

Group 4

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Sports and Globalization

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Sevilla Opening Day - Blog Post

We arrived in Sevilla on Tuesday, March 14, all coming from our different midterm break trips. Students arrived from Lisbon, Portugal, Athens, Greece, and more. Everyone was grateful for the chance to explore new cities in Europe over the free couple days. Our first day included an introduction to our host families, a quick orientation, and a group tapas meal. The switch from our London to Sevilla living situations would be pretty drastic, given the switch from apartments to host families. However, the switch definitely came with some benefits, specifically the exposure to the local homemade cuisine. We were all split up into different apartments across the city and told to reunite at SAIIE for orientation after we all got settled into our new apartments.

Stuart and Sean Chipres, our trip leaders from SAIIE, introduced themselves, gave us a little bit of background on why they do what they do, and how to best take advantage of our time in Spain. Their story is quite interesting, as the company is family run and started by their father in the 1980s. Their first partner school in the US was UW-Platteville, but it has since expanded to far more. Because of the Platteville origins, Stuart and Sean attended college there, and they spoke very positively about their own experiences studying abroad in the US. Having a big change in culture and fully immersing yourself is a lesson they wanted us to take away from the trip and orientation. The opportunity to go abroad is unique and incredible, and being able to get the full experience living with a host family only adds to the authenticity. Stuart commented on the best way to make your homestay productive was through clear and frequent communication.

You don't want to do anything wrong and create conflict, and the only way to avoid that is to always be upfront and open with the hosts. Sean also emphasized the ever changing nature of the itinerary and the necessity of planning, but made it clear we would be busy and enjoying ourselves.

Soon it was time to progress to our authentic tapas meal, and we got to stroll through the evening cobblestone streets of Barrio de Santa Cruz, Sevilla to get there. The area was beautiful, with all the buildings well kept in the traditional Southern Spanish style and the streets lined with many orange trees. Here is a photo of the area right around SAIE:



Our dinner was excellent, and began with an option for everyone to try one of the main local drinks: tinta de verano or Cruzcampo beer. The majority went with tinta de verano, a variation of

sangria, which while it's meant to be a summer drink, hence the name, everyone enjoyed. The meal included lots of fantastic classic Sevillian dishes, like the soup similar to gazpacho, the fried fish, the croquettes, and the beef and french fry dish. Everyone was able to eat as much as they liked, and the dinner made for an excellent start to the second leg of the trip. The group left excited to explore the city and its cuisine further.