



# Spain Travelogue

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Kimberly Cardenas



I am absolutely thankful for the opportunity to travel abroad for the first time with the help of the Presidential Award. Embarking on this two week study abroad throughout southern Spain was truly unforgettable in every way and more. I couldn't be happier with my decision since this was an opportunity to explore my Spanish heritage. We spent the majority of our time in Granada, which I would soon discover the historical and cultural significance and impact not restrained by borders, neither in the past nor today.

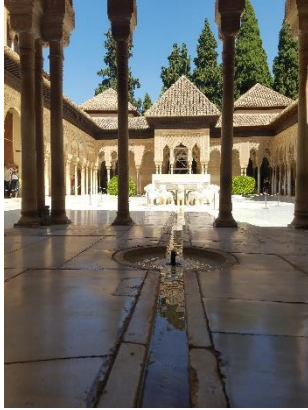


Something remarkable to me about the cities I had visited is the value and cultural significance of water. All throughout, one could easily encounter a beautiful ornate fountain of water where people can drink from, or little channels that had once provided the resource to so many citizens. A major reason for the significance placed on water can be related to the heavy Arab influence in the region. Water is revered and symbolizing of life in the culture, so it is only fitting that it is reflected in the cities that have been home to so many diverse people.



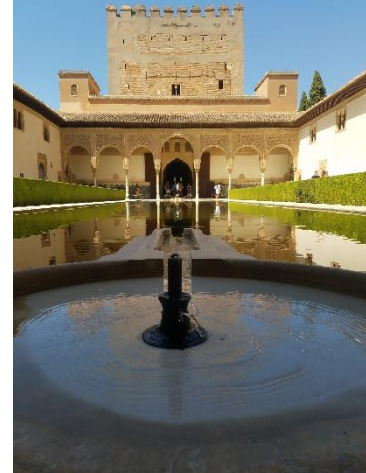
One excursion we made was to the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba. What was so impressive about this monument was the blend of Islamic and Christian architecture, but also the preservation of even minute details. For example, the pillars supporting the structure were constructed by a multitude of artisans, so they would each carve their signature, which are now on display, into their creations. Seeing how the merging of culture and religion resulted in such an astounding structure was awe inspiring and absolutely breathtaking.





Another remarkable excursion we made was to the Alhambra. The strategic planning of not only the architecture but the adornments, colors, and layout as well were absolutely mind-blowing. It was amazing how concepts of symmetry, balance, visual understanding, water, and others were interwoven to create spaces of monumental proportions, especially within the royal palace and the gardens. To learn how all aspects were calculated to invoke certain

thoughts and reactions made the experience all the more thrilling!



This experience was truly amazing, not only for all the major excursions but also the mini adventures. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Professor Jerez-Gomez and Professor Habich who made this trip all the more memorable!

Thank you!



First big adventure of a shy adventurer!