

HAYLEY'S MAJOR(S): English with a Spanish minor; secondary teaching certification

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: summer 2003

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I always knew I wanted to study abroad and with everything that I was doing including teaching (certification), the summer seemed like the best option.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I lived with a 22-year old woman, Noelia, in a nice urban apartment. There was a group of men who drank and sang at the cafe below us every night. She had a husband who was only there for the first five days because he was deported to Iraq. I also had a roommate from the Czech Republic; she didn't know English so it forced all of us to speak Spanish.

BEST MEMORY: I have a really good memory from San Sebastian, a beach town we traveled to on the last weekend we were there. I went kayaking with my friend Anna, and it was the moment we turned around and saw this beautiful sight with the beach and the Pyrennes in the background.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: How gorgeous everything is and the heat. You imagine that it is going to be beautiful and hot but not on the level that it was.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I wish I would've brought a small backpack to travel with on the weekends, and I wish I knew how to plan trips better.

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD: Have taken the initiative to plan the weekend trips on my own sooner than I did. The first few weeks I was attached to the IU group, so I'd wait for other people to make the decisions, which made things difficult.

WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE GOING ABROAD: That traveling abroad is not scary and that I'm very independent. I just thrive on meeting new people, and I think it's fun to go somewhere and try new things.

hayleypiper

salamanca, spain



During a weekend trip to Paris, Hayley Piper visits the Louvre. Piper said that studying abroad in Salamanca was a key in deciding to student teach in Costa Rica, which she plans to do in the fall of 2004.

“My friend and I made a bet that we would not speak English for a week. It was to force ourselves to increase our language skills. It was fun; we learned to get around expressions we didn't know.”

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Speak a lot of Spanish; you'll regret it if you don't. Eat ice cream. Study in the Cathedral; go in the afternoon because it's cold in there. Talk to the older people in the parks; they have funny stories. Get an intercambio (Spanish conversation partner). Never stop exploring the streets.