

## Biodiversity meets music

# Seville - protected natural areas and melting pot of cultures



Two weeks after the first meeting in Kissamos, the participants were looking forward to a reunion and exchange. Again, the welcome was marked by a warmth and hospitality from our Spanish partners. The ice-breaker activity (Escape Room) helped to get the students into conversation with each other.

### Group activities

- 1 Warm welcome by the coordinator, the teaching staff and the head teacher.
- 2 Exploration of the city, the magnificent buildings and monuments (e.g. Alcázar, Las Setas) but also of the flora and fauna (Parque Maria Luisa).
- 3 The Metropol Parasol, a futuristic wooden construction on the Plaza de la Encarnación, and inspired by the columns of Seville Cathedral and the sight of birch fig trees, resembles a structure made of parasols (Las Setas), partly connected to each other to form a sunshade.
- 4 Workshops and presentations on Doñana National Park and Parque Maria Luisa.
- 5 Excursion through the Doñana National Park, the largest Spanish national park; with desert-like shifting dunes, huge floodplains (marismas) and dry scrub; vital for the survival of many animal species (e.g. bobcat, Iberian imperial eagle) and one of the areas richest in birds in Europe. The interaction of eco-tourism, beach life, river landscape, fauna and flora and deer hunting is characteristic. The park, where environmental protection is a high priority, offers good observation opportunities despite strict visitor regulations. The Marismas inhabit about 250 bird species and serve as a resting place for migratory birds on their way from northern Europe towards Africa. The combination of sea and fresh water has resulted in a particularly diverse vegetation.
- 6 María Luisa Park (Pigeon Park), one of the largest artificial parks in Spain (34 ha) and the city's green lung with native trees and shrubs but also representatives of the American continent: The Plaza de America, with orange trees, an avenue of palm trees and the large fountain between the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions (with its typical painted tiles and vases) and the Archaeological Museum creates a beautiful ambience. After a guided tour starting at the Plaza de España, the group explored the different architectural styles of the gardens.
- 7 A tram ride to the old Gold Tower (Torre del Oro) with a magnificent view and walk along the banks of the Guadalquivir.
- 8 Getting to know typical culture: market halls, small alleys with handicrafts (tiles, porcelain), bar-hopping, and local and regional specialities (tapas, fish, squid, mussels, gazpacho and paella).
- 9 Various presentations from all partner schools, singing together, and a flamenco dance performance by Spanish students and teachers, musical contributions.
- 10 Workshop/lecture on the history of the opera in Seville. Guided city tour using the material from the workshop "Opera in Seville", but also individual activities (spontaneous visit to the Alcázar).