

Alcay



A Summer Program in Spain
Organized by the College of Engineering
Manual Assistance by International Studies Program

Introduction

1. This manual is intended as a reference to help you with travel and cultural issues for the study abroad program in Alcoy, Spain. Print and keep a copy of this manual with you as a reference.
2. Fees and Student Accounts. The fees for the Summer in Spain program are \$6500.00 for 2012. A \$1250.00 down payment is due by February 10, 2012. Please deliver a check payable to the University of Notre Dame to Ms. Michelle Kovacs in the Engineering Dean's Office, 257 Fitzpatrick Hall. The Office of Student Accounts will bill you for the \$5250.00 balance for the summer in May or June when the other Summer Session bills are mailed.
3. You must have a passport to enter Spain. You will not be allowed to board your plane without showing it. When in Spain, have your passport with you at all times. If you don't have a passport, get one now, as it can take a few months to obtain a passport.
4. It is your responsibility to keep track of your passport and other identification while in Spain, and to obtain replacements if the originals are lost. You would be wise to photocopy your passport and carry the copy separate from the passport itself.
Please give to John Brauer a legible copy of your passport as soon as possible.
5. US citizens do not need a visa for travel in Spain or western Europe. Citizens of other nations may need a visa to travel in Spain. It is your responsibility to obtain all required visas..
6. Check the State Department travel warnings at <http://travel.state.gov/travel> before departing.
7. It is advisable for you to maintain a list of telephone numbers for the banks issuing your credit cards so that you can contact your bank and obtain replacement cards if necessary.
8. Before you leave for Spain call all of the Banks, Credit Unions, etc to tell them that you will be traveling in Europe, or they may stop honoring your cards.
9. If you are not traveling with the Notre Dame group, you must get approval of your travel itinerary by John Brauer and you must make certain that you will be in Alcoy for the start of the program.
10. Plastic is accepted worldwide! You will find a Visa or a Master Card very useful. They are accepted almost everywhere; American Express and Diner's Card are not. You will receive the best exchange rate on credit card purchases. Not all shops in Spain accept credit cards, especially small shops in Alcoy.

11. Meal expenses are what you make them. The Spain program includes breakfast and dinner at the dormitory cafeteria. You are free to pursue other options at your own cost.

12. The current bank-to-bank exchange rate is about 1.3 dollars per euro. The rate changes from day to day. The rate at which the bank sells euros is generally five to ten cents per euro above the foreign exchange rate published in the papers. Usually there is a commission fee as well. You get the best exchange rate at an ATM machine; second best is a bank or at American Express. (If you have an American Express card as identification, you can write a check on your U.S. bank in dollars and receive euros at an American Express office with no commission charge.) American Express charges no commission when exchanging American Express Traveler's Cheques. You get a better exchange rate for checks and Traveler's Cheques than for cash. It is extremely difficult and expensive to have money sent to you from the U.S. while you are in Spain.

13. Health Insurance. The program will supply Health Insurance for you that will cover you for the 6 weeks of the program. Provider will be HTH Worldwide, <http://www.hthworldwide.com/>

14. Medication. If you take prescription medication regularly, bring enough to cover your stay. Be sure it is properly labeled and in their original containers or that you have a physician's letter directing its use. It would also be prudent to carry a copy of any prescriptions, both for medication and for eyeglasses.

15. Telephones. If you plan to telephone back to the U. S. during the summer you should arrange to get an AT&T, MCI or SPRINT calling card with which you can charge your calls. The alternatives are a large supply of coins to feed a pay phone or Spanish Phonecards. **Each student will be provided with a "pay as you go" mobile phone that will work all over Europe. Your number will be assigned when you arrive and again you should notify your family of that number.** These phones must be returned in working order the day before departure or you will be charged for damage. The least expensive way to communicate is by text messaging; **teach your parents.**

16. VAT. The Value Added Tax is a major source of governmental revenue in Europe. In Spain the rate on most items is 16%. The VAT is included in the price of the item. If you are not a citizen of a country in the European Community you are entitled to a partial refund of this tax on leaving Europe to return home. The store at which you make the purchase must fill out the refund forms for you. You must have the forms stamped at the Madrid airport after you enter the departure lounge. The goods must be in your carry-on luggage, available for inspection. They usually don't ask to see the items, but Murphy's Law applies. If you put the goods in your checked baggage, the tax folk will inevitably ask to see them!

