

HALCYON

LONDON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

An exceptional education that draws out the unique potential of each student

Innovation | Collaboration | Community

Cuenca Trip 2023



Introduction

An essential part of Halcyon and the IB's mission is promoting multilingualism and intercultural understanding. With that in mind, Halcyon has developed a language immersion trip to Cuenca (Spain) from **Saturday 14-Friday 20 October 2023**.

This trip offers Halcyon students the opportunity to experience 6 days of Spanish language and culture by:

- Living with a Spanish host family.
- Enjoying a number of cultural visits and leisure activities and workshops such as:
 - El Hosquillo National Park
 - City Gymkhana
 - Tapas evening
 - Flamenco workshop
 - Painting session with local artist
 - Art workshop in the Abstract Art Museum
 - Folk music workshop
 - Canoeing in the river Cuervo
 - Cooking workshop
 - Voluntary work

This trip is [an immersive language learning experience](#) that will allow our students from grade 8 to grade 11 to collaborate in Spanish with their peers and have practical experience with locals as well.

Where?

The students will be visiting Cuenca. Cuenca is a city set in the mountains of east-central Spain. Founded by the Moors, it retains its walled old town with steep cobbled streets and mediaeval castle ruins. It is most famous for its well-preserved "casas colgadas," or hanging houses. Cantilevered over the Huécar gorge, they seemingly cling to the cliffs' edges.

Cuenca is a small mediaeval city, with 60,000 inhabitants, situated in the region of Castilla La Mancha, known globally thanks to the adventures of Don Quijote de la Mancha, the iconic character created by the writer Miguel de Cervantes.

Cuenca is a welcoming destination full of adventure, where our students enjoy an authentic cultural and linguistic experience.

The following are a few characteristics that make Cuenca the city special:

- A historic centre is declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for its artistic and cultural wealth;
- Built upon the rocks of the highest mountain in the city, deep ravines have been carved by two rivers, Júcar and Huécar;
- Natural and environmental enclave in the Cuenca mountain range was selected by UNESCO as a National Park and Biosphere Reserve;
- Just a 50-minute train ride from Madrid;
- One of the safest cities in Spain; and
- Artistic and cultural beauty as well as a gateway to the magnificent natural park in the Cuenca mountain range.

[\[Google maps\]](#)

[\[Area Pictures\]](#)

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

Accommodation

Students will stay with carefully selected host families, who will introduce them to Spanish life in an authentic and safe environment. The selected families will provide the corresponding police check (DBS equivalent) for any person living in the house older than 18 years old.

Total cost: £1400

Trip Leader: Please, email [Ms. Pilar Delgado](#) for further information.

True Spanish Experience (TSE)

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