

ESPANGGLISH

The Spanish Department's Fortnightly Newsletter



Plaza Mayor in Salamanca, Spain at Christmas

¡Bienvenidos de Vuelta!

Hi everyone and welcome to the Spanish newsletter! This newsletter has been created for all those interested in the culture and languages of Spain and Latin America. Whether you're studying Spanish or not there is bound to be something for you in this newsletter. From cooking to music to stories to events.

We have loved writing for you so far we look forward to seeing you again after the christmas holidays - ¡Feliz Navidad!

If you have any suggestions or responses we would love to hear from you. Anything related to Spanish and the Latin American world is welcome just drop us an email at:

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Espanglish is a biweekly newsletter so there aren't any deadlines. We look forward to hearing from you!

By Ruby Manhota, Maleeha Ahmad, Maya Brown

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La Catedral de San Miguel



San Miguel 's most famous sight is its parish church, characterized by its pink 'wedding cake' towers that soar above the town. These strange pinnacles were designed by indigenous stonemason Zeferino Gutiérrez in the late 19th century.

La vista más famosa de San Miguel es su iglesia parroquial, caracterizada por sus torres rosadas de "pastel de bodas" que se elevan sobre la ciudad. Estos extraños pináculos fueron diseñados por el cantero indígena Zeferino Gutiérrez a finales del siglo XIX.

The original parish, built in the late seventeenth century, in the Baroque style, consisted of two towers. This changed dramatically in 1880, when the master builder, Zeferino Gutiérrez Muñoz, was tasked with creating a new facade. Gutiérrez, a self-taught architect, supposedly based the design on a postcard of a Belgian church and instructed builders by scratching plans in the sand with a stick.. It is said that Mr. Zeferino Gutiérrez was inspired by the drawings, inscriptions and postcards of great churches in Europe. The result is the neo-Gothic fantasy that makes the parish of San Miguel one of the most photographed churches in Mexico and its towers can be seen from almost anywhere in the city.

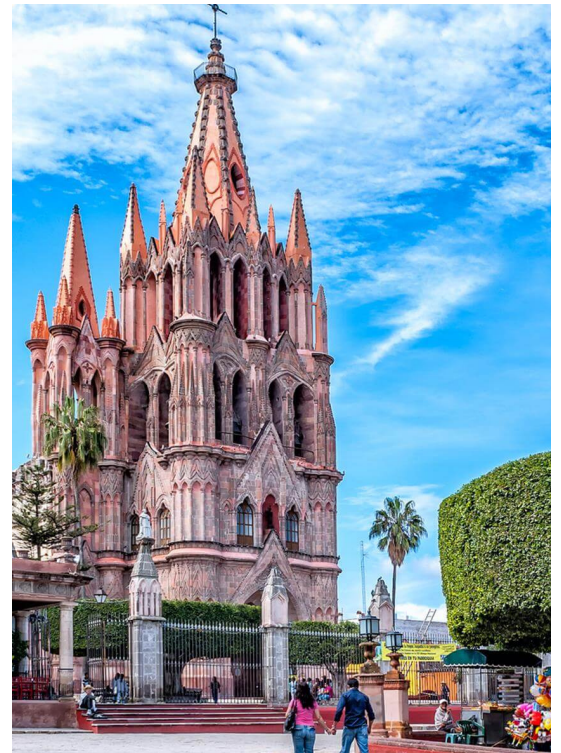


In the chapel to the left of the main altar is the much-revered image of the Cristo de la Conquista (Christ of the Conquest), made in Pátzcuaro from cornstalks and orchid bulbs, probably in the 16th century and the adjacent Iglesia de San Rafael was founded in 1742.

Things to do at La Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel!!!

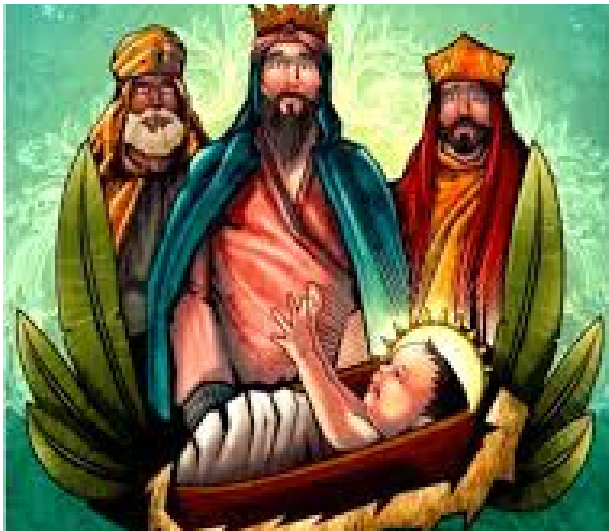
1. **Listen to the bells**- apparently they are beautiful.
2. **Admire** the amazing architecture
3. **Explore the surrounding city** - part of the old section of the town is even part of the proclaimed World Heritage Site, thousands of new foreign tourists and residents visit each year.

