

MOSAIC - TRIPS REPORTS

#REPORT



2024-1-IT03-KA210-YOU-000246810

ITALY

ORGANIZATION

AMAL FOR EDUCATION APS

LOCATION

ROME

DATE

15/11/2025

01

Everyday Arab Heritage in Rome: Market Spaces, Art, and Identity in Centocelle

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to highlight the recent and contemporary Arab contribution to Italy, with particular attention to everyday cultural practices. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and belonging within a European urban context. The activity also sought to collect visual material for storytelling and dissemination purposes and to strengthen awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited the Mercato Arabo in Centocelle, a family-run market founded by the El Kerchaoui family. The market offers food products, spices, traditional sweets, cooking utensils, and cultural goods commonly used in Arab households. The space functions as more than a commercial venue; it represents a social meeting point where Arabic language, culinary traditions, and informal community interaction remain visible. Both Arab and Italian residents frequent the market, creating a shared environment shaped by exchange and familiarity. The sensory experience — smells of spices, freshly baked bread, and the sounds of conversation — reinforces the sense of continuity with cultural traditions.

The second stop was the mural “InteReligioni” by the Italian-Egyptian artist Mosa One. The mural features Arabic calligraphy conveying the phrase attributed to the Prophet Muhammad: “Desidera per tuo fratello ciò che vorresti per te stesso.” Participants reflected

on its resonance with the Christian commandment “Ama il prossimo tuo come te stesso.” Located next to a church and a shelter for homeless people, the mural stands as a visible sign of coexistence and shared ethical values within the neighborhood.

Trip Description

During the visit to the market, participants interviewed members of the El Kerchaoui family and staff. Through these conversations, they understood that the market represents a space of belonging and cultural continuity rather than solely a workplace. The arrival of freshly baked bread during the visit, the display of traditional sweets and spices, and the preparation of meat for customers allowed participants to observe how daily practices transmit cultural identity.

The atmosphere of the market — lively, multilingual, and open — encouraged reflection on how diaspora communities recreate familiar environments within new urban settings. Participants observed how products, gestures, and language contribute to maintaining cultural memory while remaining accessible to non-Arab customers.

The visit to the mural expanded the reflection from everyday practice to symbolic representation. The presence of Arabic calligraphy in a Roman neighborhood prompted discussion about visibility, recognition, and intercultural dialogue. Participants examined how artistic expression can communicate shared moral principles across religious and cultural traditions.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by documenting contemporary Arab cultural presence in Rome through lived experience rather than historical monuments. It demonstrates how heritage is maintained through food practices, social interaction, and artistic expression in everyday spaces.

The activity enabled participants to critically reflect on identity, belonging, and intercultural exchange. It also provided concrete examples of how Arab heritage interacts with Italian society in ways that foster dialogue and mutual understanding. By focusing on a suburban neighborhood such as Centocelle, the visit highlights how cultural heritage is embedded in daily urban life and how it contributes to reshaping perceptions and reducing stereotypes.



ITALY



ORGANIZATION

AMAL FOR EDUCATION APS

LOCATION

ROME

DATE

29/11/2025

Participants: 8

Arab-Islamic Architecture and Community Life in Rome: The Great Mosque as a Bridge

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document Arab-Islamic architectural heritage present in Rome and to highlight both historical and contemporary Arab contributions within the Italian context. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and belonging through direct engagement with a religious and cultural institution. The activity also sought to identify sites relevant for storytelling and podcast development, engage with Arabic-speaking community representatives, record oral testimony, and strengthen awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited the Grande Moschea di Roma, the largest mosque in Italy and one of the most significant in Europe. Designed by architect Paolo Portoghesi and inaugurated in 1995, the mosque blends contemporary Italian architectural language with traditional Islamic forms. Arches, geometric patterns, domes, calligraphic details, and the symbolic use of water and light create a space that evokes Arab-Islamic heritage while remaining rooted in the Roman landscape. Participants observed the main prayer hall with its central dome and tree-like columns, the surrounding gardens, fountains, and the integration of greenery throughout the complex, all contributing to a contemplative and harmonious atmosphere.

The visit also included the Centro Islamico Culturale d'Italia, the institution managing the mosque and

coordinating its religious, cultural, and educational activities. The Centre organizes language classes, conferences, and interfaith initiatives, functioning as a hub for community gathering and cultural exchange. Participants noted how the Centre supports the preservation and transmission of Arab and Islamic traditions while fostering dialogue within the broader Italian society.