17. Helpful contact information:

- (a) John Brauer, Director of the Notre Dame International Summer Programs, (574) 631-2950, jbrauer@nd.edu.
- (b) Prof. Yih-Fang Huang, 259 Fitzpatrick Hall, (574) 631- 5350, Yih-Fang.Huang.2@nd.edu
- (c) Prof. Daniel Costello, 230A Fitzpatrick Hall, (574) 631- 5483, Daniel.J.Costello.2@nd.edu
- (d) Anthony Travel, ND Representatives: Janice Camparone, (800) 366-3772 or (574) 631-7080, janicecamparone@anthonytravel.com.

In Spain: (When calling from the USA, add 011 34 prior to the 9 digit number)

- (a) U.S. Embassy
 - i. Calle Serrano 75, Madrid, (+011 34) 91-587-22-00.
 - ii. Paseo Reina Elisenda de Montcada 23, 08034 Barcelona, (+011 34) 93-280-22-27, FAX (+34) 93-280-61-75.
 - iii. Doctor Romagosa 1-2 J., CP 46003 Valencia, (+011 34) 963-516-973, FAX (+ 011 34) 963-529-565.
- (b) Prof. Elena Perez, Plaza Ferrandiz y Carbonell, s/n, Alcoy, (+011 34) 61-800-7699
- (c) Prof. Miguel Selles, Plaza Ferrandiz y Carbonell, s/n, Alcoy, (+011 34) 62-663-4977.

Flight Information:

IBERIA AIRLINES: Group Departure

<i>Departs</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Flt #</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Arrives</i>
CHICAGO(ORD) 21May 7:40am	20May	6274	4:40pm	MADRID
MADRID 2:15pm	29Jun	6275	11:55am	CHICAGO(ORD) 24Jun

1. Arrangements for connecting flights to and from Chicago, if necessary, should be made with our travel agent, Janice Camparone, Anthony Travel (LaFortune Student Center, PO Box 1086, Notre Dame, IN 46556, (574) 631-7080, 1-800-366-3772, Fax (574) 631 8504, janicecamparone@anthonytravel.com). She will be able to give you a connecting fare which will be less than purchasing a separate ticket elsewhere.

Return the provided travel form to Anthony Travel by Feb 17th with the information requested. eTickets will be issued for your flights.

2. Travel between Madrid and Alcoy will be via a chartered bus. If not traveling with the group, the best alternative is to travel by train from Madrid to Alcoy, or by plane to Alicante.

3. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements to Spain we will credit your account with \$1000, and your net fee for the summer will be \$5500. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements, inform John Brauer by February 8th. If you are making your own flight arrangements and still want to take advantage of the bus from the airport with the rest of the students, please advise John Brauer before you leave for Spain.

4. Any changes made to your itinerary after tickets have been issued will incur an airline imposed change fee and is subject to flight availability.

Spain

It is hoped that all students have some background in Spanish culture and history. People have been living in what is now Spain for over 12,000 years, and has been the home of Greek, Carthaginian, Roman, Moorish and now Spanish civilizations.

Spain is a collection of provinces. Some of these, most notably the Basque region, maintain great pride in their semi-autonomous status. Spanish is widely spoken, but what we refer to as “Spanish” is Castellano in Spain. In Alcoy and the regions around Valencia, a Valencian dialect is spoken, and you will see street signs in both Castellano and Valenciano. Valenciano is considered to be similar to Catalan, and has been described as Catalan with a lisp. Regardless, the people in southern Spain are very comfortable speaking Castellano/Spanish, so don’t be intimidated by the dialects.