4. You NEED to visit the main garden- This central square is undoubtedly the heart of the city. In the south you can see the contour of San Miguel Parish, to the east and west are the arches of the gates and colonial buildings, and to the north you will find the Old City Palace . But the garden itself attracted visitors to sit and chat on wrought iron benches in the shade of laurel trees, while they listened to musicians playing around or watching one of the many exciting parades. ¡Qué increíble!
5. THE FOOD!!-While the town is cosmopolitan, its core is Mexican — so food must come first, and breakfast is taken late, smothered in cheese, beans and salsa. ¡Qué rico! Before a day out it's important to have a good meal and you know, for sure, that in San Miguel de Allende you will find one!



By Maya Brown

Día de los Reyes



In Spain Dia de los Reyes Santos, also called Epiphany is celebrated on 6th January. It is a festival that celebrates the Christmas Story specifically when the three kings arrived to worship and bring three gifts to the baby Jesus after following the star in the sky. In Spanish tradition on January 6, three of the Kings: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar arrived on horse, camel and elephant, bringing respectively gold, frankincense and

myrrh to the baby Jesus. Children have some presents on Christmas Day, but most are opened at Epiphany. Children believe that the Kings bring presents to them at Epiphany. They write letters to the Kings asking for toys and presents. And on Epiphany Eve (January 5th) they leave shoes on windowsills or balconies or under the Christmas Tree to be filled with presents. Gifts are often left by children for the Kings, a glass of Cognac for each King, a satsuma and some walnuts. Sometimes a bucket of water is left for the camels that bring the Kings! Some big towns and cities have Epiphany Parades with each King having a big float that is shaped like a camel.

For breakfast, people typically eat a special Kings' Day cake or bread called the Roscón de Reyes. It's a sweet bread filled with dried candy fruits, topped with more fruits and sticky sugar, and decorated with a gold paper crown. Inside will be hidden a prize and a dried bean; the one who finds the prize gets to wear the crown and be king for the day, while the person who finds the bean must buy next year's cake. Lunch is the main meal of the day and might consist of seafood in coastal regions or roasted lamb and suckling pig in central and northern Spain.

By Ruby Manhota



Diez Preguntas con Sonia

Tenemos la gran suerte de tener a Sonia como nuestra asistente de español este año. Si no estudias español, Sonia ayuda a los estudiantes de español con su español oral. Es fantástico que tengamos la oportunidad de tener un hispanohablante en nuestro colegio porque podemos aprender mucho sobre experiencias diferentes y culturales. Este artículo es una entrevista con Sonia para que podáis saberla más. Si la ves en los pasillos, ¡recordad decirle “Hola”

We are very lucky to have Sonia as our language assistant this year. If you don't study Spanish, Sonia helps the spanish students with their spoken Spanish. It's super that we have the opportunity to have a spanish speaker in our school because we can learn a lot about different cultural experiences. This article is an interview with Sonia so that you can know more about her. If you see her in the corridor, remember to say “Hola”!

Tell us a bit about yourself. Describe your personality, interests and family.

About myself... I consider myself tolerant with other people's views and beliefs, meaning that I am an easy going and open minded person. I am also very chatty and passionate in what I do and I believe that positivity, self-love, consistency and effort are the keys to success. My interests include: karate, dancing, acting and literature (I also like comics a lot), cinema and long,deep philosophical conversations. My family is quite small; I have one brother- Julian, who studies Biology and is one the funniest and different people I know. My father is a retired history teacher who enjoys reading and cooking. The rest of my family all live in different parts of Spain, so, unfortunately I get to see them only twice a year (for spaniards, that's a long time...!).

**Which part of Spain are you from? What's it like?
How is it different to Birmingham?**

Mmmm... I was born in Mallorca, and have moved several times since then. However, the place I have been the longest is Graus (for 8 years), a very small town in the north of Spain. I always thought that Graus was very narrow minded... Gossip is one of the

favorite topics of people and I used to hate living in a place where everybody knew everything. Plus, as it is only a town in the mountains, there is no great diversity, people are born and raised there. It is rare seeing people moving to the village or moving out of it. That is the main difference, the size and the diversity. In Birmingham I can feel invisible and free.



What do you think of England so far? Is it different or similar to what you expected?

England is amazing! I am very much enjoying being here. I think I did know what to expect. I feel like England has always been waiting for me. I must say that Birmingham seems to be different and special from other cities. I think Birmingham is a great place to start discovering England. It offers a lot of activities and there are lots of different people. I like the accent of the locals, it sounds cheerful and bubbly, and I like how they say "bab". When I tell my friends about Birmingham I always say: "here I feel like I can see the world".

