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SKUPINOVÁ MOBILITA: IES “Elena García Armada“, Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz, Španělsko

TERMÍN: 14. 10. 2023 – 21. 10. 2023

PROJEKT: The EU as a Palette of Cultures - Getting to Know Each Other as a Path to Tolerance and Respect

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: GEOGRAPHY – SEVILLE

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The first thing I saw when we landed was the airport itself. Sevilla Airport is the **sixth busiest inland** airport in Spain. It is the main international airport serving western Andalusia in southern Spain, and neighboring provinces.

The airport has flight connections to 42 destinations around Europe and Northern Africa, and handle 7,5 million passengers a year. It serves as a base for the low-cost carriers Vueling and Ryanair. Our Czech group also travelled to Spain **with Ryanair company from Vienna**. I took this picture at Sevilla airport.

The construction began in 1915 and, that same year, it began to be used for the training of pilots. In 1919, the first commercial flights linking Sevilla and Madrid were carried out. For me the airport from outside looked small but from the inside it was very big. It is a beautiful and modern airport.

Right after our landing **we were picked up by our new families who took us to visit Sevilla** - the nearest big city before going to our new homes in Jerez de la Frontera.

Seville is the capital and the largest city of Andalusia. It is situated on the **river Guadalquivir**, in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. In the past it was a very rich city as all the gold and goods from America were transported to Sevilla by sea and 50 km by the river.



Seville has been one of the most important cities in the Iberian Peninsula since ancient times. The first settlers of the site have been identified with **the Tartessian culture**. The



destruction of their settlement is attributed to the Carthaginians, giving way to the emergence of the **Roman city of Hispalis**, built very near the Roman colony of **Itálica (now Santiponce)**, which was only 9 km northwest of present-day Sevilla. The ruins can be visited even today and the **mosaics** and preserved **amphitheatre** give us an idea how big and important it was.

ŠKOLA: ZŠ BRNO, HERČÍKOVA 19, PŘÍSPĚVKOVÁ ORGANIZACE

AKREDITACE: 2022-01-CZ01-KA120-SCH-000104905

PROJEKT: 2023-1-CZ01-KA121-SCH-000123657



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Itálica, the birthplace of the Roman emperors Trajan and Hadrian, **was founded in 206–205 BC**. Itálica is well preserved and gives an impression of how Hispalis may have looked in the later Roman period. Its ruins are now an important tourist attraction. Under the rule of the Visigothic Kingdom, Hispalis housed the royal court on some occasions.



Sevilla has some of the most beautiful monuments in the world. One of its best monuments is the **Our Lady's Cathedral** which holds the title of the largest cathedral in the world. It is the largest Gothic cathedral and the 4th largest church in the world. The entire building was included in the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1987**.



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The **Royal Alcázar of Seville** is the name of the royal palace. The palace is renowned as one of the most beautiful in all of Spain and is considered one of the first outstanding examples of **Mudejar architecture** in the Iberian Peninsula. It combines Islamic, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Romantic elements as a product of both Islamic and Christian cultures. Due to its cultural value, the

There is also **Casa de Contratación** – which was a central trading house with the New World from the 16th to the 18th century. It also established navigational and cartography schools and began the Archives of the Indies, still an important source of colonial documents.



The **Plaza de España** is a square in the María Luisa Park. It was built in 1928 for the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929. It is an example of Neo-Mudejar style. Today the buildings of the Plaza de España have been renovated and adapted for use as offices for government agencies.



After the visit to Seville we went to Jerez de la Frontera by car to the flats and houses of our hosts, it took about an hour. The weather was nice and the sun was shining, but I was tired because we started in Brno at 2.00 in the morning.

If I have a chance to come back to Spain and Jerez de la Frontera, I would definitely go.

Adiós mi amigo español, lo pasé bien en tu casa.