

# School Group Trips To Spain



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### Welcome to Spark

At Spark we believe that every child has it in them to learn a language and for this reason we are wholeheartedly committed to making language learning rewarding and enjoyable. We know each child is unique and special and we believe it is our duty to give children memories that will last a lifetime.

All of our team are past or current teachers and as a result we find it easy to empathise with the challenges of a group leader and/or Head Teacher when organising a school programme. Our goal is to provide the most enjoyable and hassle-free experience possible. As part of the educational group which is one of the biggest language camp providers in Spain, we are well aware of everything that is involved in the organisation and coordination of a safe and successful trip. Schools will have our maximum support both throughout the process of planning the trip and during the group's time with us.

The safety and well-being of the students on their trip to Spain is our priority. Each group will have their own Spark chaperone assigned, who, apart from leading all the trips and excursions, is available 24/7 in case of any issues.

Every individual student's happiness is important to us and we will do everything we can to make the trip memorable for all.

We hope you will give us the opportunity to prove our guiding principle:

"Student learning = Our passion."

¡Hasta Pronto!

Inge Hol Director of Studies



Making language learning rewarding and enjoyable.

Providing worry free, safe and fun trips.

Continuous support before and during your trip.

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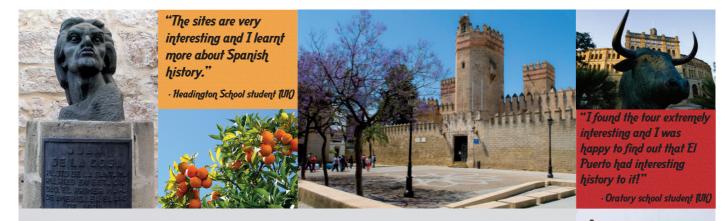
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# El Puerto de Santa María

El Puerto de Santa María, the home of Spark Spanish, is full of rich culture and traditions and is an authentic Andalucían and Spanish town with a fabulous Mediterranean climate, making it a great place to experience "real" Spain.

El Puerto is ideally located on the beautiful Costa de la Luz in the province of Cádiz in southwest Spain. The spectacular beaches and marvelous views across the bay of Cádiz make it a great place for a Spanish learning tour.

Our top 3 reasons why we believe El Puerto de Santa María is ideal for a school trip to Spain:

- It maintains its Spanish authenticity and offers a great alternative to the more touristic areas of Spain, which don't always offer students the "genuine Spanish" experience.
- It is a relatively small town, offering a very safe and highly enjoyable environment for students during their stay here and allowing them to interact with the local community.
- El Puerto is perfectly situated for organizing day trips and activities, as it is well connected to many wonderful cities and sites that are close by.

We would like to invite you to explore this unique town and experience the fantastic Spanish culture, language and lifestyle!



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fun. Our teacher was so, so kind and friendly. I learned so much!"

King's High student (UK)





"Really fun and interesting. I loved the games we played, and time always seemed to fly!"

· Tudor Hall student (UK)

### Spanish Classes

Students can opt to take Spanish classes during their time here, which offers a fantastic opportunity to further increase their Spanish language skills and to learn valuable cultural knowledge. The number of hours and the content and focus of the classes can be catered entirely to the needs of your group.

Features of our Spanish classes for schools:

- Taught by native, qualified Spanish teachers
- Fun, dynamic and interactive lessons
- From 1 hour up to 25 hours per week
- Types of classes to choose from:
  - General Spanish
  - Exam focussed (AS and A2 level, IB-exam, Highers etc.)
  - Conversation focussed
  - Spanish history and culture
  - A combination of the above
- Give students the confidence to use the language outside of the classroom
  - Get a certificate at the end of the course

We can also incorporate project and portfolio work or anything else you would like your students to focus and work on during these classes!



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# City Trips

#### Sevilla

A day trip to the beautiful capital of Andalucía, brimming with Spanish culture, history and architecture, is a must-visit during your time with us. Don't miss these sites:

- Maestranza Bullring
- Cathedral and Giralda Tower
- Alcázar Palace and gardens
- Parque Maria Luisa and Plaza de España
- Isla Mágica Theme and Water Park
- Barrio Santa Cruz



Spark's fun facts: The Giralda tower has no steps; make your way up to the top of the tower by going up the many ramps, that were once constructed to allow watchmen to take their horses up to the top when the Giralda was still a watchtower. / Two episodes of Star Wars were filmed in Plaza de España featuring planet Naboo.



