

STUDY ABROAD SPAIN 2016

COURTNEY SACKETT

TOLEDO



The FIRST MEAL IN SPAIN. After finally arriving in Ciudad Real, Elizabeth, Erica, and I decided to look for dinner. We asked several restaurants if they were open, and one lady even laughed at us. This was my first experience at how much Spanish people actually know English. I also realized how nervous I was to speak to Spanish people. We ended up finding this place to eat in the center of the plaza. We also realized how long it takes to eat dinner here.

TOLEDO



This was our first picture together in Spain. It was the start of such a beautiful friendship. A man offered to take our picture and ended up talking to us afterwards. He thought we were from England. The first time of many for people to mistakenly make that assumption.

TOLEDO



A group of us went to Museo Del Greco during free time in Toledo. I had not been to that part of Toledo yet, and I loved it. I enjoyed looking at the many pieces of art from El Greco and other Spanish artists.

TOLEDO



This picture is one of the many items inside the Torture museum. I don't exactly know if I enjoyed the museum. It was rather disturbing and expensive for being so small. Yet, I won't ever forget this museum because it was nothing like I had ever seen before and not typical.

TOLEDO



Watching the sunset over Toledo was my all-time favorite memory of the city. I could have sat in silence and watched the city all night as it was filled with lights. It was the start of a few new friendships at the top of the hill. I remember asking for non-alcoholic drinks at the restaurant where we were, and they gave us alcoholic drinks. Great way to wrap up the first week!

BILBAO



- The Guggenheim was one of my favorite parts of Bilbao. I enjoyed all of the modern and contemporary art.
- Near this was my first experience with a scammer. A man told me that he collects American coins and asked if I had any. He ended up taking all of my American coins and would not leave us alone. When we finally got away, a family came up to us and told us to stay away from him because he is a "bad boy".

BILBAO



First time trying Tapas/pinchos.
I definitely am a fan!

BILBAO



The best and most creative gelato in Spain in front of the Guggenheim.

You get to pick as many flavors as you want, they make it into a flower and put a macaron on top.

I love Amarino's!

BILBAO



We stumbled upon a park near Old Town that was a perfect place to watch the sunset over Bilbao with so many cute dogs running around.

We walked up so many steps to get here. On the way down we took a different way. After walking down a steep hill, we couldn't see the stairs below us and could only see in front of us. It was a MASSIVE hill. We almost all cried until we saw the stairs going down. We actually died crying from laughing at our laziness.

BILBAO



On our way to the Old Town, we this commotion. The announcer was only speaking in Basque so none of my friends nor I could understand what was the purpose.

It looked like a cooking competition. They were all cooking the same type of fish and preparing several times while a man walking around observing.

It is so interesting trying to interpret what you are experiencing when you don't speak the language.

SAN SEBASTIAN



Our first night in San Sebastian was a success.

We sat through a Basque/Spanish mass in one of the Cathedrals shown here. Although I could only understand some of the mass, it was such an amazing and unforgettable experience. The choir was so amazing.

SAN SEBASTIAN



We went "bar hopping" and ate tapas for the rest of the night. We caught the last bit of the soccer game. It was so fun watching the locals get so excited about the game!

SAN SEBASTIAN



Despite the fact that I had a terrible cold the entire trip of San Sebastian, it was definitely worth hiking up the mountain to see the view of the ocean!

I could have stayed up there all day admiring the beauty and how lucky I was to be able to experience something so astonishing.

SAN SEBASTIAN



SAN SEBASTIAN



This was my favorite puppet show I saw in San Sebastian. It was a plot of a Dog and a Caterpillar. The Caterpillar ended up defeating the dog and blossoming into a butterfly at the end.

Every time we saw a puppet show, we would stop and watch. It was so awesome that they were having a competition in San Sebastian!

ALMAGRO



Almagro was such a brief visit that I did not take many pictures.

I would like to go back to visit the theatre/hospital museum.

ALMAGRO



I loved this window from the castle we toured as a group.

I took the guided tour around the castle. Even though it was in Spanish, I challenged myself to understand what the guide was saying.

I definitely was lost the whole tour because I could not understand! Everyone just speaks so fast here in Spain.

CIUDAD REAL



My favorite memory of my host family was making homemade tortilla española with my host mom!

I loved getting a little piece of the Spanish culture and spending time with my host mom. She even wrote down the recipe for me. I still can't believe how easy it is to make yet so delicious!

I also discovered it is even more amazing fresh and hot!

CIUDAD REAL



Some of the food my host family has made me.

The left is tuna empanadas.

The right is my absolute favorite desert Natillas. It is a cold custard with tons of cinnamon (canela) on top. Yummy!

I told my host family that it is my favorite desert. Every night after dinner, they would give me Natillas. I am definitely going to miss it!



CIUDAD REAL



On one of the last days of the program, I came home one day and my host mom had two shirts that she insisted I try on and pick a color. She bought it for me as a going away present.

So bittersweet because I don't like goodbyes and don't want to leave my home away from home.

CIUDAD REAL



Me and my host sister at the “Last Supper” .

I am so thankful for her. I am thankful that she was so patient with me for the past 5 weeks when I couldn't think of words in Spanish. She taught me so many new Spanish words and definitely helped my speaking skills.

