

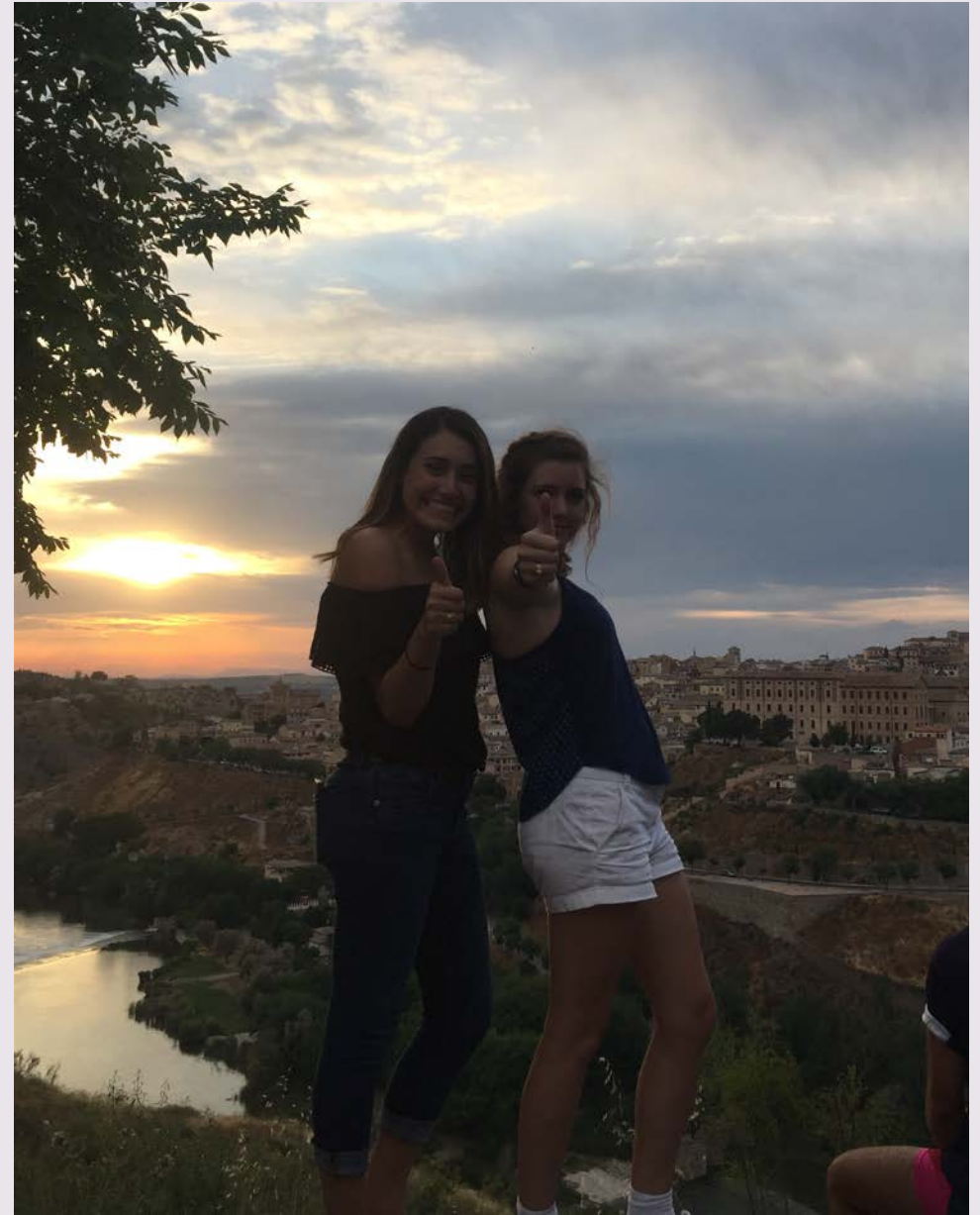


# SPAIN STUDY ABROAD 2018

Elaine Garcia

# Toledo, Spain

I loved the transition that the trip to Toledo allowed us to have. Toledo gave us so much cultural awareness and knowledge to help the transition into school at Spain seem pretty much effortless. The classes helped the Spanish speakers differentiate of the weird quirks that are different from Spain Spanish compared to Mexico Spanish. Toledo also helped us get comfortable and to know each other. I enjoyed meeting everyone and finding where I would fit in all of it. This also gave us a lot of time to meet the mechanical students since pretty much after that we were generally apart unless it was for a four day weekend or you lived in the hotel with them.





Time before our Spanish classes were a great time to meet people and talk to each other about what we look forward to most on the trip.



Toledo itself was amazing to look at in terms of landscape and architecture. I enjoyed to take in Spanish culture with not having to worry about classes right away.







