EMORY SALAMANCA PROGRAM
Excursions, Mini-sessions and Field Trips

The Emory Salamanca Program incorporates a wide range of excursions, mini-sessions and field trips into the program. Mini-Sessions, lengthier than overnight excursions and field trips, are designed to allow students to explore different regions in greater depth such as the mini-sessions in Andalucía and Lanzarote. These sessions vary from semester to semester. The excursions and activities are all incorporated into the curriculum of the Spanish 219 or 319 class that is required for all students and which complements the other courses offered from the Emory Center and Cursos Internacionales. A schedule of excursions will be provided during pre-departure orientation. Past excursions have included a few of the following examples: (NOTE: not all excursions are offered every term, and excursions are subject to change for future terms)

Andalucía Mini-Session

In the Andalucía mini-session, students explore the splendor of Southern Spain by visiting Córdoba, Granada and Sevilla. While in Córdoba, students explore the famous Moorish Mezquita that has been converted into a cathedral and also walk around the old Jewish quarter with its small shops and winding streets. In contrast to Córdoba’s Mediterranean climate, students then explore Granada located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and its impressive La Alhambra, which once served as a palace for Spanish royalty and the conquering Moorish emirate. The trip continues to Sevilla, one of the liveliest cities in Spain with its strong tapas culture, soaring gothic cathedral, and brightly colored Barrio Santa Cruz. While in Andalucía, special attention is paid to exploring the historical Islamic presence in Spain and its influence on the architecture of the region and their way of life.
Lanzarote Mini-Session

Lanzarote, the first island in the world to be declared in its entirety a protected biosphere by UNESCO back in 1993, is the easternmost territory of the Canary Islands, located just 70 miles off the coast of the Sahara. It is a place with a history and culture that owes as much to Latin America and Africa as the Iberian Peninsula. Boasting a unique volcanic terrain that is the legacy of one of the world’s longest ever eruptions, that decimated the island for six years in the 1730’s, Lanzarote is today a cosmopolitan little island which offers to the visitor not only beautiful beaches and some of the most unique natural landscapes in the world, but a great cultural diversity. Two of the most representative public figures in Lanzarote have been the Portuguese Nobel Prize in Literature José Saramago and the artist and architect César Manrique. Manrique created, among many other interesting sites, the Jameos del Agua: an underground grotto featuring a submerged lake, containing a rare species of blind albino crab. Another impressive spot is La Geria: an area with extensive vineyards planted in the black volcanic gravel that produce some of the best white wines in the world. Sites to visit: Montañas del Fuego (Parque Nacional de Timanfaya), Jameos del Agua, Cueva de los Verdes, Mirador del Río, Fundación César Manrique, Casa-Museo de José Saramago, La Geria, etc.

Santiago de Compostela and Galicia

Santiago de Compostela is the final destination of the legendary medieval way of pilgrimship Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James), now considered by UNESCO a World Heritage Site. Still to this day it attracts visitors from all over the world thanks to its fantastic monuments. The town is named after the Apostle Saint James (“Santiago”), who is buried here. Santiago is certainly one of Spain’s most monumental towns, with a particular architectonical style all of its own. But it is as well a town plenty of life, with one of the most famous Universities and a large number of students who guarantee youthful ambience in-between the historical walls. Also the region’s cuisine is of great reputation, and it is said that nowhere you can eat better seafood than in Galicia. So this is a place with a wide range of offerings including religious sites, history, food and lush green landscapes. All of this contributes to Santiago being one of the great cultural centers of the continent.
Castille-Leon Excursions and Field Trips

While in Salamanca, students explore the rich history and culture of one of the central regions in Spain. This session includes field-trips to nearby cities such as Segovia, Ávila, La Alberca or Ciudad Rodrigo. Ciudad Rodrigo, a must-see small fortified town neighboring Portugal, known by visitors for its cathedral that is part Romanesque, part Gothic. Ciudad Rodrigo’s Carnaval del Toro, in February, is also part of the city’s cultural heritage. We are exploring the option to include a new field trip to Campo Charro – Salamanca’s countryside-. In this trip we could visit some very fine ganaderias (cattle farming), which have top of the line premises and dedicated professional staff. Castille-Leon is known for their cattle ranches and appreciation of the traditional “campo” lifestyle.

Portugal Mini-Session

During some of the semesters we visit Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. Lisbon is a legendary city that was conquered from the Moors in 1147. The Alfama, the traditionally Moorish neighborhood, is one of the oldest quarters where we can visit the Castelo and Mouraria. Nearby is the charming town of Sintra where the romantic royal residence of Pena Palace is located in the verdant Serra de Arrabida. We also visit the nice and small town of Obidos and the Monasterio de Batalha, which are both tied to the history of Portugal’s development into the country it is today. The students explore the differences and resemblances with Spain and learning about Portuguese language and culture. The interaction between the two cultures proves to be very interesting for students studying in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
Madrid

Madrid, the capital of Spain, is located at the geographical center of the Iberian Peninsula. It is also the financial and political center of the nation as the parliament; all major government ministries and the home of the Royal Family are here. The Madrid area has been settled since the Lower Paleolithic age, but it was not until 1561 that King Philip II made it the capital of his empire. We can walk through the historic old town, also known as “Madrid de los Austrias”, a living example of the city’s 16th and 17th century heyday, to the Puerta del Sol, one of the most lively areas in the city, and the “Paseo del Arte”, so called for its unique museums, palaces and gardens. The city has 73 museums that cover all fields of human knowledge. Of these, the most important are the Prado Museum, one of the world’s greatest art galleries, and the Reina Sofía National Art Centre, which is devoted to Spanish contemporary art, with works by Picasso, Joan Miró and Salvador Dalí among others. We will visit one of them Madrid also enjoys one of the most extensive areas of parks and gardens of all European cities. The Retiro is perhaps Madrid’s best known park. It occupies 120 hectares of land in the very center of the city. It originated as the gardens of the Palace of the Buen Retiro and was opened to the public in 1868. This park includes a boating lake, around which there is always a large variety of shows and street theatre during the weekends. Don’t miss it!