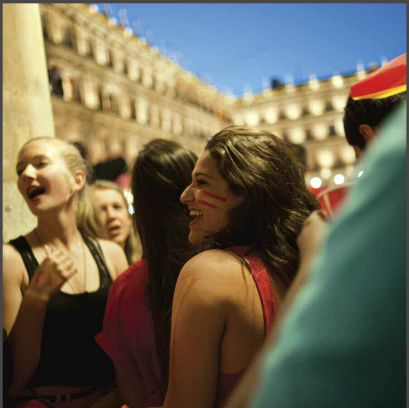
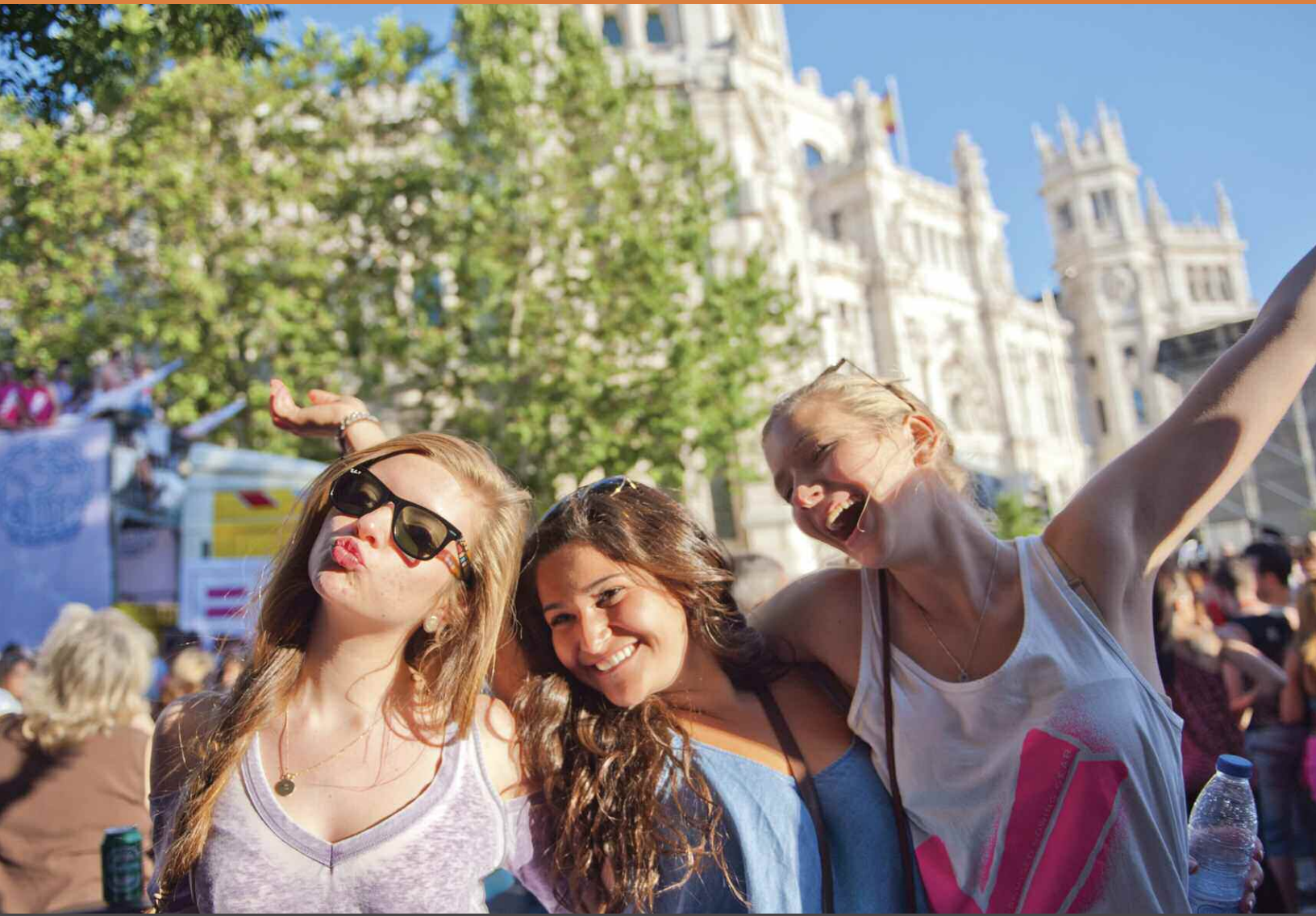




EDU-CULTURE
IMMERSION

Costa del Sol 2015



Individual Immersion program in Spain

Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school & college students

Costa del Sol 2015

Individual Immersion program in Spain



Summer Study Abroad opportunity for high school & college students

The ECI individual Immersion program in Spain is unique. No other program offers you this amazing opportunity. Your spoken Spanish and knowledge about Spanish culture will improve enormously.