Trip Description

During the visit, participants engaged directly with Imam Nader Akkad, who guided a two-hour tour of the mosque's internal and external spaces. He shared his personal journey, explained the historical development of the mosque, and illustrated the symbolic meaning of architectural elements such as palm trees, dates, water, and light. The group moved from the entrance garden through the arcade corridor into the main prayer hall, learning how architectural design choices reflect spiritual principles and cultural continuity.

Participants reflected on how the mosque represents a contemporary expression of Arab-Islamic identity within Rome. The integration of concrete, local stone, and terracotta demonstrates a dialogue between Italian and Islamic architectural traditions. Although a modern construction, the complex evokes a long architectural heritage while functioning as an active religious, social, and educational center. The peaceful atmosphere, combined with the aesthetic coherence of space, light, and decoration, reinforced the perception of the mosque as both a spiritual landmark and a civic presence.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by documenting a major site of Arab-Islamic heritage and contemporary community life in Rome. It provided participants with direct exposure to architectural symbolism, religious practice, and institutional efforts that sustain cultural identity within a European capital.

Through the guided tour and interview, participants gained insight into how the mosque promotes interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange. The visit offered a concrete example of how Arab cultural and religious heritage is integrated into the urban fabric of Rome, encouraging reflection on coexistence, mutual recognition, and the role of cultural institutions in shaping inclusive societies.



TURKIYE

ORGANIZATION

AIYD

LOCATION HARRAN

DATE
04/07/2025

Participants: 15

03

Heritage Beyond Borders: Arab Cultural Memory in Harran and Şanlıurfa

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab heritage present in Harran and Şanlıurfa while also highlighting its contemporary relevance in the region. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and belonging across borders, particularly within the Syrian–Turkish context. The activity sought to collect visual material for storytelling and dissemination, engage directly with local communities, and strengthen awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The field trip began in Harran, where participants explored the traditional beehive houses, dome-shaped mud-brick structures designed for ventilation and thermal insulation in desert climates. These houses represent an example of Arab vernacular architecture rooted in environmental adaptation and communal living patterns. Inside a reconstructed domestic space, participants observed traditional kitchenware, textiles, garments, and everyday objects reflecting Arab material culture. Many youth recognized similarities with objects used in Syrian households, reinforcing a sense of shared continuity.

Participants also interacted with camels and local residents wearing traditional attire. The camel, as a symbol of Bedouin mobility and oral storytelling traditions, evoked elements of desert imagination deeply embedded in Arab cultural memory.

The visit continued in Şanlıurfa, focusing on sites

associated with the Prophet Ibrahim, including the altar, Balıklıgöl (the Sacred Fish Lake), and the cave traditionally considered his birthplace. These locations represent living religious landmarks where architecture, oral narrative, and belief coexist. Participants reflected on the persistence of sacred memory and the way mythological and spiritual traditions remain active in contemporary society.

The exploration concluded in the old bazaar of Şanlıurfa, where market streets displayed spices, keffieh, henna, Arabic coffee, and bilingual signage. The bazaar illustrated a dynamic Arab–Turkish cultural fusion expressed through trade, language, and everyday interaction. Familiar smells, sounds, and Arabic words prompted discussion about identity continuity within a broader regional context.

Trip Description

Throughout the visit, participants engaged in guided observation, discussion, and documentation. They examined how architecture in Harran responds to climate and social organization, connecting structural design to patterns of communal life. Experiential activities, including interaction with camels and conversations with local residents, deepened their understanding of embodied heritage.

In Şanlıurfa, the focus shifted to religious and narrative dimensions of Arab identity. The group reflected on how sacred sites associated with Ibrahim connect communities across contemporary political borders. Walking through Balıklıgöl and the surrounding spaces, participants considered how belief, myth, and architecture intersect in shaping collective memory.

The final visit to the bazaar brought the reflection back to everyday life, where cultural exchange becomes visible in commerce, language, and shared public spaces. Youth participants actively recorded videos, asked questions, and shared personal associations linked to the spaces encountered. The experience encouraged them to view Arab heritage as lived, evolving, and geographically interconnected.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by situating Arab heritage within a transnational geography that extends beyond national boundaries. Harran and Şanlıurfa illustrate how architectural, religious, and cultural traditions associated with Arab history are embedded within Türkiye's southeastern landscape.



