

Valencia visit - Upper 3



This week 29 Upper 3 pupils headed to Valencia with Mrs Hamlyn, Mr Bahcaci, Mrs McDermott and myself.

Monday

We flew to Alicante and then went by coach to Valencia, quickly leaving our things at the DWO Hotel Valencia. After a quick freshen up we needed food and headed for a food court in a shopping centre - inevitably purchases of Lego and clothes/ accessories were made! Everyone was happy with their food choices, and we were revived enough for a short walk to the Aquarium. This was a beautiful setting with stunning aquatic life - the highlight was the giant turtle and the dolphins with their trainers.

Tuesday

Breakfast was a great spread of hot and cold food - I was particularly happy that there was Spanish omelette! Then off to the Science Museum which was in another amazing futuristic building designed by Spanish architects Calatrava and Candela. There were lots

of interactive activities and the kids loved it. Mr Bahcaci gave us a few explanations as we went along.

After lunch was the Fallas museum where a short film explained about the fun festival in March when huge figures made of wood, paper mâché and other materials are made by different communities within Valencia throughout the year. They compete to be the best “Niñot” which is the only one that isn’t burnt by the end of the festival! In par, it symbolises something coming to an end then then starting up again as they start to design their next figure. They often make fun of political or well-known people and document social issues over the decades.

Wednesday

This was a particularly packed and hot day starting at the Silk Exchange - a beautiful, peaceful medieval building with stunning roofs. Then we visited the cathedral where to start with we all managed to miss finding the Holy Grail! I was able to give a guided tour via headsets, explaining the influence of the Catholic church throughout Spanish history and some key differences between the Protestant and Catholic faith and traditions. I had researched another churros café which was a beautiful old café with tiled walls.

After a quick stop at the market to buy lunch and see the typical Spanish produce we hopped on a bus to the BioParc, where our lovely guide, Ana, took us through Africa, Madagascar and the Savannah with elephants, giraffes, rhinos, gorillas, lemurs at close quarters, hippos under water and lions. The setting and landscaping were incredible.

Another bus took to the beach and pupils could choose their meal at a cool food courtyard. The staff managed to surprise the pupils by cooling them off with water pistols on the beach! After more games, dancing and singing, our happy band walked back to the hotel for bed.

Thursday

We had a welcome lie-in until 9 am, another delicious breakfast, then boarded the coach back to Alicante airport taking with us experiences and memories which I am sure will always stay with us.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs McDermott, Mrs Hamlyn and Mr Bahcaci for their amazing support and skills, to the pupils for their superb attitude, positivity, energy, friendliness and cooperation and to their parents for their help and encouragement.

Mrs Fiona Wilson