ECI is the only Summer Study Abroad organization to offer a total immersion program in this form - living with a volunteer family, and speaking only Spanish.

This is what sets our programs apart – an individual learning experience in an authentic Spanish cultural setting. No classes, no group activities, no English. Simply a summer of Spanish culture, Spanish family life and Spanish language.

This is true language immersion.

Detailed program information

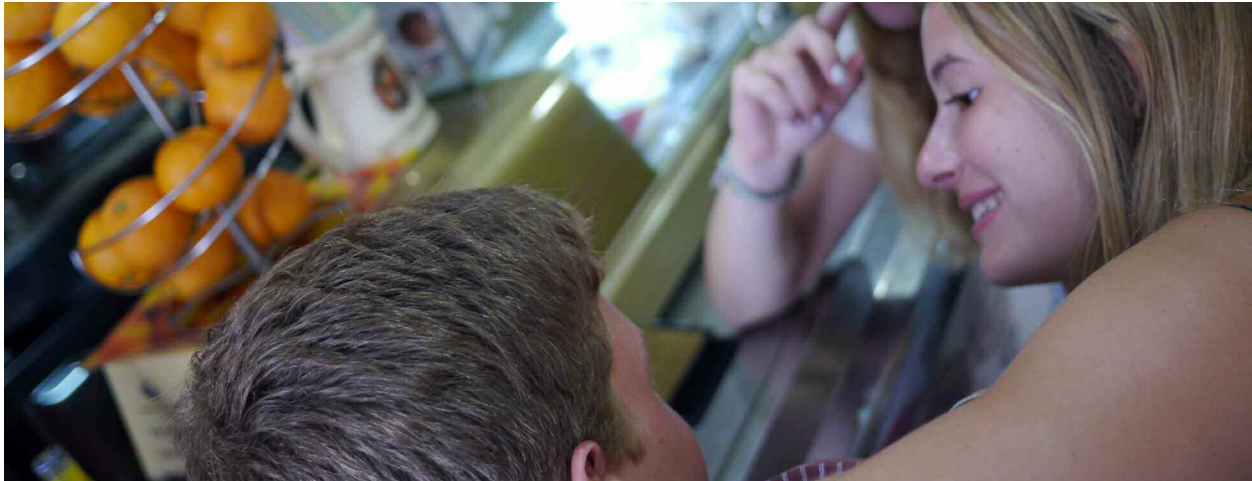
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1. Your program town - Almeria

Individual Immersion in Almeria, on the Costa del Sol.



Almeria is a great Individual Immersion program location. The city holds a great deal of charm and is steeped in history. Located at the foot of a mountain range, crowned by a magnificent Arab fortress, Almeria's Andalusian legacy can be seen everywhere, including in the surrounding villages and in its gastronomy.

Almeria's nearby mountainous territory is also much used as a movie location, and is most famous for being the backdrop to the Spaghetti Westerns of the seventies. It's a beautiful place to spend time soaking up the sun, along with the culture, and all the while improving your spoken Spanish.

Spend your summer at the beach and improve your Spanish.



2. A flexible & individual program



2 to 4 weeks living with a family

An amazing opportunity to improve your spoken Spanish, learn about the Spanish and Andalusian culture from the inside, and create bonds with a Spanish family.

You choose the dates

Travel any time between July 1st and August 22nd. The length of stay is up to you. Students usually stay for between two and four weeks.

Customize your trip

If you want to take tennis lessons, dance classes, or keep up with swim practice during your immersion stay, we will do all we can to accommodate these, and any other requests you may have.

Regular check-ins

Our dedicated Host Family Coordinator will regularly check in with you to make sure you are comfortable in your family and getting the most out of your immersion experience.

3. The host family experience

Unique ECI Individual Immersion with a volunteer family in the French Alps.