The famous Spanish siesta is not as prevalent today as a few decades ago, but is still common. Siestas were probably originally formulated as a lifestyle to compensate for the afternoon’s peak temperatures. A siesta consists of a two- to three-hour lunch/power nap, and is reflected by the business hours of most shops. Expect stores to be closed at least between 1:00 and 2:00 pm, and perhaps longer. Spaniards compensate for this lifestyle by commonly working until 8:00 or 9:00 pm.

Lunch usually starts around 2:00, and consists of an appetizer, main dish and dessert. Dinner starts after 9:00 pm, and is usually lighter than lunch. Snacking on tapas between lunch and dinner is a common practice.

Spain is a modern country, with shopping centers, widespread internet access, reliable cell phone service and banking. Spain’s currency is the euro. Automated bank machines are very common; you will find at least ten on the Pa’ís Valenci`a Av. alone. There is no need to carry large amounts of cash while in Spain.

Electricity in Spain is 220 volt, 50 cycles per second, with European Continental-type plugs. In order to use American appliances, including computers, an adaptor is needed. These can be easily obtained at a local Radio Shack or Walmart.

The Spanish are very tolerant of foreigners and their different ways, but it is important to always act with courtesy. Use common sense regarding etiquette and behavior. For example, it's unlikely you'd be welcome in a restaurant in the U.S. wearing only a bathing suit, so expect the same in Spain. Spaniards object to men being bare chested other than at the beach or poolside, and do not look kindly on public displays of drunkenness. Be respectful in churches, just as you would be in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Alcoy

Alcoy is near the Mediterranean Sea, so daily excursions to the beaches of Benidorm, Gandia or Alicante are possible (see Getting to and from Alcoy). The local cuisine will reflect proximity to the sea, as well as southern Spanish delicacies such as paella (a rice dish flavored with saffron) and jamón (a special form of cured ham). Alicante province is not as famous as Rioja for wines, and certainly not as prolific in the number of wineries, but Alicante wines are very good (and a great gift to bring home for your parents), and wine will often be served in restaurants. Tapas are common, often jamón based.

Alcoy enjoys an ideal climate, protected from rain by surrounding mountains and ideally located in the south of Spain. A May-June stay in Alcoy is perhaps the perfect time from a weather standpoint; expect daily highs in the 70s, long sunny days and comfortable evenings. Don't be surprised to get days with temperatures exceeding 90_F, but also be prepared for an occasional rainy day in the low 60s. The sun is very strong in southern Spain. Plan for this and bring and wear sunblock and cover yourself sensibly. Sun glasses are essential as well.

Alcoy is a city surrounded by gorges which are passable only with great difficulty on foot, and certainly not by car, truck, or wagon. Thus, until the construction of Maria Christina's Bridge from 1828-1837, Alcoy was restricted to a small area between the Riu Riquer and the Riu Molinar. Thus "Old Alcoy" is the part of the city that predominantly dates to the time before 1837 or so. People still talk about going to "Alcoy" or "Old Alcoy" even though they live within the city limits.

If you wish to find Alcoy and explore the local geography, Alcoy can be found on Google Earth at 38_42'06.70" N, 0_28'39.55" W. (See www.earth.google.com.)

The back cover shows a map of Alcoy with the major attractions. A brief description of these locations is as follows:

1. Dormitory. The dormitory has internet connections (not wireless) in every room, a 24-hour cafeteria, and weekly menus in the dining room. You will be given an orientation to go over the dormitory rules upon arrival in Alcoy. The address of the dormitory is:

