

Viva Barcelona!

A group of Longhill students of Spanish were lucky enough to visit the cosmopolitan city of Barcelona during their recent trip to Spain. Students were based in the sun-drenched resort of Salou, in the province of Tarragona, for their stay over the Easter holidays.

For many students, it was their first time abroad and also their first time on a plane – an exciting start to the trip and a relief to touch down safely at Barcelona airport. From there, it was a two hour coach trip to the hotel in the resort of Salou.

Student Kaia told us, "It was a nice hotel. People - guests and staff - were really friendly and I shared a room with two other girls. It was a great opportunity to get to know people better – school friends, other students and Spanish people. People were open and friendly and seemed to be more accepting than people back home. There were some Spanish, French and Irish students staying in the hotel and they were all really nice and friendly too."

The students were impressed by how different the Spanish architecture was. "The architecture was amazing – very interesting." Kaia told us, "The way the buildings were structured and even the flooring designs had meaning, in fact even tiny designs had meaning. We went to the Gaudi Museum and saw some of his amazing design work. It was so interesting to see how Spain is structured differently to home." She added, "We didn't go into any of the Gaudi buildings, but it was great to take pictures from outside and the colours everywhere were so vibrant. Everywhere you went there were buildings with different colours on them."

We asked Kaia how she enjoyed the Spanish street life and cuisine, "It was very busy everywhere, very busy and bustling and the food was great, with lots of different flavours. It was really different to home and it was amazing to try out different foods. I think my favourite food was paella – it was a great mixture of fish, meat, rice and vegetables – delicious!"

"One of my favourite places that we visited was Tarragona. It was a lovely village, so colourful and peaceful, the kind of place I might like to settle down when I'm older. All the little shops were so interesting." Said Kaia. "We also went to the beach and I had a paddle – it was sandy and the water was warm. The stall-holders there were friendly, but quite persistent and persuasive, trying to sell us things at the beach."

We asked Kaia to sum up the trip for us, "It was such an interesting experience and I'd really recommend it to anyone who has the chance to go. It was fun to get to know the teachers when they're away from school and to meet other students that you might not normally mix with."

Thanks go to Ms Butters, Ms Perrono and Mr Burgess for accompanying the students on the trip, giving them the opportunity to experience a completely different culture and lifestyle. We believe that this immersive experience will undoubtedly enhance the students' Spanish studies in the future.