Arrival

You will be met at the airport by your Host Family Coordinator. You will then be taken directly to your host family's home. During the journey to Almeria, your HF Coordinator will give you information about the local area and advice about living in a family. Your family will be expecting you, so you can be sure of a warm Andalusian welcome.

Getting to know your family

The majority of our families have teenagers of a similar age to you, and one of the goals for the Individual Immersion program is that you develop a strong bond with the children in the family, and even form the beginnings of a life-long friendship. However, as this is an immersion with the entire family, we encourage you to also spend as much time as possible building a relationship and talking Spanish with each family member, whether it be the grandmother or the toddler in the family.

Living with a family

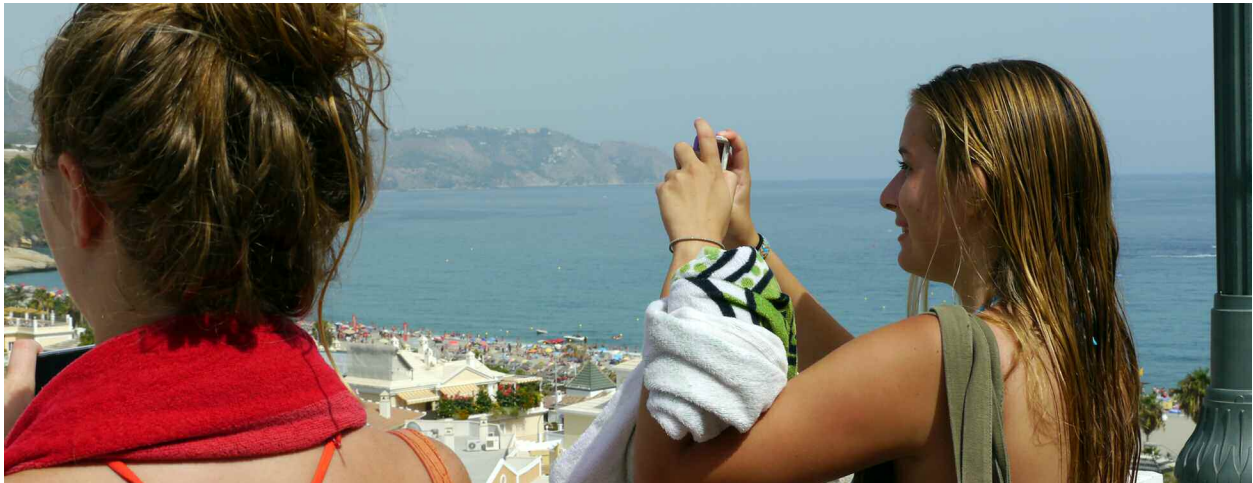
You will either have your own room or share with a host family sibling. You will speak only Spanish, and because this is an Individual Immersion program there will be no group activities. You will simply fit in with the routine of your Spanish family. This is your genuine and unique opportunity to live the life of a Spanish teenager. Your family may take you on local sightseeing excursions, including the highlights of Almeria, or to visit friends, or may simply spend a lot of quality time with you at home, going about their daily lives. Regardless, all of this is immensely valuable in helping you to improve your spoken Spanish and knowledge of Spanish culture.

Regular check-ins

Your HF Coordinator will be on call 24/7 in case you have any issues or concerns. She will also check in with you regularly by phone to make sure you are settling in and comfortable in your family. She will arrange to meet up with you outside of the home in order for you to feel comfortable in discussing any issue or concerns you may have, however small. This is sometimes done with other US students who are in the program town at the same time as you, and many students find it really useful to meet up for this brief period of time to swap stories about their experience of the program so far.

4. Activities

Total immersion, total flexibility - totally fun!



With no program of planned activities you will simply live the life of a typical Spanish teenager in Almeria.

This means that your family will offer to take you on local excursions or sightseeing in Almeria and the surrounding region. But you will also spend time immersed in the daily routines of the family. Enjoy mealtimes, going shopping with your host parents, going to the beach, family parties, or just relaxing and enjoying getting to know your family.

And your Spanish will improve along the way.



5. Customize your trip

During your immersion stay in Almeria you may want to take the opportunity to add some additional features to your program.



In the past, students have requested horseback riding or tennis lessons, for example. Some have wanted to take dance classes or even a short intensive program of one-to-one Spanish classes in Almeria to consolidate their learning during immersion.