**COLEGIO MAYOR OVIDI MONTLLOR C/ San Juan de Ribera, nº 11 - 03801
Alcoy (Alicante), Spain**

2. Classrooms. Classes are held in the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Campus de Alcoy.
3. Plaça d'Espanya. This is a main square, with government administrative buildings and the tourist information offices on this square. Beneath the square is Alcoy's main convention center, designed by the famous architect, Santiago Calatrava.
4. Plaça de Dins. This is a protected square, isolated from traffic by buildings on all sides. The Plaça de Dins has very nice cafes with outdoor seating.
5. Casa del Pavo. This is a very ornate modern building, built in 1908, with striking decorations and bold black iron railings protecting each balcony.
6. La Glorieta. This was the first park in Alcoy, and dates to the middle of the 19th century.
7. Santa Maria's Church. This is a classic style church, rebuilt in the 1940s, that holds a dominant position on the Plaça d'Espanya.
8. St. Jordi's Church. Just behind Santa Maria's Church is St. Jordi's Church, dedicated to Alcoy's patron saint.
9. Museum of the Festival of Moors and Christians. Alcoy is famous for its festival commemorating the reconquest of the town from the Moors in 1276. This museum houses photographs and costumes of note.
10. Post office.
11. Market. Your stay in Alcoy includes breakfast and dinner, but the market is a convenient place to see Alcoy's produce, and to procure a lunch if you take a day trip on your own. There are three markets in Alcoy.

The dormitory is on a hill overlooking the old town of Alcoy. To get to the city center, go over the Viaducte de Canalejas. It's around a ten minute walk to the Plaça de Dins, and around twenty minutes to get to Maria Christina's Bridge (Pont de Maria Cristina) to go to part of the city known as Santa Rosa.

If you will have parents/relatives/friends visiting who need to stay in a hotel, two are recommended:

The Ciutat de Alcoi is a four star hotel around a twenty minute walk from the dormitories, just across Maria Christina's bridge and across L'Almeda from San Roque Church (see map). The Ciutat de Alcoi is very nice and modern. The hotel website is

<http://www.ac-hotels.com/main.asp>.

The Hotel Reconquista is a three star hotel that is five minutes from the dorms. It is located just across Saint Jordi's Bridge on Puente San Jorge. The hotel website is

<http://www.hotelreconquista.es/ingles/index.html>.

The bus and train stations are in the North Zone (Zona Norte) around a ten minute walk from your dormitory. From the city center, walk across the Bridge of Saint George (Pont de Sant Jordi), turn right on L'Alameda Avenue and then left at Sant Luis Beltr'an or Premer de Maig street to get to the train station. The bus station is another block further. Alternatively, you can catch the Line C local bus service to the bus and train stations.

Medical care can be obtained at Alcoy's hospital, Verge dels Lliris, around a ten minute walk from your dormitory.

Getting to and from Alcoy

Travel to Alcoy from the United States was covered earlier. This chapter addresses travel from Alcoy during your free time, including your free weekends.

- Before you take a trip, inform your RAs of your intended itinerary. Any travel difficulties can be identified and alternatives planned. You must also indicate your intended return date and time.
- Alcoy has regular train service that links to the Madrid-Alicante Renfe line at Villena and the Madrid-Valencia Renfe line at J'ativa. If taking a Renfe train, make sure that it stops at either of these cities in order to transfer to local service to Alcoy.
- Alcoy has a local bus service. Routes and schedules can be obtained at your dormitory.

Your RA's will be able to help with schedules for trains and buses.

Schedule

The schedule has been planned so that you can maximize your time in Spain; courses are finished by the early afternoon, a free four-day weekend and three day weekend are available for you to make trips on your own if you wish and free two-day weekends are available for shorter trips. However, it is important to note that the schedule is preliminary, and a final schedule will be provided to you before departure.

Courses will take place at the facilities of the Polytechnic University of Valencia at Alcoy. Classrooms are similar to what students find at Notre Dame. The courses that are offered are:

1. **EE 34001 Electronic Communications and the Smart Grid**, taught by Dr. Yih-Fang Huang and Dr. Daniel Coatello of the University of Notre Dame.
2. **EG 34440 Introduction to Probability and Statistics**, taught by Dr. Elena Perez Bernabeu of the Polytechnic University of Valencia at Alcoy. This course is equivalent to MATH 30440.

