

AROUND THE WORLD IN 86 DAYS

Hornets spur on summer with travel across the world, spending weeks abroad in Europe and Africa for educational trips run through EHS

From MSP to a layover in Paris, and a sprint through the airport to make their connecting flight, students arrived in Madagascar after a near 24-hour travel day, prepared to spend 3 weeks on a conservation expedition with Ms. Lindsey Smaka. The first location was a forest site, where students pitched tents and camped for nearly a week. They took surveys and counted animals, cataloging different species every day. They became familiar with mammals, reptiles, and birds, and the collected data was stored for a research project presented in October. For the second half of the trip students spent time at the marine site, a beach in Nosy Be. Students either earned their scuba certification or, if already certified studied fish and coral reefs. "The coolest animal was a 200-pound sea turtle we saw while

scuba diving," **Jonah Aberle** (12) said. The trip was academically focused, but hikes and activities spaced throughout maintained a balanced trip for the Hornets. "I remember one time they made this game where we had to recreate a coral reef with the stuff that was in our room, so we were taking chairs and messing around," **Leila Zena** (12) said. By the time students packed their bags to return home, many were well adjusted to the changes of the trip. "I was surprised by how quickly I adapted to the different schedules, sleeping in tents, waking up at 5; it was the scariest part for me but ended up being not a big deal at all. I got used to it all so fast and ended up having more of an adjustment coming back," **Bergen Picket** (11) said. **Jaden Young**



Photos by Anna Elliott

TWIRLING 'ROUND THE WORLD. While taking a break on one of their several drives, seniors **Kelsie Perales** and **Paisley Andrews** dance with a young Malagasy girl. Students were able to experience many different aspects of Madagascar's culture and environment as they traveled. "It was quite fun to travel around once we got there because we could see a lot of the different types of biodiversity as well as being able to see more of the bigger cities and the villages," **Meredith Nemerov** (12) said.

TAKING THE SEA-NIC ROUTE. Edina travelers gaze out at a passing sailboat as they make their way to Nosy Taniely. The second half of the trip was spent at a marine site, where students were able to receive their scuba certification and learn about marine biology. "My favorite place in Madagascar was the island of Nosy Be because of how beautiful the ocean and mountains looked and how clearly you could see the stars in the sky at night," **Khalil Kaba** (12) said.



MUSIC TO MY EARS. Senior **Franklin Wenham** holds up a small valiha, a traditional Malagasy instrument. The front and back ends of the three week trip were spent in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. "Traveling to Madagascar was pretty chaotic because we almost missed our plane but coming back was really easy. It was just a long flight," **Henry Lefebvre** (12) said.



SOCCER SYNDROME



Photo courtesy of Isabela Engle

Senior Hornet soccer players traveled abroad with their club team, Minnesota Thunder Academy, to Gothenburg, Sweden. After the planning, flights, and car rides necessary to get there, students competed in an international tournament called the Gothia Cup. After multiple days of games, the team had won their division. "The best part of my trip was getting to explore Gothenburg with my teammates after our games and I was surprised at how easy it was to get around the city," **Elsa Utoft** (12) said.

Q&A with ISSAC YELKIN (12)

What did you do over the summer? I traveled throughout Asia, visited Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and then I went to the Middle East and visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. I started my trip in Vietnam where I was working in a hospital with future doctors. [They were part of] a group that collaborates with future medical leaders. I've been part of it since junior year, it's a great experience.

What was your favorite part of your trip? Meeting a ton of incredibly bright minds from around [Vietnam]. I'm excited to meet them again in the future and hopefully work with them.

What was something unexpected that you learned on your trip? Probably the culture and the difference of social norms and ideas we don't share in the United States. It was really interesting to see a different part of the world, I would absolutely go back.



PASCAL! **Sophie Sannes-Eckhoff** (12) holds out her hand, coaxing a chameleon to crawl on. While camping in remote areas of the rainforest, students worked with local Malagasy scientists and university students from around the world to collect data about different kinds of wildlife and vegetation. **ROUGHIN' IT.** Students trudge through water as they make their way between two of the remote forest camps. Each day in the forest was spent between conservation lectures and hikes into the forest to complete surveys. "My favorite survey was a lemur survey that we did at night. It was surprising the amount of lemur you could see in a few hours," **Siri Pontaut** (11) said.

SUMMER IN SPAIN

Two planes, a 10-hour travel period, and seven chaperones bring students across the Atlantic ocean, to Amsterdam, and then finally Spain

On June 7, students met Mr. Griggs at MSP to board their flights to Spain. From Minneapolis, the group flew into Malaga and spent the next eleven days making stops in over five major cities. Days consisted of guided museum tours, walks through the cities, and educational interactions with Spanish culture. "The coolest thing was the palace on the first day; all the detailing in the walls and on the ceilings was absolutely beautiful and the meanings behind them were so eye opening about Arabic culture," **Delaney Porter** (10) said.

Though time was typically spent in a full group capacity, students

had several hours each day to explore the cities on their own. Experiences ranged from small restaurants and stops for gelato to major monuments and museums. Each contained European history and art, and tour guides established an educational atmosphere. "We had to strategically sneak into a museum in Madrid. It was fun trying to figure out how we could get in and not be suspicious since there was an issue with the [size of the] group we had. Eventually we all made it in through, and the art was super worth it," senior **Lily Saxton** said.

Jaden Young



Photos by Jaden Young

MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS. EHS travelers admire the artwork in the Mequita on their first day in Cordoba. Cordoba was the third city students visited, a single-day stop on their way to Madrid. "All of the buildings felt like you were walking through history because everything was so intricate and there were little murals all over," **Liv Derrick** (12) said. **STRIKING STREETS.** Seniors **Naomi Smith** and **Lily Belle Juare** stroll between brightly colored apartments during a free afternoon in Seville. Cobble streets, European architecture, and colorful buildings were a constant in each Spanish city.



FINISHING TOUCH. **Michael Wilkening** (10), **Ari Farsht** (10), **Ajendra Ghate** (10), and **Joquin Loftin** (12) pose during their final afternoon in Spain. A full day on the beach offered students time to relax after their travel. "I was excited to meet new friends during the trip and the bus karaoke helped us bond. My favorite memory was walking along the Barcelona beach to watch the sunrise," **Loftin** said.

What was your favorite city to visit in Spain?



Phoebe Passolt (12)
"My favorite city was Madrid. I really liked seeing the Royal Palace because I'd never been inside a real castle before and it was probably one of the biggest and most beautiful places I've ever seen. We also got to do a lot of walking around and seeing the city."



Campbell Hawes (11)
"My favorite city that we visited was Granada because it was the first city we visited, and it was the first time we got a feel of kinda how the Spain trip was gonna be. Granada was the cleanest of the cities and was the most aesthetic. Also, I think I learned a lot there."



Lawrence Gartner (11)
"[My favorite city was] Madrid, just 'cause I like bigger cities, and there was a lot to do, a lot of shopping, lots of activities. [One of the activities was] Tapas and Tunes, so a bunch of appetizers and music. There's a lot of live music [in Spain] too which is really nice."



Meredith Goldman (12)
"My favorite city was Seville because I loved looking at the architecture and going to the Plaza de Espana."