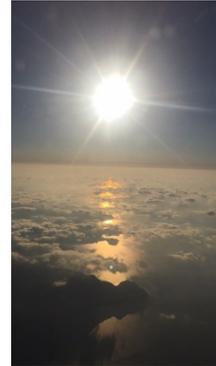


Well here we are, at the end of our semester abroad. We have one week of lectures left, revision week, and then finals commence. After having just about a month off for Easter break (yes we get a month off) I'm finally back in Swansea ready to take over finals. The past month has been full of adventures, sightseeing and unforgettable memories with some unforgettable people.

Throughout the past month, studying abroad has provided me with the opportunity to not only live and travel around the UK, but also visit explore the rest of Europe. It's amazingly shocking how affordable it is to travel from place to place here. Some of the cheapest plane tickets that I've purchased while being here ranged anywhere from £20 to £40. That's insane! Not only are flights affordable, but so are the trains and buses. You can catch a direct train from Swansea to Cardiff for £12 or a bus from Swansea to London for a whopping £5! And don't even get me started on Airbnb prices, especially once you split the price among the number of people you're staying with. It's crazy.



During Easter break I was able to travel to the island of Ibiza, Barcelona, Crete, and Athens. For some reason, Spain was never at the top of my bucket list, but when the opportunity came to travel there at such an affordable price, I thought why not?



Ibiza was our first stop, and it's safe to say the island took my breath away. Upon landing, we were immediately greeted with sunny skies and warmer weather. We took a bus from the airport to our Airbnb in San Antoni, our bus driver was the sweetest and dominated the busy island streets. She made sure that we hopped off at the correct bus stop and made sure which bus we were to get on next. We finally arrived in San Antoni and immediately began to explore the area.

Our first mission was to find food, (3 hangry girls is not a good mix) we found a nice little restaurant by the port and satisfied our tummies with delicious paella. After that we were off to the beach where we eventually stumbled across a cute little bar called Bamboo. The bar was owned by a man and his wife from Belgium. According to the owner, and other locals, this spot was the best place to witness the Ibizan sunset. We made it a priority to go back the last night we were in Ibiza.

After 3 wonderful days of sun rays and waves, it was time to head to the mainland to see the bustling city of Barcelona. I was really excited for this one, mainly because I wanted to visit every spot from the Cheetah Girls 2 movie (yes, I am a child). The Catalanian city was a lot bigger than we had imagined. We spent five days there and still weren't able to visit



everything we wanted to (but I was able to see every Cheetah Girls 2 movie spots). Among the places we visited were Guad's Casa Batlló and Casa Milà, Las Ramblas, La Sagrada Familia, Parc Güell, the Chocolate Museum, Picasso Museum, and Camp Nou. Las Ramblas was one of my favorite spots, not only is it home to the filming of the song Strut by the Cheetah girls, but also home to many local street vendors and restaurants full of delicious authentic food and sangria.



Five days later and it was time to head back to Swansea, but only for a few hours, as we had a train to London to catch because we were heading back home to Texas for the week! I headed to London and caught my flight back to

Houston for my aunt and uncle's 25th wedding anniversary. Surprising my family back in Texas was definitely fun and needed, a good way to reset and come back to finish out the semester. But before that, I had one last destination, Greece.



new cards to arrive and even then they were being mailed to Swansea. I had only a little cash and began to panic. Thankfully I have an amazing roommate, Leslie, who spotted me during our time in Greece (I owe you a lifetime Les).

Greece was most definitely an adventure. Within in the first 48 hours of landing, BOTH of my cards had been detected with fraud and cancelled. It would take 7-10 days for my



While in Greece we visited the island of Crete. There we were able to visit a few beaches and explore Gourverneto Monastery, an 18th century



monastery built into a cave. After two days in Crete we traveled to Athens. There we were able to visit ancient ruins such as Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena, and the Monument of muses. After two days spent hiking and walking all over Athens, we headed back to Crete for the day. Our last day in Crete was spent on a boat visiting Thodorou Island, home to the Kri Kri goat and sunken wreckage of a German World War II airplane. After the Thodorou we visited Lazaretta Island where we were able to hop off and snorkel.

Finally, Easter break had come to an end and we made our way back to London, stopped at Chipotle for lunch (yes, we have been very deprived of Chipotle while abroad) and then caught our train from Paddington Station back to Swansea. After a month full of adventure, it's time to settle back down, study for finals, and finish



off the semester on a high note. As my friend Grace from LSU recently said, “although we only have a few weeks left abroad, the calendar doesn’t daunt us, because these few short months will stay with us forever.”