#### Jerez de la Frontera

Famous for its horse riding, flamenco and sherry, Jerez is a wonderful city for a visit. Don't miss:

- The Alcázar Palace and cámera oscura
- A dressage show in the famous Royal Andalucían school of Equestrian Art
- Bodega (wine cellar) tour
- Cathedral
- Feria del Caballo in May
- Tour around the city by mini-train

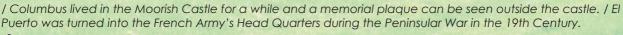
Spark's fun facts: Jerez is, together with El Puerto de Santa María and Sanlúcar, the home of sherry. Together they form the 'sherry triangle', where sherry was first made. / The name 'sherry' is a corruption of the city's name. / Jerez has many flamenco events taking place throughout the year: a wonderfully passionate expression of Spanish culture.

#### El Puerto de Santa María

El Puerto de Santa María, famous for its sherry and for having been the port from where Columbus set off on his second voyage to the Americas, lends itself perfectly for a tour around the town. Don't miss:

- The Puerto Bullring (third biggest in Spain)
- Church and food market
- The old Moorish Castle San Marcos
- Puerto's spectacular white, sandy beaches.

Spark's fun facts: The 'Santa María' was the name of one of Columbus' boats when he first went to America.





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# City Trips

#### Cádiz

Situated right across the bay from El Puerto is the historic city of Cádiz. The most enjoyable way to get to Cádiz is by ferry, which offers amazing views of the area. Don't miss:

- Cádiz Cathedral and its magnificent dome
- Tavira Tower with the best views of Cádiz
- Flamenco show in an authentic 'taberna'
- Parque Calderón and Plaza Mina
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast of "churros y chocolate"



Spark's fun facts: Playa de la Caleta, from where you can see Castillo San Sebastián, which has appeared in various films, such as 'Alatriste' and the James Bond film 'Die Another Day'. / The Spanish constitution was signed in Cádiz and is called 'La Pepa'. / Cádiz claims to be the oldest city in western-Europe and is surrounded by see on three sides.



#### Gibraltar

Gibraltar's incredible history and bilingual society makes it an interesting attraction when in southern Spain. This fascinating rock in the Mediterranean offers a unique chance to experience a fusion of two cultures and communities. Don't miss:

- A visit up the fascinating rock of Gibraltar
- The only wild apes in Europe
- St. Michael's caves
- Europa point with views of Africa

Spark's fun facts: The story goes that if the apes were ever to leave Gibraltar, so will the British. / When crossing the border into Gibraltar, you have to cross the airfield, meaning the whole border closes several minutes every time a plane lands or takes off. / Native Gibraltarians can be heard switching between English and Spanish in one sentence

#### Ronda and "Los Pueblos Blancos"

Cádiz province is home to the idyllic "white villages" that are unique to Andalucía. They are strongly influenced by Moorish culture and represent Spanish life at its purest. Arcos De La Frontera, Grazalema & El Bosque all offer wonderful panoramic views, perfect settings to go hiking and rock climbing.

Ronda, situated in the nearby province of Málaga, is probably the most renowned of the "white villages". Here lies the oldest bullring in Spain, and at the heart of the city is its



famous 120m high Puente Nuevo bridge, offering spectacular views across the El Tajo canyon

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There are different types of accommodation options available for our visiting schools, each offering unique advantages, depending on the age and preference of your students.

#### Sparkville Residence

Our wonderful Sparkville provides a great option for groups wishing to stay all together. It has 14 fully equiped rooms (the majority with en-suite bathrooms) and several communal areas, including a kitchen and a spectacular roof terrace. It can cater for up to 40 students on a shared basis. The group's chaperone stays in the residence together with the group, to help make the stay as easy and carefree as possible and to make sure as much Spanish as possible is being used.

Features of the Sparkville residence:

- 15 mins walk from the beach and city centre
- activities as part of evening programme: film night, BBQ on the roof, cooking lesson
- half board/full board, exclusive/non-exclusive
- home-cooked-style meals
- communal areas for group to use

"A great space! Excellent facilities! The terrace is great and the open kitchen is lovely."

