus and rode back to Sevilla.

Leslie Liberman, Bellaire High School, Houston, TX
Kendyl Noon, Bellaire High School, Houston, TX



Flamenco Show in Granada

¡FLAMENCO!

Our flamenco experience began in our culture class. Our professor, Enrique, told us about how essential the dance is to Spanish culture. There are several different types and it is a “triple art” composed of singing, dancing, and music.

In Granada, we ventured up a mountain (really a large hill) to view a genuine flamenco show. It was in a very quaint theatre with a stage that fit only 5 or 6 people at a time. It was very exciting atmosphere because so many people turned up to see the show. Two flamenco groups made up the show. The first consisted of 4 dancers and a singer and a guitar player. Flamenco is a very serious dance that requires a lot of concentration. The dancers do not smile but we all had fun watching them. While one woman danced the others would clap with the singer and guitar player. We all struggled to keep in time clapping as well but the complexity of the song overwhelmed us. It takes a lot of skill just to clap, imagine how much practice it takes to dance and sing to the irregularity of the music. During the intermission a few of us got to take pictures with the performers. The second group was equally awning. They had two people who sang and one lady who danced with castanets (wooden clappers).

It was our favorite part of Granada, but our flamenco experience got even better. When we returned to Sevilla we were able to take classes in the exquisite art of flamenco dancing. We took classes for three days. It was so much fun although very confusing! There are foot routines and arm routines and clapping and stomping, and let me tell you, flamenco is not for the weak of heart. For the uncoordinated it's hard to learn to dance with English instruction, but it was the ultimate challenge because we learned in SPANISH. And succeeded!

The first day we learned Sevilliano flamenco. Unique to southern Spain, *everyone* knows it more or less because they dance it at the Feria (massive annual Spanish culture festival!). Our host mom and daughters know it, and of course our professors Enrique and Veronica know it as well. With a little coaxing we convinced them to show us their skills one day in class.

Sevilliano is divided into four parts. We learned the first and second parts in pairs as well as a traditional flamenco routine. We worked up quite a sweat in the studio mastered it pretty well. It was hard to pick up but it was quite satisfying to learn such an essential part of Spanish culture. “Uno, dos, tres, ¡GOLPE!”



Anastasia Hansen and Amanda West Learn to Dance the Flamenco

*Anastasia Hansen, St. Agnes Academy, Houston, TX
Amanda West, TASIS England, Houston, TX*



Flamenco Dance Class



Laura Coburn, Anastasia Hansen and Zachary Strauss Take a Photo with One of the Performers at the Flamenco Show