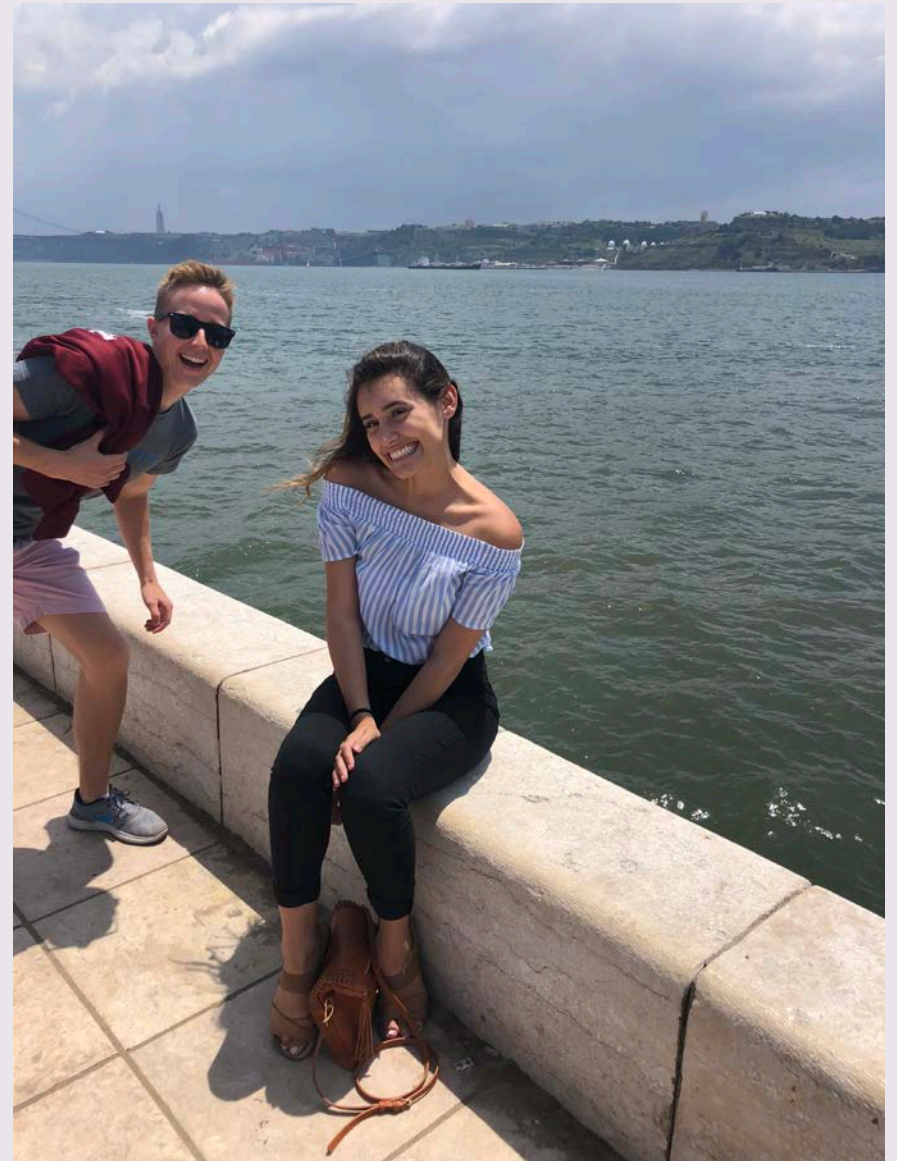


This is when realized that Georgina was master at power napping during classes.



# Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon had to be one of the most breath taking cities I have ever been to. We explored so many places that culturally emerged us into the Portuguese culture.





For the free day we had, our group decided to go to Troia island which was filled with beautiful scenery and a secluded beach. Apparently not secluded enough since we met a huge group of Americans from Galveston to remind us just how small the world is.







This was when we explored the city center of Portugal and got to get a lot of shopping in for our free beach day we had the next day.



# Cuidad Real, Spain

- Living in Cuidad Real was perfect to me. It was quiet enough that I felt comfortable walking home alone yet had enough attractions where I didn't feel like I was completely isolated. The school was conveniently very close to the hotel so it was never an issue for getting to class. There was times where I felt like I wished I had picked a host family to gain more experience in the Spanish culture but regardless I felt like my time here was well spent and I enjoyed everyone I met here. I hope to keep in touch with the Spanish students because they really did help Cuidad feel like home.





This was our first dinner as an “engineering orphanage” and it was great to meet the people that would be sharing the sad feeling of not having a host family. Luckily everyone who lived at the hotel were all great people who regularly got dinner together since we didn't have dinner provided.



One great part about living at the hotel was that the walk was so simple. Literally two blocks away from campus. This was great because when the host families students were buying data to get use to the path to their home, the hotel people could sit back and watch.





Me and my roommate had a class before this trip and didn't really talk to each other and living with her made me realize just how much we had in common.

The orphanage. Though we didn't have families we had each other to vent about the struggles.