· Wymondham High Academy teachers (UK)





"My favourite part was staying with host families as it was a lot of fun, and I had a chance to speak and practise Spanish."

· Merchiston Castle student (UK)

#### Family Homestay

A host family offers a unique opportunity for the students to make new friends, experience Spanish family life first-hand and continuously practise their Spanish communication skills. Spark host families:

- have a child of the same gender and approximate age as the visiting student.
- usually live close to the school, otherwise drop students off and pick them up daily.
- Go through rigurous selection and evaluation procedures to comply with all safety features and requirements.

#### Hostal

Hostal options are available both in El Puerto and as part of combined city trips. The group's chaperone would stay in the hostal with the group to again help out in any way possible. Hostal accommodation includes:

- Full board: breakfast, (packed) lunch and dinner or half board (breakfast and dinner).
- Opportunity to stay together as a group in the centre of the town / city.





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### Example programmes

Our example programmes are designed to give you an idea of some possible trips and itineraries we can organize. All programmes can be modified to better suit your interests and needs, be that by adding in or taking off days, changing the activities or even by mixing the programmes.





#### Discover Spanish Culture Programme

The best way to discover authentic Spain and learn more about its culture and history in this 6 days / 5 nights programme:

- Spanish lessons (hours and content to suit)
- Tour of El Puerto
- Excursion to Seville
- Excursion to Cádiz
- Excursion to Jerez
- Residential, host family or hostal stays, full or half board
- Airport pick up and drop off
- Chaperone available 24/7, fully in charge of programme,

#### Spanish Nature and Sports Programme

Andalucía is home to some of the most beautiful landscapes and unique wildlife in Spain. Discover Spanish nature and sports opportunities during this 6 days / 5 nights programme, including:

- Spanish lessons (hours and content to suit)
- Kayaking and ecological tour
- Sanlúcar and Parque Doñana visit by boat / 4x4
- Cycling in natural park or in sierra
- Padel activity
- Residential, host family or hostal stay, full or half board
- Airport pick up and drop off
- Chaperone available 24/7, fully in charge of programme

"Our chaperone has surpassed all expectations. Fun, energy and care every day without fail. ¡Impressionante!"

· Headington school teachers (UK)



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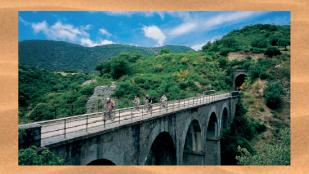
### Activities

The fantastic weather and beautiful surroundings of El Puerto de Santa María and Cádiz create the perfect environment for a wide range of activities which your school group can enjoy. Below you will find just a selection of the activities on offer. Contact us or visit our website for the full selection of activities available.

#### Cycling or hiking Trip "Vía Verde"

A wonderful way to spend a day outside in the Sierra de Cádiz. This 36 km Vía Verde was originally built to become a rail track but has now been converted into an impressive cycling and hiking treck.

- Bicycle rental and gear included.
- Any distance between 1 and 72 km possible.



#### Sanlúcar and Parque Doñana

The sunny city of Sanlúcar in the north-west of Cádiz province is just across the Doñana National Park on the Guadalquivir river, which offers stunning wildlife trips and views. This trip includes:

- Visit to the national park Doñana
- Trip by boat or 4x4 through the park
- Visit to Sanlúcar city centre

The wildlife reserve of Parque Doñana is home to many unique and some endangered species, including deer, boars, eagles and the Iberian lynx.

#### Cycling in Parque los Toruños

A day or afternoon cycling in Parque los Toruños is a wonderful way to experience the beautiful nature and wildlife that this natural park in El Puerto has to offer. The cycling trip goes past the marshes and salt mines and offers yet again a new way to explore the bay. Included are:

- Bicycle rental
- Guided route through the park
- This trip can be done in combination with a canoeing activity in the park



#### Flamenco Classes

The passionate Sevillanas dances and steps are fun and easy to learn and offer a unique experience of this traditional Spanish dance.

#### **Cooking Classes**

Learn to cook the culinary delights of Andalucía (paella, tortilla, ensaladilla or your own request) and end by feasting on the delicious result.

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#### Kayaking

A wonderful opportunity to combine a fun sporting activity with an educational tour about the ecological systems in the bay of Cádiz.