TURKIYE

ORGANIZATION

AIYD

LOCATION KILIS

DATE
10/11/2025

Participants: 15



Shared Urban Cultures: Syrian-Turkish Heritage in Kilis

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document both historical Arab heritage and contemporary Arab contributions within the city of Kilis. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and belonging in a cross-border Syrian-Turkish context. The activity sought to collect visual material for storytelling and podcast production, observe shared cultural practices, and strengthen awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The field visit began with a walk through the modern commercial areas of Kilis, including streets locally known as “Syrian Street” and areas where Syrian-owned businesses are concentrated. Participants observed the visible transformation of the urban landscape through Arabic signage, Syrian products, and the emergence of hybrid commercial spaces shaped by migration.

The group visited Amou Sabah Syrian Shawarma Restaurant, a well-known Syrian-owned establishment serving traditional Syrian-style shawarma. Discussions focused on the differences and shared origins of Syrian and Turkish shawarma, highlighting culinary adaptation and gradual integration into local food culture. The restaurant attracts both Syrian and Turkish customers, reflecting how cuisine becomes a bridge between communities.

At a Syrian coffee retail shop, participants explored roasting and grinding styles, the use of cardamom, and coffee preparation rituals. Comparisons between Syrian and Turkish coffee traditions revealed strong

similarities in social customs and hospitality practices, reinforcing the idea of shared cultural roots expressed through everyday rituals.

The visit continued to a long-established Syrian spice shop in the traditional market area. Participants observed products such as za’atar, sumac, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, nutmeg, and the Aleppian seven-spice blend (Baharat Halabi). They noted how Syrian and Turkish spice mixtures have influenced one another, creating a shared culinary space within Kilis.

The group also explored the old neighborhoods and traditional markets of Kilis, where architectural elements reflect Ottoman-Arab urban design. Narrow streets, courtyard houses, and social neighborhood patterns showed strong similarities with nearby Syrian cities such as Aleppo and Azaz. Finally, participants visited a Syrian artisan workshop specializing in wood carving and Arabesque art. The craftsman demonstrated geometric and Islamic motifs present in both Arab and Turkish decorative traditions, emphasizing centuries of artistic exchange and mutual influence.

Trip Description

Throughout the visit, participants examined how migration reshapes urban identity. Observations in commercial streets revealed how language, food, and design visibly transform public space. The group reflected on how Syrian businesses have contributed to the economic and cultural life of Kilis while simultaneously adapting to the Turkish context.

In discussions at the restaurant, coffee shop, spice market, and artisan workshop, youth explored how shared traditions develop through interaction rather than separation. They recognized that culinary habits, craftsmanship, and architectural forms do not belong exclusively to one national identity but emerge from long histories of coexistence. The experience encouraged participants to understand heritage as dynamic and relational, shaped by everyday exchange and lived practice.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by documenting Arab heritage as a living and evolving presence within Türkiye. Kilis offers a concrete example of how migration generates cultural blending expressed in markets, language, craftsmanship, and urban space.



MALTA



ORGANIZATION

Generation (Change?)

LOCATION

Raħal Ġdid (Paola),
Malta

DATE

3/05/2025

Participants: 10

respectful and interactive learning environment. This exchange allowed young people to connect historical knowledge with lived experience.

Participants then entered and observed the mosque interior, paying attention to spatial organization, symbolic elements, and the atmosphere of the prayer hall. For most of the group, this was their first visit to a mosque. The direct experience challenged preconceived notions and fostered curiosity about Islamic traditions within the Maltese context.

Throughout the activity, engagement levels were notably high. The discussion extended beyond religion to themes of identity, coexistence, and belonging in the Mediterranean. Youth reflected on how Arab and Islamic heritage forms part of Malta's broader historical narrative rather than existing as something external or separate.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by illustrating how Arab heritage remains embedded in Malta's cultural and social fabric. The visit connected historical influence — particularly linguistic and cultural ties — with contemporary community life, demonstrating continuity rather than rupture.

By engaging directly with a local religious leader and experiencing the mosque as a lived space, participants strengthened their awareness of intercultural coexistence. The activity fostered openness, respect, and critical reflection, aligning with MOSAIC's objective of encouraging youth-led exploration of shared Mediterranean heritage.