Normal lectures are two hours in length per class, or four hours per lecture day. In addition, technical and cultural excursions are planned, as well as a 4 day excursion to Granada and Toledo.

You need to pre-register for EG 44007 and EG 34440 as Summer Session courses during the advance registration period beginning Wednesday, March 23rd .

Texts:

EE 34001 Electronic Communications and the Smart Grid :

Understanding Information Transmission, by J. B. Anderson and R. Johannesson. 2005 IEEE Press, ISBN 0-471-67910-0.

EG 34440 Introduction to Probability and Statistics:

Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists, Fourth Edition, SHELDON M.ROSS, Elsevier Academic Press,

The books are available on Amazon. You need to purchase them here and bring them with you to Spain.

Personal Safety During Study Abroad

In order to prevent/cope with the problem of theft, assault, and sexual harassment, the following suggestions might be helpful.

General Advice

1. Don't take for granted that people are friendly and can be trusted.
 - (a) Be wary of new acquaintances here just as you would be in the USA.
 - (b) Be wary of people who rush to approach you or shower you with compliments.
 - (c) Recognize that in any country there can be both sincere and insincere people.
2. Take your time.
 - (a) Establish relationships slowly.
 - (b) Don't feel that you must be liked by everyone you meet.
3. Remember, it is often our own attitudes and fears that can pre-condition a situation or outcome. Don't wait until something happens to think about it. Discuss your concerns with other students and local support staff.
4. If something happens, as difficult as it may be, try to remain calm/clear-headed. Anger or yelling only seems to exacerbate a problem.

General Safety Precautions

1. Don't bring/carry unnecessary items which can be stolen.

2. Don't flaunt cameras, tape players, etc., both where you live and while traveling.
3. Don't place articles near a window where they can be tempting or easily taken.
4. Don't lend money—you probably won't see it again.
5. Put valuables in the hotel safe or in the Program lock box if one is available. Cameras, tape players, and money have been stolen from locked hotel rooms.
6. Wear a money belt. It is most secure when concealed inside clothing. This is also handy for travel to the country as well as post-Program travels.
7. Don't tell strangers where you live. It's a good idea to be very vague with strangers in general (e.g. give only the area name where you stay; or if asked where your house or hotel is, say "down the hill," "with my family," etc.

Traveling

1. Carrying excess baggage is an invitation to be ripped-off. Don't carry valuables, even in a backpack or in locked luggage.
 - (a) If you must carry cameras, radios, etc., don't leave them unattended. Backpacks and other large pieces of luggage are commonly put on the roof of the bus. Many have been stolen.
 - (b) We suggest that you keep valuables with you in a small bag or day-pack.
2. Avoid dark, unsafe places and walking alone.
 - (a) At night in the city, try to walk in groups—even if you don't know the other people.
 - (b) Beware of people bumping and pushing you.
 - (c) Beware of tactics used by cons, money changers, and scams—talk to Program staff.

Personal Safety

1. Safety Precaution: Most large cities suffer from common crimes. Use the same precautions you would in any other metropolitan area: don't carry valuables, don't wear expensive clothing or jewelry, and avoid questionable parts of the city, especially at night and when alone.
2. Special Note for Female Students: Women may experience some difficulties while abroad. American women have acquired a reputation for enjoying a type of lifestyle which contrasts with more traditional behavior in many countries. U.S. students may encounter people who do not understand that their familiar way with strangers is a gesture of friendship. Even a smile to a stranger may be misunderstood. Firmly say "no" to any invitation you don't want, and give your address only to people you know and trust. Be cautious until you know and understand local values and customs. Learning to respect the local social rules will facilitate your relationships with host nationals immensely.
3. Theft: You are responsible for your own personal property. Living abroad should be more safe or dangerous than living in the U.S. You can safeguard your personal items from damage or theft by locking your room, and securing your money, travelers checks,

jewelry, passport, and other personal possessions.

4. Personal Note: It is very important to keep in mind that you are a foreigner while you are abroad. Do not become involved in the country's internal affairs. If you should get into any kind of difficulty, the American Embassy will aid you in any way possible, but you are subject to the laws of the country while you are there.

