SPAIN: SPANISH LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

14-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Improve your Spanish through language immersion
- Explore historic Toledo
- Take a Spanish cooking class and learn to make paella
- Kayak in the pristine waters of Ruidera Lakes
- Travel to Madrid and take part in a Tapas Tour and watch a Flamenco Show
- Take a fast train to Barcelona to visit Sagrada Familia and Park Güell and swim in the Mediterranean Sea

ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Medium

2027 PROGRAM DATES

- July 03 – July 16
- July 19 – August 01

GET IN TOUCH!

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Language learning meets real-life Spain in Toledo, Madrid and Barcelona.

OVERVIEW

The passions of Spain's people are the fabric of daily life. This is a country with music in its soul, a love of fine food and wild landscapes and a special talent for celebration.

For the first half of the program, you'll stay in the small city of Toledo. You'll be surrounded by rich history, stunning architecture and medieval monuments. Sharpen your Spanish through a mix of immersion and formal instruction, then practice with passionate native speakers while volunteering on community projects.

For the second half, explore two of Spain's most iconic cities: Madrid and Barcelona. Visit Sagrada Familia and Park Güell. Take part in a Flamenco class and show, a bike tour in Barcelona and a paella and tapas cooking class. Cool off by kayaking in the pristine waters of the Ruidera Lakes and swimming in the Mediterranean Sea.

Certified B Corporation









ITINERARY

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO SPAIN!

Welcome to Spain! Your two-week language experience begins when you land at Madrid-Barajas Airport (MAD), where our program staff will greet you. Together, we'll travel by private transport to our Home Base in historic Toledo. We'll have our first Spanish welcome dinner together and start using practical target-language phrases from day one! then get some rest as we have a full day ahead of activities tomorrow.

DAY 2: ORIENTATION & SCAVENGER HUNT

Today we'll start off with an orientation and language placement session to pair you with the ideal level for maximum daily progress!

After lunch, take your learning straight into the streets with a supervised interactive scavenger hunt through Toledo. Working in small groups, you'll speak exclusively with local residents and shopkeepers to solve clues, ask for directions, and navigate historic plazas entirely in Spanish.

DAYS 3-4: SERVICE & IMMERSIVE EXCURSIONS

Over the next two days, you'll deepen both your language fluency and community connections through a blend of hands-on service, classroom study and immersive excursions.

Each day begins at a local Toledo summer camp, where you'll lead interactive games, sports, and creative workshops alongside native Spanish-speaking children, putting real-world communication skills into practice right away. Following lunch, gather for small-group Spanish classes with native instructors, focusing on conversational flow, storytelling and practical vocabulary tailored directly to your camp leadership. In the evenings, step into Spain's rich history and mystery - trudge through Toledo's dimly lit, labyrinthine medieval alleys on a thrilling tour, unlocking centuries of legends and hidden underground vaults with a local guide!

DAY 5: ADVENTURE IN LA MANCHA

Today you'll take a break to experience the adventure and literary history of the La Mancha region! Start the morning by traveling to the iconic hilltops of Consuegra to marvel at the famous Don Quixote windmills, snapping incredible photos and practicing your Spanish as you learn about Cervantes' legendary novel. Then, gear up for an action-packed afternoon at the stunning Ruidera Lakes Natural Park - paddling kayaks across crystal-clear turquoise waters and soaking in Spain's natural beauty before heading back to Toledo for dinner where you'll practice ordering meals in target-language Spanish!

DAY 6: SERVICE PROJECT WITH THE RED CROSS

Roll up your sleeves for an immersive service project alongside the local Red Cross (Cruz Roja), conducting a riverfront cleanup along the Tagus River while conversing with Spanish volunteers. Your afternoon Spanish class builds directly on this experience, expanding your vocabulary with environmental and teamwork phrasing. At the end of the day, you will also have time for deeper personal reflection. Break out into smaller groups to discuss what you have learned from your time in Spain thus far.









