

CLASSROOM IN NATURE

**ESPINOSA DE LOS MONTEROS OJO
GUAREÑA
APRIL 2017**



An Effort Rewarded

For one week, our bilingual students enjoyed a great experience in one of the most wonderful natural spaces in the province of Burgos: the natural monument of Ojo Guareña, in Espinosa de los Monteros.

They learned to live and appreciate the realm of the natural habitat through activities taught in both English and Spanish. But they have also learned to live and get along with new mates that have become real friends.

Their day-to-day effort earned them a prize they will always remember with warmth and love. For us, their teachers, it was a wonderful gift, too.

SUSANA and EVA

On our Way to Espinosa

On Tuesday 25th, approximately at half past ten, the bus came to our high school Sandoval y Rojas to start the journey to Espinosa de los Monteros. All the students were very nervous to know what the hostel was like. Our teachers bought bags in case some of us was sick, but **NONE OF US NEEDED IT!!!**



BY DANIEL AND IRUNE

AT THE YOUTH HOSTEL



BY NEREA, MARÍA, ALBA AND ÁNGELA

The Hostel

It was located near Espinosa de los Monteros. It was big and we shared it with another group of a different city.

There were 4 floors, the first was the entrance, the second was the dining room and the third and the fourth were the rooms.



The Rooms

The rooms on the last floor had a bathroom, they were for 7 persons. The rest of the rooms were, more or less, for 5 or 4 persons. In the biggest rooms, you could find a closet, 3 bunk beds, an individual bed and a bathroom; and in the others, there were lockers instead of a closet and bunk beds.



The Main Room

It was on the second floor, we used it for all the activities.

There we ate, we had lessons, we spent our free time and we there we had our party of the last night, too.



BIRTHDAYS



BY HELENCA , NATALIA, CLAUDIA AND ADRIÁN

Celebrations

During this week we celebrated 3 birthdays: Helenca, Mario and Marta's. They turned 13 and 14 years old.

For those 3 birthdays we made different surprises: there were cupcakes with candles, crowns, balloons and presents. It was nice!



EXPEDITIONS



BY HELENA, NATALIA, CLAUDIA AND ADRIAN

Rocks

One of the days that we were there, we went exploring the countryside and also we learnt a lot of things about rocks and minerals, how they were classified, their features or their use.



A Meander

One afternoon we walked along the forest, looking for rocks and trees, but we stopped at the bank of a river that made a curve: that was a meander.

We also had some free time and had fun throwing stones into the river.



THE MEALS

BY CLAUDIA, LAURA AND SILVIA



The Rules

First of all, we had to carry our plates and cutlery to our table.

We had to take turns to lay the rest of the table, serve the food and clear the table.

Also we could clean the dining room after the meals.

The timetable to eat was very important, too.



The Food

We had three main meals and a snack.
At 9.00 am we had breakfast: milk with chocolate, biscuits and some bread with butter and marmalade.

For lunch - 14.00 pm- and dinner -21.00 pm- we used to have a starter, a main course and some dessert. Some examples are soup, pasta, meat, fish, fried eggs and chips, and then pudding, yogurt or fruit.



FLORA AND FAUNA

A photograph of a forest scene. In the center, a small bird with a reddish-brown breast and grey wings is perched on a thin, dark tree branch. The background is filled with lush green foliage and the thick, textured trunk of a large tree on the right side. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a daytime setting in a wooded area.

BY ÁNGELA, NEREA, MARÍA AND ALBA

Flora and Fauna

The hostel was on the countryside so we went to have a walk once a day, but we dedicated a day in special to see birds. We saw different types of trees every day, too.



The Trees

We saw trees everyday.

We saw beeches, oaks, holly trees, elder trees...

We took some leaves because then we had to draw what we had seen before.



The Birds

We dedicated some of our time to see birds.

We used a guide of birds and binoculars. We shared them with our partner.

Some examples of birds that we saw were: robins, crows, black birds... and we heard a cuckoo.



