

## SPANISH TRIP REPORT

After departing school at 5.15am Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October we arrived at Gatwick airport. Danny the friendly NST rep was on hand to help us through the check in process – this was very helpful as there were several pupils who had never been on a plane so did not know how to check in or go through security. The flight left on time, and we settled comfortably into our seats until the turbulence started. Luckily the teachers stayed calm which ensured the pupils did too – although there was a big cheer on landing. For some pupils this was their first experience of flying. What an initiation!

The hotel was friendly, spotless, and comfortable. Both the pupils and the teachers were very impressed with the rooms and the facilities. Now it was time to explore the town of Tossa de Mar with the Town Trail activity. The town itself was beautiful and pupils discovered the gorgeous view of the beach and the coast from the castle perched high above the bay.



Breakfast and dinner were buffet style which meant that was something for everyone. Some pupils were brave enough to ask the chef to cook them a steak just how they liked it. All seemed happy with the no phones rule at the dinner tables which made sure that everyone could chat about their first experiences in Spain.

Friday brought our trip to Barcelona and first stop was Gaudi's Sagrada Familia which was still under construction 100 years after it was first started. Then on to Parc Guell for more Gaudi architecture and for a photo opportunity of the magnificent view. Next stop La Rambla and La Boqueria food market to buy lunch, some pupils preferred to explore the Spanish version of McDonalds. Finally we explored el Poble Espanyol which is a purpose-built area showing the architecture and cultures of different areas of Spain. (And some great souvenir shops).



Saturday was very sunny, and we had an early start for Salvador Dali's Theatre Museum in Figueres. Although several pupils had never visited an art gallery before the surrealist paintings and sculptures really made them think. Lunchtime saw many pupils visiting a pizzeria and the staff there fed back to us how polite and friendly they were and that they had all tried to use Spanish to order and ask

questions. Then it we were off to Girona to visit the cathedral. All were very respectful and enjoyed the atmosphere and the architecture. When we arrived back in Tossa de Mar we had time for some final souvenir shopping before an early dinner at the hotel and then off to the Flamenco show.



The venue for the show was beautiful and we were sat on long tables with refreshments provided. None of us really knew what to expect but it was clear as soon as it started that this was going to be fun!. There was singing and dancing with different types of Flamenco showcased. We were not just observers though as audience participation was encouraged and lots of pupils ended up as part of the show on stage. It ended with a disco party before it was time to head back to the hotel.



The journey home went smoothly and there was a lot of pupils sleeping on the coach and the plane.

It was a fantastic trip. The pupils threw themselves into every activity and had a great time. Below are some quotes.

'I really enjoyed going to see all the cathedrals and churches and exploring the cities and towns'  
Charlie C Yr9

'I really enjoyed when we went to the Flamenco show in Torada. The performers invited us on stage we were all dancing and it was really fun' Maisie W Yr10

'My favourite part was visiting the park Guell in Barcelona' Lidia L Yr10

'I enjoyed visiting the cathedral and exploring Spain with my friends' April H Yr10