It is also possible for you to join onto portions of our group programs. For example, you could add on any of the following portions to your individual immersion program:

- 4 day Barcelona portion
- 3 day Madrid portion
- 4 day southern Spain touring portion

Some students have even taken part in our two week group Spanish classes portion in Nerja or Salamanca and combined it with their Individual Immersion. All of this is possible, providing the dates fit.

Please discuss your requests with our team, and we'll be happy to make it work for you.

6. The ECI team

We have a whole team of ECI staff who create the Individual Immersion program. Each one is highly trained and is expected to meet exacting ECI standards.



Host Family Coordinator

Our Host Family coordinator is based in Almeria and arranges each Individual Immersion volunteer host family placement. The ECI Immersion program is now very well established in Almeria, and our Coordinator is able to recruit volunteer families to host through her connections in the region. Our program is highly regarded among the local community, and Spanish families look forward to welcoming a US student into their homes each year.

The family/student matching process starts with you writing a letter to your prospective family and giving details about your interests and hobbies. Our Coordinator will arrange a family best suited to you based on this information.

Your Host Family Coordinator will be on-hand throughout your experience, as part of the ECI support team. She will visit you in your host family home and also meet up with you during your stay to make sure all is going well.

US team

From the moment you enroll, you will be in communication with our US team who will provide you with all the information you need during the application process. It is their role to guide you through the application process, including giving advice about writing your letter, uploading photographs, university credit, and making payments. They will also make sure you have all the necessary pre-departure information, including an itinerary and Study Abroad Student Handbook, giving you practical advice about your program. They will also arrange an online pre-departure meeting in preparation for your travel to Spain.

7. In their own words

Some of the many great comments we've had from parents and students about last year's Individual Immersion program in Almeria.



"After total immersion in Spain, I feel very accustomed to Almeria, Spain, and Spanish. I have a much better understanding of the specific language and customs of Southern Spain. I'm very glad I participated in the total immersion." - **Molly Bertolacini**

"I felt very welcomed and involved by the host family. The family made sure I was always a part of the group and was comfortable, fed, and relaxed. I got an understanding of Spain that I wouldn't have been able to get any other way." - **Blythe Lewis**

"I studied abroad in Spain because I wanted my Spanish to improve and become more fluent and I feel like I have achieved this. It's a once in a lifetime experience." - **Ilana Greenberg**

"They introduced me to all their friends and family. They also took time to explain conversations I didn't understand." - **Emma Marter**

"Spending time with my host sister and her friends helped me understand our differences and similarities in culture. I learned a lot about Spanish life and improved my Spanish language skills." - **Allison Jones**

"I enjoyed my host family's willingness to teach me about their culture and the hospitality. I learned a lot about Spain and more of the language. I also made life-long friends." - **Emma Marter**

"I gained a very close relationship with my family and friends of my host sister. I didn't want to go home. I feel my Spanish has improved immensely." - **Molly Bertolacini**

"No meal or other experience was complete without every member of the family explaining something about Spanish culture, with me supplying a comparative aspect of American culture. There was a good cultural exchange in our discussions." - **Blythe Lewis**

9. Am I eligible?

To take part in this program you must:

- Have completed coursework equivalent to two year of high school Spanish by June 2015. Exceptions can sometimes be made with a teacher recommendation.
- Be between the ages of 15 and 21 (exceptions possible based on individual circumstances).
- Receive a positive teacher recommendation. ECI provides the form.
- Be committed to speaking and improving your Spanish.
- Be open to new experiences and unfamiliar cultures.
- Be able to make responsible choices and act in a mature manner. HF coordinator on hand, but cannot be with you 24 hours per day.
- Be in good physical health, able to walk distances, climb stairs & carry luggage.
- Have a valid passport.

10. Meet and Greet service

You are also responsible for making your own flight arrangements but ECI includes a Meet & Greet service for all Individual Immersion students. An ECI representative will meet you at the airport in Almeria. Shortly before your departure, ECI will provide you with all necessary contact information, phone numbers, and a detailed meeting place and time. You will then be taken to your host family.

The Meet & Greet service will also be provided for the return trip.

Remember that airline schedules are always subject to change. Please contact ECI to discuss the Meet & Greet arrangements.

