

EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

SEVILLE, FALL 2024

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 1: Cádiz, Spain (September)

This coastal city is one of the oldest inhabited communities in Europe. On this day trip, we'll get to explore the same streets and passageways that were once walked by Roman theatergoers, pirates, and merchants from all over the Mediterranean.

Day Trip 2: Hiking in Arcena, Spain (September/October)

Catch a glimpse of another side of Southern Spain, as you traverse the Sierra of Arcena and visit rural towns that lie within this area. After the hike, you'll have free time to enjoy a picnic lunch or a tapa in the town of Arcena, followed by a guided tour of the underground caverns of the Gruta de las Maravillas.

Weekend Overnight Trip: Tangier, Tetouan, and Chefchaouen, Morocco (October/November)

Spend two nights with Moroccan host families as you learn about the culture and history of Northern Morocco - Spain's beloved neighbor. You'll get to experience what it's like to be part of the Moroccan community through conversations with your hosts, guided visits to the city medina, and dinners with traditional Moroccan music and food.

Bonus Day-Trip: TBD

For the students with top participation throughout the semester at Verto activities and events, we will be running a final day trip at the semester - location TBD.

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 Bioalverde (*Diversity and Social Justice/Social Problems*)

Meet the people working at Bioalverde, a non-profit ecological farm on the outskirts of Seville, and participate in the collective construction of the new agricultural warehouse being built.

Visit to the Mosque (*Philosophy of Religion*)

Discuss Islamic traditions and culture within the context of the Muslim community of Seville at a local mosque.

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.

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:

Weekly Activities: At the beginning of the semester, your Care Team will meet on a weekly basis (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 events happening every week, like our Spanish-English language exchange, journaling workshop, or a flamenco dance class.

Kayaking on the Guadalquivir River

Get a different view of Seville from a kayak on the Guadalquivir River. In Seville, river sports are a beloved pastime, and our kayaking activity is a great chance to join *sevillanos* in this tradition.

Student Clubs: You are welcome to start and join a club! We will give you more information on how to do so on site. If there is something that you are passionate about or interested in discussing with others, consider founding a club.

In the past, participants have gathered to form clubs including:

- Improv Club
- Soccer Club
- Volleyball Club
- Creative Writing and Poetry Club
- Art Club

You help decide: What will our Fall 2024 clubs be?

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:

- English-language assistant at a local school
- Structural assistant at Bioalverde non-profit ecological farm

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!