

Our sporting and cultural exploration of Cantabria:
by Felicity Lawrence and Sonja Nashchekina



For our Henry Morris project, we set up an exchange with two Spanish girls who live in Santander in Cantabria. We spent a week staying in the Spanish households, visiting places of cultural interest and speaking constant Spanish; we both feel that our Spanish has massively improved because of this opportunity.



An important part of our stay was to conduct interviews about sport in Spain (specifically focusing on handball). Please find the transcripts and translations below:

An interview with Ismael, a Spanish handball player:

Spanish transcript:

- ¿Hola cómo te llamas?

Me llamo Ismael.

- ¿Y juegas al balonmano?

Sí.

- ¿Cuándo empezaste?

Cuando tenía doce años

- ¿Dónde juegas?

Ahora juego en un equipo de veteranos.

- ¿Qué llevas cuando juegas al balonmano?

Llevamos un equipado, un pantalón corto, y camisa corto

- ¿Cuándo juegas?

Ahora juego los lunes.

- ¿Con quién juegas?

Jugaba en un club importante de Santander cuando era joven y entrenaba tres días a la semana y tenía partido a los sábados.

- ¿Cuántos años tienen los niños cuando empiezan a jugar al balonmano?

Depende, pero suelen empezar a las ocho o nueve años.

- ¿Y en qué posición juegas?

Yo soy lateral de derecho porque soy zorro.

- ¿Y el balonmano es muy popular en España?

Es muy popular por los todos en el norte de España.

- Gracias.

Muchas gracias, hasta luego.

English translation:

- Hello, what is your name?

My name is Ismael

- And you play handball?

Yes

- When did you start?

When I was twelve years old

- Where do you play?

Now I play in a veteran team

- What do you wear when you play handball?

We wear a kit, shorts and a short sleeved t-shirt

- When do you play?

Now, I play on Mondays

- Who do you play with?

I used to play in an important club in Santander when I was young, and I used to train three times a week and I had a match on Saturdays.

- How old are children when they start playing handball?

It depends, but they tend to start at eight or nine years old.

- And in which position do you play?

I play on the right back, because I am fast.

- And handball is very popular in Spain?
- Is it very popular for everyone in the North of Spain.
- Thank you
- Thank you very much, see you soon.

An Interview with our spanish friends on their sports:

Spanish transcript:

- Hola chicas, ¿Como vos llamáis?
- Yo me llamo Lara
- Y yo Paula
- ¿Vale, y jugáis al balonmano?
- No
- y yo tampoco
- ¿Qué otros deportes hacéis?
- Pues yo hago atletismo y también hago ballet
- Y yo hago natación
- ¿Y Lara qué llevas cuando haces atletismo?
- Pues suelo llevar unas mallas negras y una camiseta que me deje correr libremente.
- ¿Y cuándo empezaste?
- Empecé con once años en quinto de primaria
- ¿Y dónde lo haces?
- En las pistas de Abericia en Cantabria
- ¿Y cuándo lo haces?
- Entreno en todos los martes y jueves pero suelo competir a los sábados y domingos
- ¿Y con quien lo haces?
- Pues en un deporte individual así que no compito contra alguien en particular: todo el mundo compite contra todos
- ¿Y Paula qué llevas cuando haces natación?
- Pues llevo un gorro de natación con las gafas y un bañador
- ¿Cuándo empezaste?
- Empecé a nadar con doce años pero empecé a competir con trece.
- ¿Y dónde haces?
- En un sportclub que es al lado de mi colegio
- ¿Y a cuando haces?
- Tres días a la semana quién son lunes, miércoles, y viernes
- ¿Y con quién haces?
- Con mi equipo de natación
- Vale, gracias chicas
- ¡De nada!

English translation:

- Hello girls, what are your names?
- My name in Lara

And I'm Paula

- Ok, and do you play handball?

No

Me neither

- What other sports do you do?

Well I do athletics and also I do ballet

And I do swimming

- And Lara what do you wear when you do athletics?

I wear some black leggings and a tshirt which lets me run freely

- And when did you start?

I started when I was 11years old, in the fifth year of primary school

- And where do you do it?

At the Abericia track of Cantabria

- And when do you do it?

I train on tuesdays and thursdays but I tend to compete on saturdays and sundays

- And with whom do you do it?

Well it is an individual sport so I don't compete with someone; everyone competes with everyone

- And Paula what do you wear when you do swimming?

Well I wear a swimming cap and goggles and a swimming costume

- When did you start?

I started swimming when I was 12 years old but I began to compete when I was 13.

- And where do you do it?