Final Checklists

Before You Leave

Do's

1. Make a photo copy of your passport and credit cards numbers and keep them separate from your passport and credit cards - give a copy to your family.
2. Bring your prescription drugs with you in their original containers - don't pack them in your check-in luggage. Also bring additional contacts/glasses or your corrective lens prescription with you.
3. If you require medicine containing habit-forming substances carry a doctor's certificate attesting to this fact.
4. Notify your Notre Dame faculty representative of any medical issues.
5. Only take the credit card(s) you need - you will not need all those other cards that you generally carry in the States like your drivers license.
6. Mark all of your bags inside and out with your name and address.
7. Bring two passport size photos and a photocopy of birth certificate and/or baptismal certificate, just in case you lose your passport.
8. Make a photo copy of your flight tickets or your itinerary - keep separate.
9. We will give you a wallet size card with important phone numbers on it - keep that with you at all times. Give an electronic copy to your family.
- 10. Review the information at the ND Abroad website;**
<http://nd.edu/~ndabroad/Welcome.htm>

Don'ts

1. You do not have to worry about special immunizations; they are not required for entry into Spain.
2. You do not need a VISA to travel to Spain if you are an U.S. citizen.
3. Do not pack your essential documents or medicines in checked baggage - luggage gets lost.
4. Do not bring expensive jewelry with you.

In Spain

Do's

1. Remain what you are: friendly, courteous, polite and dignified.
2. Travel in small groups - three to five persons with both genders present if possible.

3. Bring a book to read on the train or on the bus, you will not be the only person reading and it is an easy way to fit in.
4. Carry some identification - a tag, bracelet, or card - if you have a medical condition
5. Dial 112 for fire, police, and or medical emergencies.
6. If you see an unattended package, get away and call the police.
7. Avoid protest group activities and other potential volatile situations.
8. Keep abreast of local and international news that might tell you of potential civil unrest.
9. Check the US Embassy web pages for travel advisories.
10. Ask permission before photographing strangers who you find “interesting”.
11. Use common sense.