There are some stereotypes of Spain and Spanish people. Examples include taking the siesta, dancing the flamenco and being very loud. Are there any that you think are completely wrong or are there some that you agree with? Are there any stereotypes of British people in Spain?

Well, I definitely agree on being loud...! I only realised that when I traveled to other countries and thought that people were very quiet. About the "siesta", yeah, I know a lot of people do. However, I think the concept of "siesta" is not just about taking an after-dinner nap, but chilling after you have eaten your food. I don't sleep, but I lazily lie



on the sofa for a good 40 mins. Dancing Flamenco is very difficult, only people who have attended classes or who are very exposed to seeing it are able to perform this dance. I can maybe agree that we are generally more confident dancers than other northern countries, because in Spain there is a big night life culture, which basically consists of dancing and talking to people all night long. Stereotypes of English people...? LOADS. There is a general joke about English people getting easily sunburned, wearing sandals with socks and frequenting the coasts of Barcelona, Mallorca or Valencia. Of course, there are the good stereotypes of the English being well mannered and polite. I think Spaniards think that you English are obsessed with tea and that you like talking about the weather.

What are your hobbies? How did you spend your lockdown?

My hobbies are doing sports, dancing, reading, writing and drawing. And that is exactly what I did on lockdown, plus, I got into meditating for some weeks, which is something I like to practice when I feel in need of it. I decided to delete my Instagram account during lockdown because I wanted to challenge myself and see how well I could get on with myself (sometimes was hard to hahaha). I also spent a lot of time reconnecting with my cousins and friends via Skype.

What are your future aspirations? If you had an unlimited amount of money, what would you do?

My "short term" aspirations are; studying a master in interpreting, getting my english nationality, getting at least a green belt in karate and skydiving. In a wider spectrum, I aspire to have a job that I love and be surrounded by intelligent, adventurous and good hearted people. If I had an unlimited amount of money I would firstly donate it to health organizations, and different charities to help people in need of it. Afterwards, I would call my good friend Inés and tell her "bab, we're going to Russia". I would travel as much as I could with the people I love, and I would give super cool gifts to my loved ones.



Is there anything you really want to do and see in the UK whilst you're here?

I really want to go to Wales! And mainly visit some friends that live in the UK. Any suggestions?

What do you think of Camp Hill? Is it different or similar to schools in Spain?

Camp Hill is very different from what I'm used to. I've always gone to a public mixed school, so I went to class with boys and girls, which was fun but when it comes to studies, I think you have better chances to get good grades in a girls school. The general atmosphere was more chaotic, students and teachers are more informal in their relationship, we called each other by our names. I remember my Latin and Greek teacher, Conchi, with whom we used to talk about our teen problems and life in general. Also, as mentioned, I lived in a small town, so I guess that the teacher-student relationship was also closer because of that. Of course, no uniform was used. And we didn't have the option to choose drama as a subject...

Who is your favourite Spanish singer? Do you have any song recommendations?

I think I should say "Amaral" is my favourite spanish singer, she was the first singer that I listened to when I was 8 or 7. She is from Zaragoza, the capital of my region; Aragón. I recommend her to you because she has a nice and clear pronunciation and a very sweet



voice. Her lyrics are melancholic and her songs usually talk about things that are no longer present in her life, or about how uncomprehended she has always felt. She is an artist who sings with her heart and puts all her spirit on it. And actually my favourite song will always be "El universo sobre mí". I also like a group called "Extremoduro" which is tough rock with hard language but passionate and real ("Si te vas" and "La vereda de la puerta de atrás" are my favourite songs). Then I can mention "Monsieur Perinné" a fantastic, sweet Colombian band, "Calle 13" from Puerto Rico (strong language and rough videos), and "Bomba Estéreo" which is super cool for dancing especially the song "Fuego". "Rosalía" is a must, and "Nathy Peluso" is a recent discovery for me, she is Argetinian and very innovative and different. If you like rap, you should check "Kase O" (also from Zaragoza) and "Ajax y Prok" from Granada.

By Maleeha Ahmed
With thanks to Sonia

EXPRESIÓN DE LA SEMANA

This weeks Expresion de la semana is from Sonia herself, a motto she likes to live by
"Hacer cosas, y las cosas sucederán"

Finally, do you have a motto or belief that you like to live by? What would your main advice be to anyone who wants to learn Spanish, or any other language?

My motto in life... Honestly: "Do things, and things will happen". It might sound redundant, but, this sentence means to me that if you want something, you have to go for it, you have to create it. No one else is responsible for the things that will happen in your life, but you. And, what advice would I give you when it comes to learning a new language... I would say: get familiarized with the language, go to a country in which this language is spoken; holidays, volunteering... and talk and listen to the locals. I think that a language is more than a combination of sounds and grammatical rules, a language is a lifestyle, a story, and it becomes another version of yourself. It is like having a second brain.. And we didn't have the option to choose drama as a subject...