- Route past historical and natural sites.
- Activities led by professional kayaking instructors.



#### Theme and Water Parks

Spain is famous for its theme parks and water parks and there are many in the south of Spain. If you would like to experience one for yourself, Isla Mágica in Seville is ideal as it offers activities and rides for students of all ages and has both a water and a theme park. El Puerto and Algeciras also have great water parks to spend a day or an afternoon.

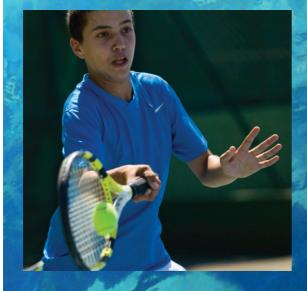
- Either half day or full day visits to the parks.
- Can be combined with a trip to the cities (Seville, El Puerto, Gibraltar), spending half a day in the city and half a day in the theme park.

#### **Supercool Watersports Activities**

Groups who are enthusiastic about the water will love spending a day or an afternoon soaking in the Spanish sun whilst enjoying these watersports. This activity includes:

- 4 hours of water sports activities: Catamaran sailing, wind surfing and paddle boarding
- Activities led by professional water sports instructors.
- Other options: windsurfing classes, kitesurfing classes and banana boat activities.

All accompanying teachers can decide whether they would like to try some of these activities themselves, or whether they would prefer to watch the students from a safe and dry distance on the beach.



#### **Padel Tennis**

Get competitive playing this fusion of tennis & squash, a sport very popular amongst Spaniards and easy to learn in one afternoon. This activity includes a lesson and time for a real game.

#### **Paintballing**

The perfect opportunity for students to have fun whilst practising their Spanish, learning the rules of the different games: last man standing, capture the flag, hideout and many more!

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#### Capitals of Andalucía tour

Granada and Córdoba are two of the most renowned cities in southern Spain. They both have rich histories and magnificent architecture, not to mention them being vibrant centres of Spanish life and culture. The Capitals of Andalucía tour offers students the opportunity to see 4 stunning Andalucían capital cities during their trip. The trip can either start or end in El Puerto de Santa María and our Spark chaperone will stay with the group during all parts of the programme.

#### Part 1 of the trip: El Puerto, Cádiz and Sevilla

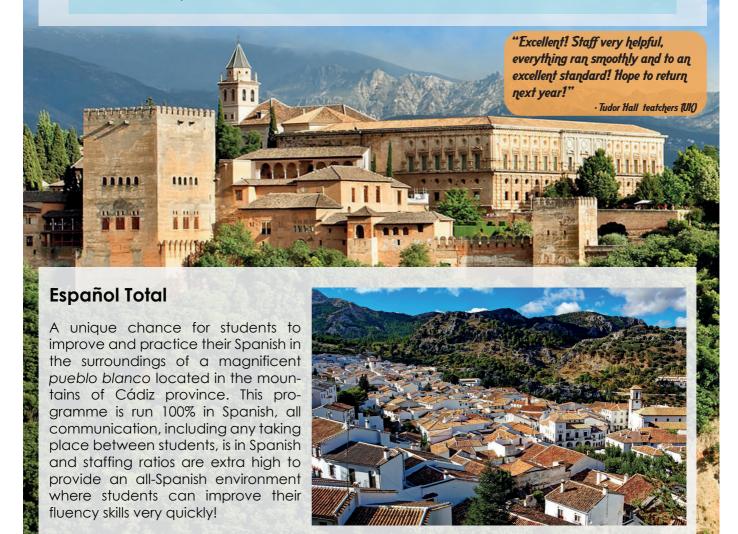
- Airport transfer by private coach
- 4 days / 3 nights residential or family stay in El Puerto de Santa María, half or full board
- El Puerto tour, Cádiz excursion, Sevilla excursion
- Transfer to Córdoba

#### Part 2 of the trip: Córdoba

- 2 days / 2 nights lodging in hostal, half or full board
- Visits to the Mezquita mosque, the Alcázar, Jewish quarters and the synagoge
- Transfer to Granada

#### Part 3 of the trip: Granada

- 2 days / 2 nights lodging in hostal, half or full board
- Visits to the Alhambra, the cathedral, the Albaycín area and the markets
- Transfer to airport







# Frequently Asked Questions

#### We don't have a big budget, can we still organize a trip to Spain?

Absolutely, we can adjust our programmes to any budget! Just indicate your budget per student and we will put a programme together that meets your needs!