In a sports club which is next to my school

- And when do you do it?

Three times a week which are monday, wednesday and friday.

- And with whom do you do it?

With my swimming team

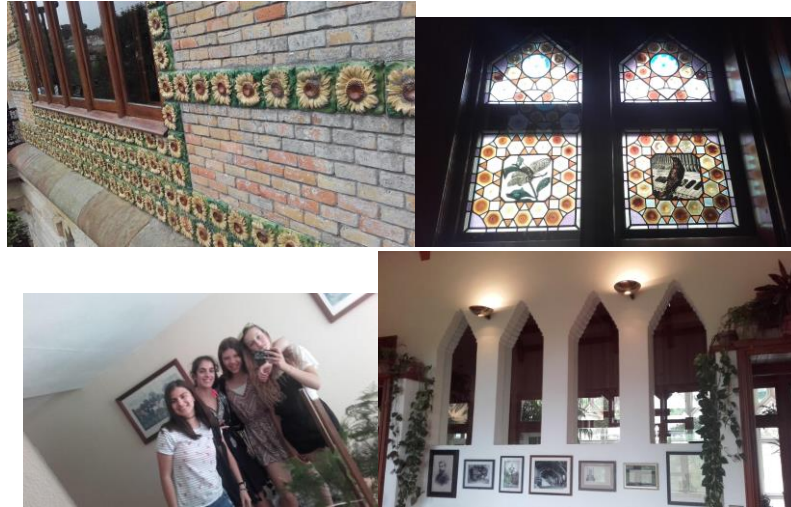
- Okay, thank you girls

No problem!

Cultural exploration:

As we were staying in Santander, we were able to go and visit El Capricho de Gaudi, an impressive architectural structure. It was built by Antoni Gaudi for the brother-in-law of the Marquis of Comillas. It was inspired by the movement of sunflowers, as their heads follow the sun throughout the day. The rooms are designed to be naturally lit by the sun as it moves east to west according to the activities engaged in at certain points of the day (e.g. breakfast occurring in the morning, therefore the breakfast room would be situated towards the east). It was riveting to learn about such an impressive structure.

El Capricho De Gaudi



We were also able to see El Palacio de Sobrellano, work of Joan Martorell a catalan architect. This was built for the Marquis of Comillas Antonio Lopez. The Palace is a neo-gothic structure which was very impressive to see with it's intricate architectural features.

El Palacio De Sobrellano



We were also able to visit Cabarceno, a huge wildlife centre where the animals live in semi-liberty. It was very cool to see the many types of animals and expand our vocabulary throughout the day, listening to many animal specialists.

Penagos (Cabarceno)



Other towns in Cantabria which we were able to explore were:

Lierganes (to visit the Fluvarium)

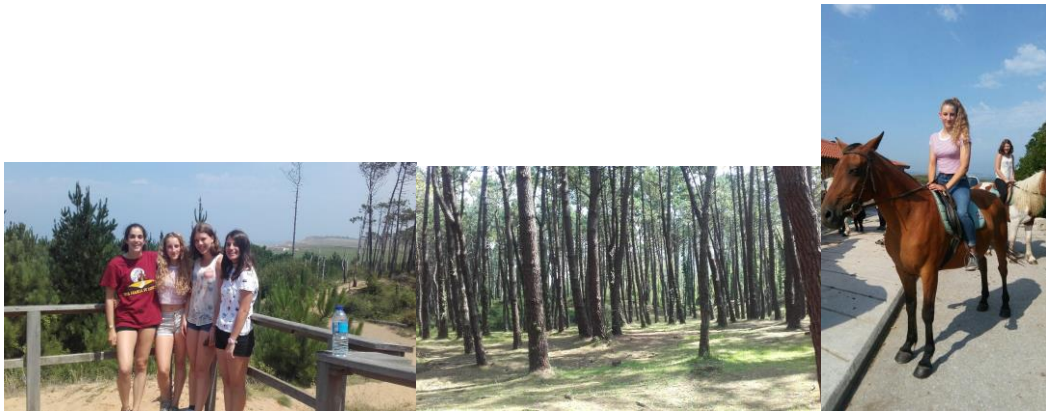


Santillana del Mar, Comillas



Altamira: (to visit replicas of ancient caves)

Liencres: (walk in the forest and go on a horse ride along the coasts and in the woods)



Santander



Comillas



This was truly an amazing experience for us, linguistically, culturally and, of course, in enhancing our understanding the sporting opportunities and experiences of those families where we stayed. We are incredibly grateful to all those at the Henry Morris Trust for supporting us and we continue to enjoy playing handball hugely.