Don'ts

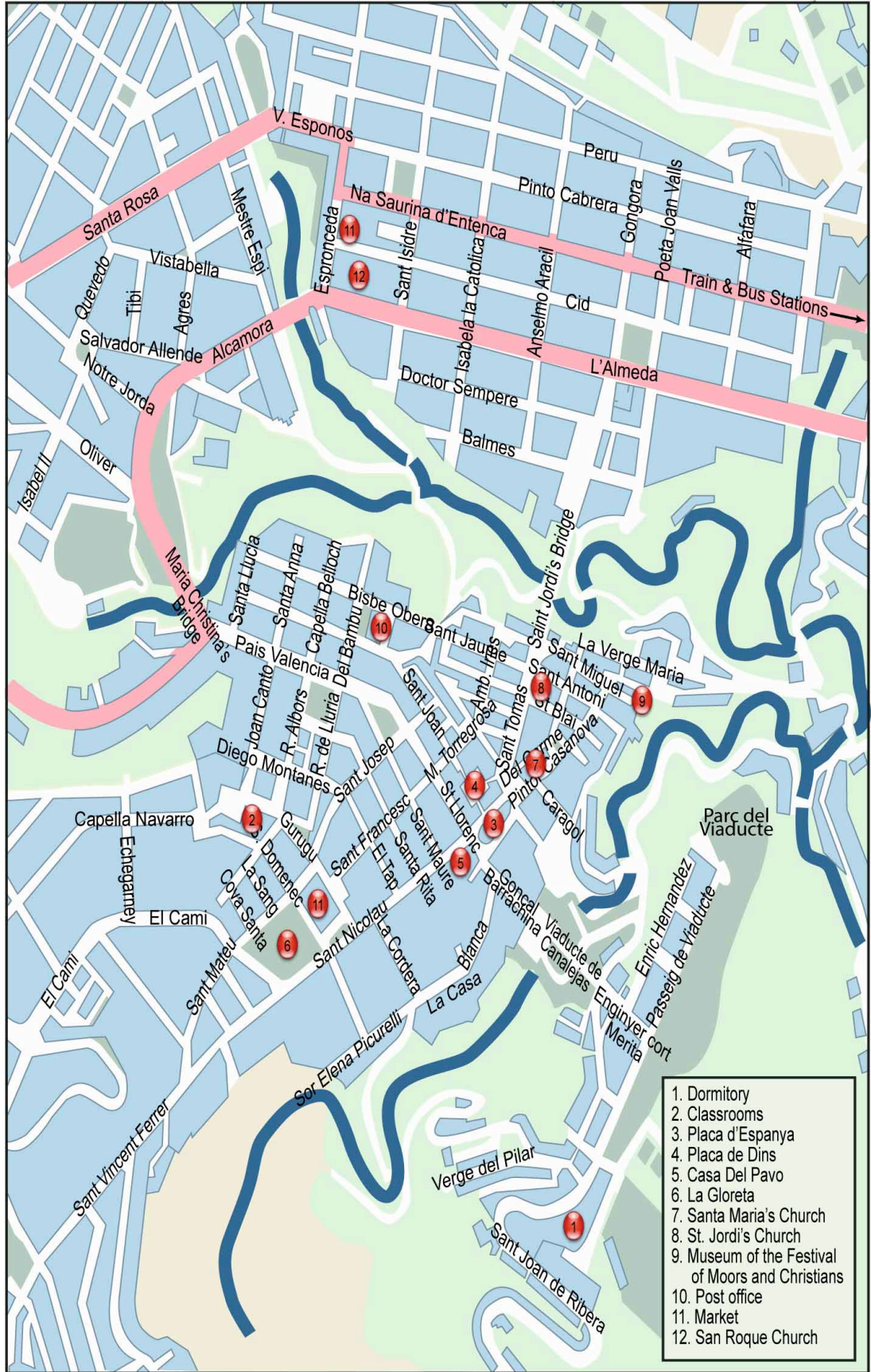
1. Do not become the “ugly American stereotype” - loud and/or boorish. Here are some positive and negative stereotypes associated with Americans:

- (a) Outgoing and friendly
- (b) Informal
- (c) Loud, rude, boorish
- (d) Immature
- (e) Hard working
- (f) Extravagant
- (g) Sure they have all the answers
- (h) Disrespectful of authority
- (i) Generous

Pick out those characteristics that you would like to be remembered by, and avoid the others.

2. Avoid attracting attention to you. That is, avoid traveling alone or in a large group of a dozen or more.
3. Do not expect eye contact on the streets of major cities - indeed, in some locations this may result in “unexpected or unwanted” invitations.
4. Never, ever leave your room unlocked.
5. Do not draw attention to yourself when you are returning to your room late at night - be courteous of the other students living in the dormitory.
6. Never carry large amounts of cash.
7. Remember NO non-Notre Dame people are allowed into your room without prior approval of the RAs and there are NO over night guests ever allowed.
8. Most places are safe in Spain, BUT don't wander down dark alleys or into areas that are known to be high risk.
9. Avoid baggage tags that would clearly identify you as an American.
10. Do not impair your judgment with excessive consumption of alcohol.
11. Women are sometimes targets of harassment - don't become a target: dress conservatively, travel with some men if possible, and NEVER agree to meet strangers in non-public places.
12. Don't let your “natural friendliness” be mistaken for flirtations.
13. Do not lose your passport, it will not be the end of the world, but it may seem like it is.

14. Do not joke about bombs or about smuggled items - airport authorities will not find that funny nor will you.



1. Dormitory
2. Classrooms
3. Placa d'Espanya
4. Placa de Dins
5. Casa Del Pavo
6. La Gloreta
7. Santa Maria's Church
8. St. Jordi's Church
9. Museum of the Festival of Moors and Christians
10. Post office
11. Market
12. San Roque Church