

LT Week 3 Blog

Katherine Krugh & Group

Week 3 at Lora Tamayo was another success! We only had two sessions this week, one on Tuesday with 3rd graders (age 8-9) and one on Wednesday with 2nd graders (age 7-8). Despite the less-ideal weather, we were able to work together with the kids and our group to play the same main games. Although, we shortened Wednesday due to poor weather conditions and the declining ages of the students. As our students get younger, we recognize that the best way to set them up for success is to have shorter stations that end at Recreo, instead of continuing on after they've already lost their focus.



As a group leader, I loved to watch my kids interact with each other in each new environment. My favorite sport they played was “Football,” of course. It was such a treat to see them immediately get to

playing the game, with no explaining necessary from the Activity Leaders. They hear “football” and they are ready to go. There is always a large spread of talent and athleticism in each group, although I would argue that the spread of ability is most obvious during football: some kids are able to dribble the length of the pitch, shifting past defenders, and make a final short pass to a teammate’s outside foot to secure a goal, while other kids struggle to even control the ball during one or two touches. However, these kids showed each other and themselves grace in each interaction. Nobody yelled at a less-skilled player for messing up the play and no kids quit early for fear of insecurity in the face of better-athletes. It was refreshing for me, both as an athlete and as a human being, to see this type of kindness show up in these small moments. Each kid has a place here at Lora Tamayo and they all seem to know that. I wish there was more of that everywhere we went.



Alcazar Blog

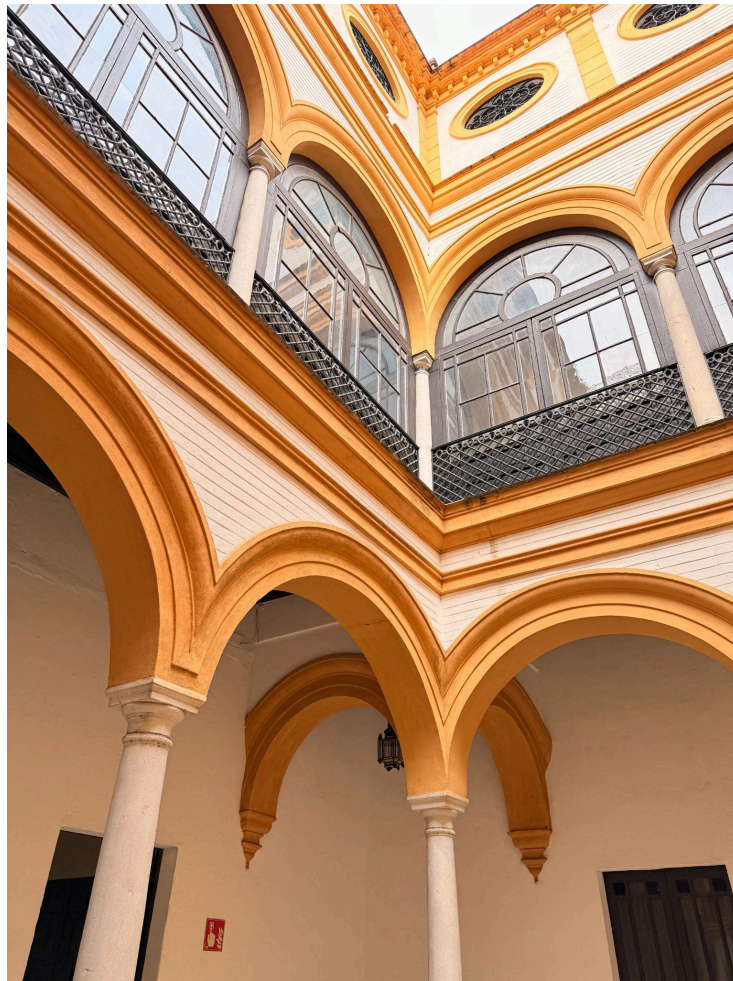
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Today we ventured in the rain to one of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, right here in Seville: Alcázar. Named in Arabic as “the castle,” the size and magnificence of the building did not disappoint. The palace originally began as a Moorish fortress in the 10th century, when much of southern Spain was under Islamic rule. After the city was captured by Christian forces in 1248 during the Reconquista, the complex was gradually transformed into a royal palace.



What makes Alcázar especially unique is how its architecture reflects the blending of cultures that shaped Spain’s history. In the 14th century, King Pedro I of Castile ordered the construction of a new palace

within the complex. Even though he was a Christian king, he employed Muslim craftsmen to design and build it, resulting in the unique, mixed-cultural style that is present throughout much of Alcázar. Walking through the palace, we saw intricate tilework, detailed arches, peaceful courtyards, and beautiful gardens that showcase this incredible mix of artistic traditions.



The Alcázar has continued to evolve over the centuries as different monarchs added new rooms and gardens, and it is actually the oldest royal palace in Europe still in use today. In fact, our tour guide told us that if the Spanish king had decided to visit the palace on the day of our visit we would no longer be granted entry. Throughout the two hour tour, we walked through the history and magnificence of the Spanish empire. I had no idea how important a city Seville was to the political culture and economy of

Spain. Madrid and Barcelona are today's obvious political and economic hotspots, where Seville still holds on to more ancient customs of slow living.

