

EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Learning about yourself and the world around you happens both in and outside the classroom. Read below for an overview of the excursions and activities offered during your Verto experience in Seville!

Excursions

The following is a list of excursions that Verto organizes, included as part of your abroad experience fee. You will go on excursions with your Care Team, giving you the opportunity to get closer to your community while also seeing new places!

Day Trip: Cádiz, Spain

The ancient port city of Cádiz (the oldest city in Western Europe) is filled with remarkable history, charming alleys, and an incredible cultural heritage - special mention to the duomo of the cathedral and to the avenues and botanical gardens that border the sea. Cadiz is not only famous for its breathtaking beaches, but also for the elegance of its urban layout, and a charismatic, sparkling social life.

Day Trip: Aracena, Spain

Not far from Seville, the Sierra de Aracena offers an incomparable natural setting. A visit to this natural park allows a hike to reconnect with nature in an unforgettable landscape. This day is topped with the opportunity to try some of the best products of Spanish gastronomy. The guides accompanying the students on this excursion take the opportunity to teach them interesting facts about the flora and fauna of the area, as well as its history and local culture.

Overnight Trip: Morocco

Northern Morocco, with its interesting history and fascinating culture, is known to our students as Spain's neighboring country. With visits to some of the main cities, such as Tangier or Tetouan, and to more remote parts of the landscape, students have the opportunity to experience a trip that goes far beyond tourism. They will get to experience what it's like to be part of the Moroccan community through conversations with hosts, guided visits, and dinners with traditional Moroccan music and food.

Experiential Learning

Every course includes experiential learning as part of its delivery. This may include visits outside of the classroom, guest speakers, or hands-on class activities.

Here are a few examples of experiential learning activities that were offered in the past. Please note: The specific activities and courses described here are examples and may or may not be offered during term.

Visit to the Mosque, Santa Maria La Blanca Church, and the Old Jewish Quarter (*Philosophy of Religion*)

Discuss different religions traditions and culture within the context of the Muslim community of Seville at a local mosque. The goal is to understand the singularities of the coexistence between the three monotheistic religions in the city of Seville through its streets and some emblematic buildings.

Visit to a Business Center (*Intro to Business and Entrepreneurship*)

Visit a startup accelerator, a space where small businesses and entrepreneurs can develop projects and get matched with mentors to help them grow. Preview a number of elevator pitches by local startups and get a behind the scenes look into what it takes to grow a business.

Visit to the Museum of Arts and Traditions of Seville (*Cultural Anthropology*)

Immerse students in different arts, crafts and knowledge from all over Andalusia. A cultural knowledge located on the place they have lived during this semester.

Activities

During the week, Verto staff will organize activities for you to get to know one another, develop skills, and have fun. Students will also play a role in organizing activities. Here are a few highlights that we are excited to offer:

Care Team activities: Along the semester, your Care Team will meet regularly (Care Team Circles) to give everyone a chance to check in and learn something new about each other and your experience. Aside from that, we will invite you to register for different events, like our Spanish-English language exchange, journaling workshop, or a flamenco dance class.

Visit to the traditional Triana neighborhood: On the west bank of the Guadalquivir River, this scenic neighborhood is a hub of Sevillian culture. Home to flamenco artists and artisans, it is a meeting place where Sevillians enjoy the sun, go for tapas at the famous Mercado de Triana, and visit emblematic bars and museums, such as the Museo de la Alfarería.

Student-led Activities: Our students are very proactive and always bring a bunch of good ideas to our community. Our Peerleaders (chosen by each Care Team as a representative of the students' voice) take the lead to organize engaging activities and events to build a stronger community.

Community Engagement: Seville is a city full of people with diverse experiences and backgrounds, and connecting with this part of your community means you'll learn even more this semester.

We offer every participant the opportunity to take part in our volunteering programs:

- CLA (Culture and Language Assistant) Volunteering Program: Students visit local schools once a week to teach English and culture to Spanish children.
- Connecting Generations at San Juan de Dios: This second volunteering program offers the students the opportunity to visit the nursing home once per week to support and share time with the residents.

Independent Travel

If you wish to travel away from your Verto location on weekends, **you must fill out the Independent Travel Log** so we know where you're going. Don't worry, we're not going to track you! We just need to account for everyone in case of an emergency.

Check out Verto's social media to learn where students have traveled in previous years!

More resources

- [Instagram Post: Morocco Overnight Excursion](#)
- [Day Trip Photo Album: Cádiz, Spain](#)
- [Culture and Language Assistant Volunteering Program](#)