Arabic Roots in the Mediterranean: Mosque Visit in Paola

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab influence present in Malta while also exploring its contemporary expression within the local Muslim community. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and Mediterranean interconnectedness, encouraged intercultural dialogue, and strengthened awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited the mosque in Paola (Raħal Ġdid), a central religious and community space serving Malta's Muslim population. Participants were welcomed by the Imam, who facilitated an open discussion on the historical links between Malta and the Arab world, including the linguistic and cultural influence that continues to shape Maltese identity.

The mosque functions not only as a place of worship but also as a cultural and social hub. During the visit, participants were invited to observe the prayer space and architectural elements, gaining direct exposure to Islamic traditions and practices. The Imam also shared personal reflections on living and working in Malta, offering insights into intercultural coexistence and community relations within the island's diverse social landscape.

Trip Description

The visit began with an introductory discussion led by the Imam, focusing on the Arabic influence in Malta's history and language. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and engage in dialogue, creating a



MALTA



Cuisine, Migration, and Identity: Lebanese Cultural Presence in Hamrun

ORGANIZATION

Generation (Change?)

LOCATION

Hamrun, Malta

DATE

3/05/2025

Participants: 10

food practices to broader themes of history, migration, and Mediterranean exchange. The shared meal became a practical framework for understanding how cultural identity is expressed through everyday rituals.

A key moment of the visit was the open discussion with the restaurant owner. His personal narrative offered insight into contemporary Arab presence in Malta and the realities of migration and integration. Participants asked questions about his professional path, cultural adaptation, and the role of food in maintaining identity abroad.

Engagement levels were notably high throughout the activity. Youth participants demonstrated curiosity and critical reflection, recognizing how cuisine functions as a bridge between communities. The experience encouraged them to view food not simply as consumption, but as a medium of storytelling, memory, and belonging.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by documenting contemporary Arab cultural presence in Malta through lived experience rather than historical analysis alone. The visit illustrated how culinary traditions act as vehicles of identity, continuity, and intercultural exchange within the Mediterranean context.

The activity reinforced youth awareness of Arab contributions to Maltese society. It supported the project's objective of fostering intercultural competence, empathy, and critical reflection on shared Mediterranean heritage as a dynamic and evolving reality.

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to highlight the contemporary Arab contribution within the Maltese context through culinary culture and lived migration experiences. It supported youth reflection on Arab identity and Mediterranean interconnectedness, encouraged intercultural dialogue, and strengthened awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited Babaganoush Lebanese Restaurant in Hamrun, a locally established restaurant offering traditional Lebanese dishes and shared dining experiences. The visit focused on cuisine as a cultural expression, exploring the social significance of food, communal eating practices, and hospitality traditions rooted in Arab culture.

Participants were introduced to typical Lebanese dishes and the cultural meaning of sharing food as a collective ritual. The restaurant owner and chef played a central role in the visit, sharing his personal migration journey and experiences of establishing a business in Malta. Through informal dialogue, he reflected on identity, adaptation, professional challenges, and cultural continuity.

Trip Description

The activity began with an introduction to Lebanese cuisine and traditional ways of eating. Participants discussed similarities and differences between Lebanese and Maltese culinary traditions, connecting



SPAIN



ORGANIZATION

CASA ARABE

LOCATION

Mosque–Cathedral
of Córdoba, Córdoba

DATE

6/10/2025

Participants: 14

Trip Description

The field trip began with a guided visit led by Carmen González, archaeologist and art historian from the University of Córdoba. Through an educational and participatory approach, participants were introduced to the historical evolution of the monument and its artistic significance. The explanation focused on architectural innovation, symbolic space, and the transformation of the building across centuries.

During the visit, students documented their observations through photographs, sketches, and field notes. Particular attention was given to architectural details such as Arabic inscriptions, geometric decoration, and spatial organization. The monument was approached not only as a historical site but as a narrative space in which memory and identity are embedded in structure and design.

Youth engagement was active throughout the activity. Participants asked questions, shared interpretations, and collaboratively identified themes that would later inform their storytelling projects and videopodcast production. The experience encouraged them to view heritage as layered and dialogical rather than static.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by offering a direct encounter with Andalusí heritage as a foundational element of Spain's cultural history. It enabled participants to critically reflect on shared Mediterranean narratives and the enduring legacy of Arab presence in Iberia.