#### How do you put the programmes together?

The initial itinerary and quote is based on what you tell us you would like to include in the programme. Normally the Director of Education would give you a quick call to discuss options and to get a better idea of what to include. We then adjust the programme as often as needed, until you are 100% satisfied with it and when you feel that it meets all your students', your school's and your own needs, interests and expectations.

#### What makes your trips special?

There are many things that make our trips special, but here are our main reasons why we believe a trip with us is going to give your students and yourself a unique experience:

- Our dedication: We spend hours and hours planning each trip carefully and in great detail, to make sure that everything runs as well as it possibly can. This means continuous communication and support from our Director of Education until everything is completely organized from both your side and ours. Even during your time here we continuously check in with you and offer support wherever we can in order to ensure any concerns are dealt with quickly and efficiently.
- Chaperone: Available 24/7 during your time here, running all the excursions, in charge of any transfers, communication with host families, general welfare, cultural knowledge and language issues. Our chaperones are native, qualified Spanish teachers whose sole purpose is to make your trip as worry free as possible, making sure all participants have an unforgettable experience!
- Location: El Puerto offers everything a school group trip to Spain needs: it's authentic, it's safe, it's well connected to many fantastic areas and cities and it has fantastic beaches and weather.
- Planning help: We have extensive risk assessments, a ticklist with everything you need to do and know when preparing the trip, trip templates and endless amounts of suggestions!
- Free teachers: 1 teacher free for every 1-10 students on the trip.
- Evaluation report: We send you a detailed evaluation report based on the students', the chaperone's and your own feedback at the end, along with all the photos taken during the trip, which you can pass on to your students, their parents and your head of department.





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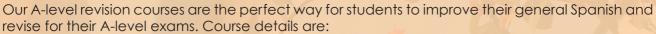
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### We also offer...

### A-level revision courses



- 20 hours of general Spanish classes per week
- 5 weekly A-level revision classes, curriculum based on A-level exam
- 5 weekly supervised homework classes
- both AS and A2 levels
- Lodging with host families or in the Sparkville residence
- Min course length: 1 week
- Participation in cultural and social events programme

### Work and study programmes

Spark offers a variety of work and study programmes, which are ideal for students who would like to improve their Spanish and at the same time gain valuable work experience:

- Work experience programme: Combines daily Spanish classes with a work experience programme, where students become part of the Spark team or a local business.
- Demi-pair and au-pair programmes: Combining daily Spanish classes with working as a demi-pair or au-pair, looking after Spanish children and living with a Spanish family.

### Spanish summer camps



Summer Camps are a fantastic opportunity for students to learn and improve their language skills in a completely different environment. Our summer camps aim to provide our campers with lots of language input, sports, a complete and highly rated evening entertainment programme, weekend excursions, educational projects, and many opportunities to make friends with other learners from all over the world. Students can be lodged onsite in our residential camp (6-17 year olds), or with host families (14-17 year olds).

### School term in Spain

Students can study a year or a trimester in a Spanish school (public or private school) and live with a Spanish host family during their time here, to have an experience of a life time! Students will not only study and improve their Spanish, but also get to live and experience the amazing Spanish culture and make long-lasting friendships!

### General Spanish courses

We offer year-round Spanish classes at different levels for all students who are 16 years or older, including general Spanish classes, intensive courses, DELE-exam courses, conversation classes and Spanish for teachers courses. All courses offer the option of participating in our cultural and social events programme and we offer lodging in host families, the Spark residence, an appartment, hostal or hotel and the local campsite.

"All of the students are much better at Spanish. And the combination of host families (excellent!) and activities has been good for their confidence. We've enjoyed it all tremendously!"

· Harpeth Hall School teacher (USA)

"¡Lo pasé fenomenal! Aprendí mucho: visité monumentos, comí la comida rica y juegé los juegos educacionales. ¡Me gustaría volver!'

· Headington student, (UI()

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# Have you been Sparked?



#### Spark Spanish Language School www.sparkspanish.com

T: +34 956 003 300 | E: info@sparklanguages.com Calle de los Espadas, 6 | El Puerto de Santa María | 11500 | Spain

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