She is so funny and laughs at everything. She is such a happy person, and I am going to miss her when I leave! Good thing she told me I could come back and visit and stay in their house whenever I want.

CIUDAD REAL



The “last suppers” .

I really made such amazing friendships in Ciudad Real.

We had our own “last supper” as a group of friends. We tried telepiza for our last dinner together and drank tinto verano at Hotel Dona Carlotta.

I’m going to miss these guys!



VALENCIA



The dolphin show at the aquarium. I had never been to a dolphin show before.

I loved seeing the dolphins do all their tricks with the trainers. It was so cool. I could have watched it for so much longer than what it was.

Also, JP and I danced at the beginning to be able to go up and help them run the show, but we weren't chosen. Still sad about it!

VALENCIA



This was the biggest aquarium I have ever been to!

I love how they split up the aquarium based on the different types of animals. It makes navigation so much easier.

I will never forget going into the butterfly farm with JP wanting a butterfly to land on me. We both stuck our arms out the whole time and once a butterfly landed on me, I started to scream because they are gross!

VALENCIA



The real life Face Swap with Erica at the interactive museum.

This museum was definitely made for little kids, but I still had a great time.

We loved a machine that took your picture in a dark room capturing your motion on the wall. I also enjoyed this shown.

VALENCIA



Valencian paella and white sangria
with Elizabeth, JP, and Erica

I loved the paella! It was my first
time trying rabbit. The white sangria
was also the best sangria I had tried
in Spain. It was a great 3 course meal
with calamari, patatas bravas, a
salad, and paella.

There was a man playing the
accordion near our table the whole
time we were eating. We had such a
great time just relaxing, enjoying
each other's company and falling
more in love with Valencia!

VALENCIA



One of my favorite memories of this entire program was the beach in Valencia.

We played Frisbee for a couple hours in the water and watched the seagulls dive down into the water easily enthused!

My favorite part was playing soccer with a lot of the students from the program and Paco.

It was an unforgettable experience to say I played soccer with my professor on the beach in Spain! I won't ever forget this!

ROME, ITALY



JP and I flew into Rome around 11 pm. We took a taxi to our Air B&B hostel we had booked. Turns out the hostel did not exist. Long story short: we were stranded in Rome. No taxis would answer our phone calls, all nearby hotels were booked full and didn't have any rooms, and it was already 2 am. We knew the buses were closing soon so we took one until it stopped. We then walked through the outskirts of Rome to the nearest Best Western. The Best Western was closed; it was 3 in the morning and we were still stranded. Finally a taxi answered us and took us to a Best Western in the center of Rome. We finally found a hotel at 3:30 am! Scariest/most eventful moment of my life!

ROME, ITALY



The Colosseum!

JP and I jumped off this rock for an amazing action shot. I think I permanently broke my feet from it and was actually really scared according to my face.

The Colosseum was huge. (Of course, it is the largest amphitheater ever built.) You could see where they had built on top of the preexisting ruins with other material. It was very interesting to see the modifications of the structural aspect within the ruins.

ROME, ITALY



The Pantheon!

I loved the appearance of the granite columns.

My favorite part was that admission was free!

I also enjoyed the concrete dome that has a central opening to the sky.

ROME, ITALY



FONTANA DE TREVI

This was my favorite part of Rome.

Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of going to Trevi Fountain to make a wish.

I could feel the magic in the air. I loved it so much that I came back twice. It was even more magical at night with all the lights!



ROME, ITALY



The Vatican Gardens

We took a guided tour of the gardens. They were absolutely beautiful and so big.

JP and I ended up getting lost on the tour and were stranded from our group. Through our headpieces we heard our tour leader, Moon, asking where we were. We had a panic attack and ran everywhere until we finally found them. Moon with her green sunhat and pink baton was not happy with us!

PORTO, PORTUGAL



Francesinha was my favorite food of the whole trip!

I love every aspect of the decadent sandwich. I ate one every day on the trip and even had a veal sandwich from a food truck with the same sauce.

I loved Porto and loved the Francesinha even more!

PORTO, PORTUGAL



PORTO, PORTUGAL



PORTO, PORTUGAL



A group of us went to the cathedral. We payed 3 euros to go back further into another area of the cathedral.

The "azulejos" are so magnificent. I loved all the tile on the buildings in Porto.

I want to import these from Porto and bring them back to decorate a future home. They are everywhere in Porto and so beautiful!

PORTO, PORTUGAL



In the Crystal gardens, there was a park for little kids.

I had never been on a see saw. I finally tried it, and it was terrifying.

Obviously I was having a blast. This face explains how genuinely happy Porto made me.

The best city in the world!

PORTO, PORTUGAL



On the last full day in Porto, a group of us decided to walk down to the beach to see the red sculpture.

We ended up taking a wrong turn near the river and walked through very residential areas of Porto. It took all day to get to the beach.

Even though the day was “uneventful”, I enjoyed the company and getting to see another side to Porto!

PORTO, PORTUGAL



We got up early the day we were leaving Porto to eat breakfast at the Majestic Café!

It was crazy that there was already a line of people waiting for the restaurant to open when we arrived.

So happy I got to drink Espresso where JK Rowling once wrote about Harry Potter!

EL FIN

ya extraño a España...