The activity reinforced youth awareness of cultural continuity and intercultural exchange. The visit provided both historical grounding and conceptual inspiration for subsequent audiovisual and narrative work within the MOSAIC framework.

Layered Histories: Andalusí Heritage at the Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab heritage present in Córdoba while also reflecting on its continued relevance within Spanish cultural identity. It supported youth reflection on Arab-Andalusí heritage and belonging within a shared Mediterranean framework. The activity sought to collect visual material for storytelling and audiovisual production, encourage critical interpretation of architectural heritage, and strengthen awareness of Arab cultural legacy within the MOSAIC project.

Sites Visited

The group visited the Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba, one of the most significant examples of Islamic architecture in the Western world. Originally constructed in the 8th century under the Umayyad Emir Abd al-Rahman I and later transformed into a Christian cathedral, the monument represents a complex layering of religious and cultural histories.

Participants explored the forest of columns, the distinctive red-and-white horseshoe arches, the caliphal maqsura, and the richly decorated mihrab adorned with Byzantine mosaics. The guided visit emphasized how architectural techniques developed in al-Andalus influenced later Islamic and Mudéjar traditions. Students reflected on the coexistence of Arab, Byzantine, and Christian artistic elements that together shape Córdoba's urban and symbolic identity.



SPAIN



ORGANIZATION

CASA ARABE

LOCATION

Medina Azahara
Archaeological Site,
Córdoba

DATE

7/10/2025

Participants: 24

Medina Azahara: Caliphal Power and Urban Memory in al- Andalus

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab heritage represented by Medina Azahara as one of the most significant legacies of al-Andalus. It supported youth reflection on Arab-Andalusi identity within the broader Mediterranean context and encouraged critical engagement with architectural and political history. The activity sought to collect visual material for storytelling and audiovisual production while strengthening awareness of Arab cultural heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited the Medina Azahara, the 10th-century palatine city founded by Caliph Abd al-Rahman III as the administrative and ceremonial capital of the Umayyad Caliphate of al-Andalus. The archaeological remains include palace complexes, reception halls, residential quarters, gardens, and service areas reflecting advanced Islamic urban planning and courtly life.

Participants explored the spatial organization of the terraced city, examining architectural remains that once expressed political authority and artistic refinement. The guided interpretation emphasized the symbolic dimension of the site, where power, aesthetics, and landscape were integrated into a coherent urban vision. The visit also included the Medina Azahara Museum, where students learned about conservation strategies, archaeological research, and contemporary heritage interpretation practices.

Trip Description

The field trip began with a guided exploration of the archaeological site, introducing participants to the historical development of the Caliphal city and its political and ceremonial functions. Through contextual explanations, they examined how architecture was used to express authority, hierarchy, and cultural sophistication during the height of the Andalusi Caliphate.

Participants documented architectural structures, decorative fragments, and landscape perspectives through photography and field notes. The activity encouraged observation from both historical and creative perspectives, linking material remains to storytelling possibilities. Attention was given to spatial layout, artistic motifs, and the relationship between built environment and surrounding terrain.

The visit concluded at the museum, where participants engaged with members of the Archaeological Park team. Discussions focused on conservation practices, exhibition design, and the challenges of preserving and presenting Andalusi heritage to contemporary audiences. Youth engagement remained active throughout, with participants reflecting on how historical memory is reconstructed through archaeological work.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by offering direct engagement with one of the most emblematic sites of Arab civilization in the Iberian Peninsula. Medina Azahara provided participants with a tangible understanding of political, artistic, and urban achievements in al-Andalus, reinforcing awareness of Arab heritage as a foundational component of Spanish and Mediterranean history.

The activity strengthened youth reflection on identity, historical continuity, and cultural transformation. The visit supports MOSAIC's objective of framing Arab heritage as a dynamic historical presence that continues to shape contemporary cultural narratives.



SPAIN



Museum Narratives and Andalusí Memory: Interpreting Arab Heritage in Córdoba

ORGANIZATION

CASA ARABE

LOCATION

Archaeological Museum of Córdoba

DATE

8/10/2025

Participants: 14

The visit focused on analysing how Andalusí heritage is framed within a contemporary museum context. Participants explored exhibition spaces presenting different historical periods, observing how Islamic collections are positioned within broader narratives of local history. The activity encouraged them to consider the relationship between material evidence and interpretative storytelling.