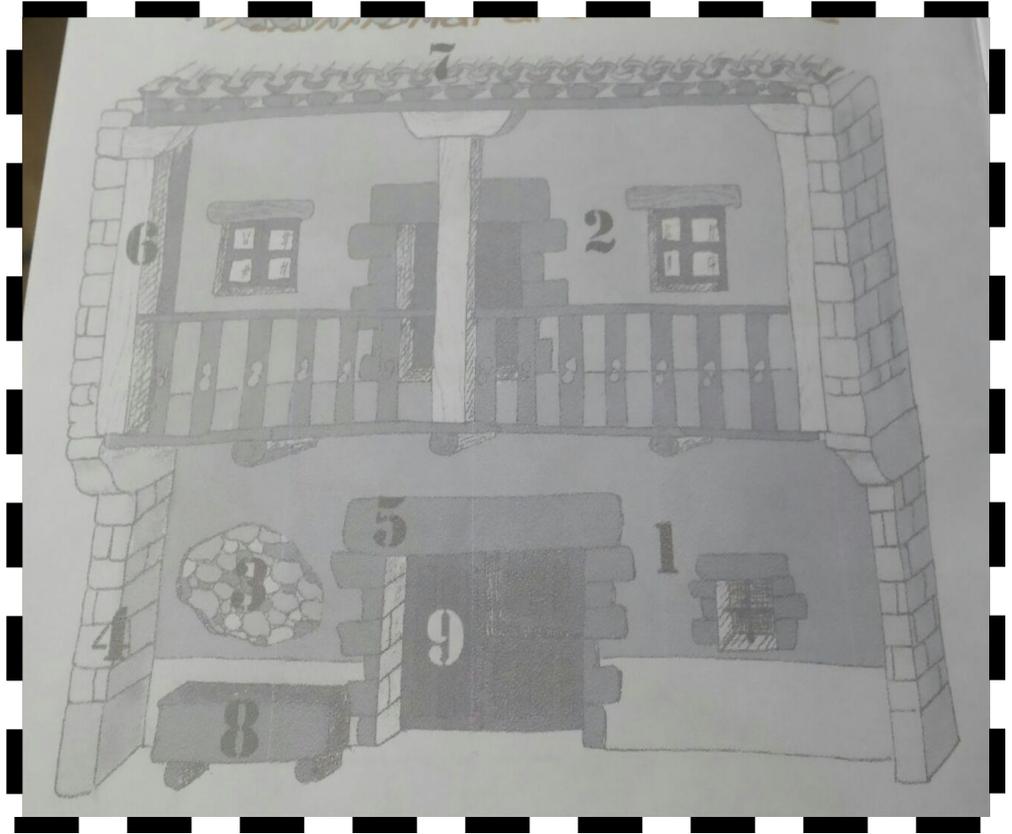
ESPINOSA DE LOS MONTEROS

A wide-angle street scene in Espinosa de los Monteros, Spain. The central focus is a large, two-story stone building with a red-tiled roof and arched ground-floor openings. A balcony on the second floor displays the Spanish flag. In the foreground, a zebra crossing with white stripes is visible on the asphalt road. Two people, one in a blue jacket and one in a pink jacket, are crossing the street. To the left, a group of people is gathered near a large, gnarled tree. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

BY SOFÍA AND YAHIZA

Traditional Architecture

Our monitors taught us the different parts of an ancient typical house in Espinosa De Los Monteros. We also learned the utility of the different rooms and doors.



Gymkana

We did a gymkana in Espinosa de los Monteros.

At the centre of the village, there were hidden riddles. We did it in groups. If you guessed one, you could go to the next riddle. The questions were about the village.



The Tower

The tower of Espinosa de los Monteros was a beautiful tower, but now it is in ruins.

The teacher showed us an egagropyla. Egagrophylas are balls formed by remains of undigested food.

We did an experiment and we found out that the rock had the following features: beige, sparkling, tough, tenacious, hard, acid, permeable, and it had little pieces of quartz.



The horses

When we returned to the hostel, we found some beautiful horses. We went to caress them. And they were happy about it!

They were in a meadow with lots of food.

The horses were of different colours: black, brown, white..





NIGHT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

By Emma, Laura,
Adriana, Lucia

Night Games

Every night after dinner, from 11 pm to midnight, our monitors prepared games. They were team games, and we had to use our torches because we did them outside the hostel.

It was very cold, but we had to run a lot so that warmed us up!!!



The Last Night

On the last night there was a party.... We sang, danced, and laughed.

Our monitors were the DJs and they played different songs. We prepared a list for them!!!

Some songs were 'Gasolina', 'Noche y Día', 'Saturday Night', 'Caillou' and a lot more.

It was a very funny night!



OJO GUAREÑA: THE CAVE



BY MARCO, PABLO AND SERGIO

The Caves

The caves of the natural monument 'Ojo Guareña' are more than 100 km (13850 ha) long. They are located in the north of the province of Burgos, in the south slope of the Cantabrian mountain chain.



The Legend

Some time ago people thought that the cave's water was magical. A prince tried to enter the cave and found its water, but he got lost in the galleries and he died. His brother did it and he found water. He gained immortality, he could see the past, he got night vision, but he couldn't go out of the cave anymore. This person continues in the cave. You can go to the cave and prove that the legend is true or false.



Unique Species

In the cave there are different and unique species, such as a rare type of shrimp.

This type is found only in this cave. Nowhere else in the world can this rare type of animal be seen.



Anfípodo

Bones

In this cave you can find the bones of a lot of animals, and even people!

These bones belong to humans from the past and you can see them by looking into a well.



The Shrine

In the cave there is a shrine called
“Ermita de San Bernabe”

On the ceiling there are very old
paintings. They represent ancient
tortures.



Back Home

On Friday 28th, after visiting the caves and having lunch at a beautiful park in Villarcayo, the bus picked us up at around 4 o'clock. The journey lasted 2 hours, and it was really funny. The bus driver -we called him DJ Dani- played music and we sang and danced non-stop!!



BY DANIEL AND IRUNE

IT WAS A NICE EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER...