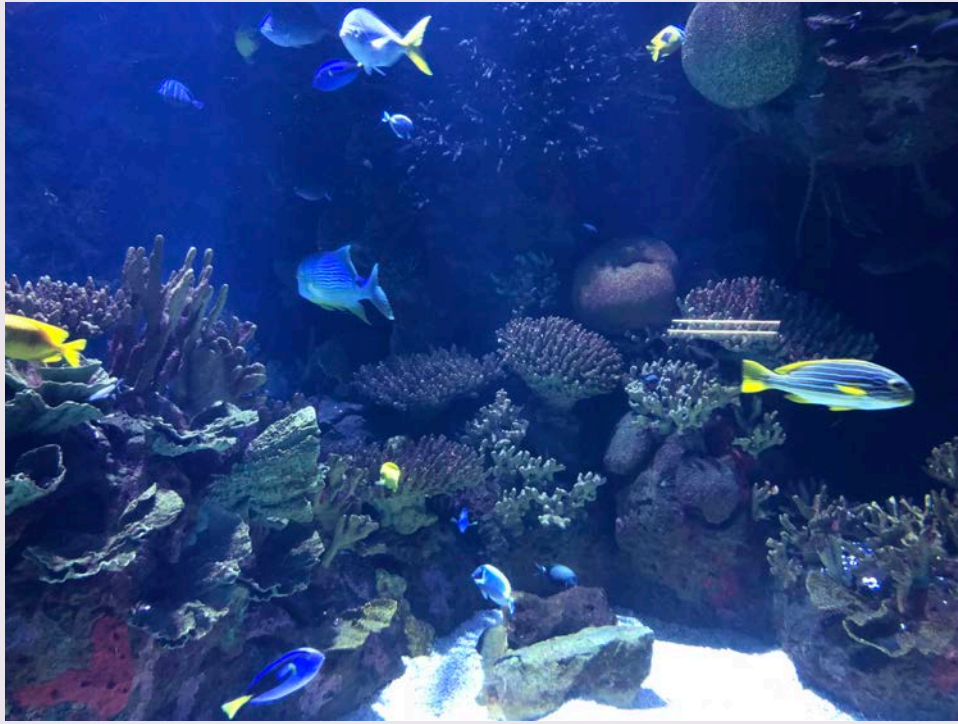


# Valencia/ Villa real

When the said that Valencia was known to have some of the best paella in Spain they were not kidding. We went to a restaurant and got two huge paellas and it was such a magical food experience.







We also got to go to one of the biggest aquariums in Spain and we got to catch a dolphin show. The engineer in me continuously struggles to focus and wonder more about how the training and tanks for the dolphins worked but it was still very enjoyable.



The fact that we got to see a world cup friendly is something I never thought I would ever do. This was such a memorable experience. I got to see the love of my life Pique and got to experience my first soccer game in this beautiful environment.



Not to mention that for such an affordable price we got such a great view of the game.



# Santiago De Compostela, Spain

- This is where I spent my first long weekend. Santiago is where I got this biggest taste of Spanish culture. While here we went to the cathedral and even a museum that explained the pilgrimage and the significance of the Santiago De Compostela. This trip was rich in sight seeing and history. It was one of my most memorable parts of this study abroad. I cant wait to go home and explain all the things I learned fro Santiago. The huge catholic influence led for a great stop for gifts for my family as well.





We took a guided tour and got to stop at a beautiful waterfall. I have learned to appreciate nature's beauty from my trip to Spain.



My favorite moments came from the natural landmarks that we were able to admire about Spain.



Since Santiago is known for its octopus it was only right that we tried it. I enjoyed it but lets just say some of us enjoyed it more than others.



# Malaga/Granada, Spain

In terms of organized visits Malaga was my favorite. I really enjoyed the boat the most. We were told we would be on a catamaran, so when a tour boat showed up we all laughed but the fact that we all embraced it and still had a great time laughing and dancing reminded me of just what a great group of students came on this trip.





These two Spanish students in our engineering class made great suggestions on places to go and turned out to be great friends.

El Caminito Del Rey was breathtaking to say the least. Seeing the old trail that was below the one we walked made me realize just how dangerous it use to be. I am so glad we got to experience this trail because it left us with incredible photos and views to last us forever.







The boat was fun and so relaxing that it put some of us right to sleep.



Going to the Alhambra had be speechless. The Islamic influence on the architecture was something I had never seen in my life. I was amazed at how so much beauty could exist in one place.





# Santa Cruz de Tenerife

- For my last long weekend I went to the Canary Islands with a group of 10 people. I only knew two of the people very well before going so this was something very new for me to learn and to grow out of my comfort zone. The island itself was something out of magazines. So many times I found myself staring at the natural made creations without words. This trip made me appreciate the fact that I was able to have such a great experience. Some people like to say that they wish they knew when they were living the best moments of their life so they could appreciate them better. When I was at the canary islands with such great people I knew I was living one of the best moments in my life which made be appreciate it that much more.