DAYS 7-8: WEEKEND IN MADRID!

Spend the weekend in Madrid! Begin with a traditional Spanish paella class, where you'll make your own tasty food for lunch. A trip to Spain wouldn't be complete without attending a flamenco class and show, so we'll visit an authentic "tablao", learn the basic steps and enjoy watching the most famous dance in Spain! For our second morning in Madrid we'll enjoy a tapas tour where we'll get to try several local dishes while we walk some of the most iconic streets in the city center. After lunch we'll start our journey back to Toledo.

DAYS 9-10: YOUTH CAMP LEADERSHIP & SPANISH PRACTICE

Over the next two days, you'll step up as a leader at the youth camp, putting your Spanish skills to the ultimate test while celebrating the strong connections you've built! You'll take charge of designing and running games, crafts, and sports for the kids entirely in Spanish, followed by an afternoon language class focused on debate skills and constructive feedback. You'll cap off the evening with a lively cultural round-table, exchanging perspectives and debating contemporary Spanish lifestyle topics with your peers. On our last day in Toledo, return to camp for a heartfelt final celebration - delivering brief farewell speeches in Spanish, handing out certificates to the children, and sharing photos. Packing up and get hyped for your upcoming getaway to Barcelona!

DAYS 11-13: BARCELONA: SAGRADA FAMILIA, PARK GÜELL & BEACH TIME!

It's time to say goodbye to Toledo and Madrid and move on to our final destination of the program. Today we'll get up early to catch a high-speed train to Barcelona!

For the next couple of days, we'll visit the attractions that make Barcelona one of the most visited cities in the world:

- Learn about Gaudi's masterpiece by visiting the Sagrada Familia.
- Wander through Park Güell and enjoy the panoramic views of the city.
- Take a bike tour and visit some of Barcelona's main landmarks.
- Celebrate the end of the program by going to the beach and swimming in the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea!

DAY 14: DEPARTURE

Before you even know it, your 14-day language experience comes to an end. Head to Barcelona-El Prat Airport (BCN) today with memories and knowledge that will benefit you for life! Staff will assist you with check-in and accompany you until you have safely passed through security. ¡Buen viaje!

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $5,799
- **Service Hours:** 20
- **Language Hours:** 35
- **Immersion Language Target:** 80% of the Program in the Target Language
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Enclosed Compound, Youth Hostel
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - Madrid (MAD) Arrival
  - Barcelona (BCN) Departure

GLA HOME BASE

Your GLA Home Base is your "home away from home" throughout your time in Spain, with spaces exclusively reserved for GLA students and staff. In Toledo, your Home Base will be an enclosed, compound-style student dorm, featuring gender-segregated rooms and shared bathrooms with showers. In Madrid and Barcelona, the group will stay in hostels, with rooms shared by 2-6 students each.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - Home Base 1: Toledo - No
  - Home Base 2: Madrid - No
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - No
- Air conditioning
  - Home Base 1: Toledo - Yes
  - Home Base 2: Madrid - Yes
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - Yes
- Remote
  - Home Base 1: Toledo - No
  - Home Base 2: Madrid - No
  - Home Base 3: Barcelona - No

FOOD

Food is an integral part of life in Spain, and long, shared meals hold strong significance in Spanish tradition and culture. From diverse tapas to incredible seafood, the culinary experiences you'll have in Spain will be memorable and unique to the area.

CLIMATE

The local area can get very hot during the midday hours, with slightly lower temperatures at night. Spain also experiences much longer daylight hours in the summer months, with sunset occurring around 9:30 PM.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times
USA TODAY
NBC NEWS
The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

BE PRESENT | Our mission at GLA is "to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it." To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The environment may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their experience can transform their perspective. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

NO TOLERANCE | GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

COMMUNITY-LED EXPERIENCES | GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

MENTORSHIP | GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

CONTACT US | Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

ENROLL NOW | We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at **www.experiencegla.com/enroll.**