Students documented artefacts and exhibition narratives through videos and field notes, paying attention to curatorial choices, explanatory texts, and spatial organization. Discussions emerged around translation from Arabic sources and how institutional mediation influences public understanding of the Arab past.

A central theme of reflection concerned representation and visibility. Participants noted the limited presence of women within the presentation of Andalusí history and debated how gender perspectives affect historical interpretation. This critical dialogue became a significant learning outcome, encouraging youth to question how collective memory is constructed.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by promoting critical engagement with Arab heritage beyond architectural admiration. By analysing both the presence and absence of narratives within a museum setting, participants deepened their awareness of how cultural identity and historical memory are shaped by institutional frameworks.

The activity strengthened youth capacity for critical observation and interpretative reflection, supporting the development of storytelling and podcast content grounded in analytical insight. Through this visit, Arab-Andalusí heritage was approached not only as history to be celebrated, but as memory to be examined and understood within contemporary discourse.

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab heritage preserved within the Archaeological Museum of Córdoba while also critically examining how this heritage is represented in contemporary institutional narratives. It supported youth reflection on Arab-Andalusí identity and historical memory, encouraged analysis of interpretative frameworks, and sought to collect visual material for storytelling and audiovisual production within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group visited the Archaeological Museum of Córdoba, located in the historic centre of the city and built over the remains of a Roman theatre. The museum houses collections from prehistoric, Roman, Visigothic, and Islamic periods, offering a layered historical perspective on Córdoba's past.

Particular attention was given to the Andalusí section, which includes ceramics, coins, inscriptions, and architectural fragments from the Umayyad and Caliphal periods. These artefacts provide material evidence of Córdoba's role as a major Arab cultural and intellectual centre during the Middle Ages. Participants examined epigraphic stones, decorative elements, and everyday objects, considering how these materials contribute to reconstructing social and artistic life in al-Andalus.

Trip Description

SPAIN



Urban Memory and Intercultural Layers: La Judería of Córdoba

ORGANIZATION

CASA ARABE

LOCATION

Jewish Quarter (La Judería), Córdoba

DATE

9/10/2025

Participants: 13

The field trip consisted of a guided exploration focused on analysing how intercultural coexistence is inscribed within urban space. Participants examined architectural elements such as arches, patios, and street orientation, interpreting them as expressions of historical continuity rather than isolated remnants.

Students documented their observations through video recordings and field notes while engaging in discussions about the reuse of sacred spaces and the shifting meanings attached to them over time. Particular attention was given to how former mosques were integrated into Christian contexts, prompting reflection on adaptation, transformation, and memory.

Interactions with local perspectives further enriched the visit. Participants reflected on how everyday urban life unfolds within spaces shaped by centuries of cultural interaction. The experience encouraged them to view the city itself as a narrative medium through which layered histories remain visible, even when not explicitly interpreted.

Contribution to the MOSAIC Project

This field trip contributes to MOSAIC by highlighting Arab-Andalusi heritage as embedded within living urban environments rather than confined to monumental landmarks. The exploration of La Judería demonstrated how intercultural coexistence shaped Córdoba's spatial and architectural identity.

Participants strengthened their awareness of shared Mediterranean heritage and developed interpretative tools for storytelling. The activity supports MOSAIC's objective of fostering youth reflection on cultural continuity, transformation, and dialogue across historical and contemporary contexts.

Objectives of the Field Trip

The visit aimed to document the historical Arab-Andalusi heritage embedded within Córdoba's urban fabric while also reflecting on its transformation through centuries of intercultural coexistence. It supported youth reflection on shared Mediterranean identity and the layered nature of cultural belonging. The activity sought to collect visual material for storytelling and audiovisual production and to strengthen awareness of Arab heritage within the MOSAIC framework.

Sites Visited

The group explored the La Judería, one of the most emblematic areas of Córdoba's historic centre. Characterised by narrow winding streets, whitewashed houses, interior patios, and intimate courtyards, the quarter preserves the spatial logic of the medieval Islamic city. Its shaded streets reflect climate-adaptive urban planning rooted in Andalusí architectural principles.

During the guided walk, participants observed former mosques later converted into churches, architectural remnants such as ablution structures preserved beneath the Hotel Conquistador, and symbolic urban spaces including Callejón del Pañuelo. These sites illustrate how religious and cultural transformations have been layered onto earlier Islamic foundations, creating a complex urban narrative shaped by Muslim, Jewish, and Christian presence.

Trip Description