11. Dates and fees

When?

From 2-4 weeks anytime from July 1st to August 22nd 2015

Fees?

\$1195 per week* + airfare

** one-week-only supplement of \$575*

Program price includes:

- All accommodations
- All transportation abroad
- All host family meals
- On-call Host Family Coordinator

Program price does not include:

- Airline tickets
- Spending money
- Any optional additional ECI program portions (Madrid, Barcelona etc.)
- Insurance

12. What next?

Based on our years of feedback, we can safely say that, as a student, you will have the time of your life, make new friends, experience authentic Spanish culture, and gain a sense of independence and new-found confidence. As a parent, you will feel secure in the knowledge that ECI's programs are carefully planned and executed, that every detail is taken care of, both before and during the trip, and that a committed and experienced team of US and local leaders will ensure each program matches/exceeds your expectations.

Need more information?

- Please email our main office: info@educulture.com
- Check out our FAQs on the website - educulture.com
- Watch our informative videos - available on the website: educulture.com/about/video-gallery/
- Read our blog posts on a wide variety of Study Abroad-related topics - educulture.com/blog/
- Take a look at our Facebook page and Twitter feed - facebook.com/Edu.Culture.Immersion
- Take a look at our Twitter feed - twitter.com/educulture

Want to talk to someone at ECI?

Call our main office at: **510-261-8182**

Ready to sign up?

Complete our online application - educulture.com/sign-up/

Application Procedure 2015 Summer Programs

1. The fastest way to reserve a space on your chosen program is to use our online option for application and payment. Go to <http://educulture.com> and click the the **Apply Now** link.
2. Select your program, then Book Now. Complete the online Booking Form and make a \$500 credit card deposit payment to reserve your spot. This deposit will be credited towards the total summer Program Fee.
3. Alternatively, you may complete the application page found at the end of this packet and mail it with a \$500 check made payable to ECI.
4. You will receive an automatic receipt invoice, and shortly after other pre-departure information, including details about submitting a teacher recommendation form, medical authorization, and writing a letter to your host family.
5. The balance of payment is due by **April 1, 2015**.

Please note: this is our general payment plan. To arrange a customized option or for any additional information, contact us at 510-261-8182 or at info@educulture.com.

Additional Payment Information – 2015 Summer Programs

- All deposits will be deducted from the Total Program Fee.
- It is your responsibility to make sure all payments arrive at ECI's office by their due dates. You must assume responsibility for late payments due to mail delays or other unlikely circumstances. Students whose payments are not received on time may lose their place in the program or be subject to a late payment charge.
- Applications made 60 or fewer days prior to departure will be treated on an individual space-available basis. Full payment will be due at the time of application, and completed application materials will be due within one week.

Edu-Culture International (ECI) Refund Policy

Prior to December 3, 2014: **All Program Fee payments less \$150**

Between December 3, 2014, and March 4, 2015: **All Program Fee payments less \$500**

Between March 4, 2015, and June 3, 2015: **All Program Fee payments less \$1200**

After June 3, 2015: **No refund**

Cancellations must be received by ECI in writing by the above dates for refunds.

Any student who is unwilling to abide by ECI guidelines or who is believed to jeopardize the welfare of others will be dismissed without refund of program fees and sent home at the expense of his/her parents. ECI reserves the right to cancel any program due to insufficient enrollment. In this case, all program fees would be refunded.

ECI **does not** provide medical, travel or cancellation/interruption insurance. Please ensure you arrange medical and travel insurance prior to departure. We also strongly advise the purchase of cancellation/interruption insurance.

Preliminary Mail-In Application Form

Please mail this page with a \$500 check to ECI:

ECI
P.O Box 27470
Oakland, CA 94602

Check the program to which you are applying:

SPAIN:

- Salamanca North and South
- Southern Spain and Barcelona
- Individual program in Spain (Costa del Sol)

FRANCE:

- Nice, Beaches and Paris
- Individual program in France (French Alps)

Please print the **student and parent email addresses** clearly on the form below, as future correspondence will be sent to you via those email addresses.

Parent Name(s) _____

Best Day Phone(s) _____ Best Evening Phone(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Parent Email _____

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Student Email _____

Student's School _____

Foreign Language Teacher _____

Years of foreign language completed as of June 2015 _____

(2 yrs. of middle school count as one year of high school)