SALAMANCA
THE UNMISSABLES...
Strolling though the streets of Salamanca is a pretty overwhelming experience. An effortless beauty she most certainly is. The golden sandstone churches and palaces, the leafy squares, the soaring cathedrals and arguably the most perfect Plaza Mayor on the face of the earth.

But it’s more than that.

There’s something in the air. A beat and a rumble that tells you something thrilling is about to happen.

We’ve asked a few students and teachers to share their favourite Salamanca experiences with us. You’ll have a lot of fun ticking them off.
CENTENERA
C/ Gran Vía, 93,
37001 Salamanca

THE GARDEN OF CALIXTO AND MELIBEA
Calle Arcediano, 20,
37008 Salamanca

TAPAS AT EL TRASTERO
Calle Rosario, 30,
37001 Salamanca

CONVENTO DE SAN ESTEBAN
Plaza del Concilio de Trento,
s/n, 37001 Salamanca

ASTRONAUT, FROG... AND OTHER SURPRISES
Calle Cardenal Pla y Daniel,
37008 Salamanca (Cathedral)
Calle de los Libreros, 30, 37008 Salamanca
(University and Patio de Escuelas)

THE CAVE OF SALAMANCA
Cuesta Carvajal, 6,
37008 Salamanca

SALAMANCA NIGHTLIFE
Walk from the Gran Vía up to the Plaza Mayor
and from there look for Calle Bordadores.

THE ”BARRIO DEL OESTE” NEIGHBOURHOOD
Plaza del Oeste, 37007 Salamanca
(Streets around the Plaza del Oeste).

THE CLOCK AT THE PLAZA MAYOR
Plaza Mayor de Salamanca

BAR PANIAGUCA
Calle Varillas, 7,
37001 Salamanca
ISLA students’ meeting place where Roberto and his team are so unfailingly friendly you’ll feel right at home and dare to practise your Spanish. Enjoy the street terrace where you’ll be served up the house special “mamadas” (a creamy little number) along with sangría, mojitos and so on. On Wednesdays, there is a free Jam Session.

WHERE IS IT?

C/ Gran Vía 93, 37001 Salamanca

Don’t leave Salamanca without...

...ordering the special Centenera shot: the “mamada”

RECOMMENDED BY...

Charlotte Wood, ISLA student
UK

“I had my best times there.”

“...”
While you’re strolling around the tiny streets dwarfed by the majestic cathedrals you might stumble across one of Salamanca’s hidden gems: The Garden of Calixto and Melibea, named after the eponymous hero and heroine of Fernando de Rojas’s early 16th century tragicomedy “the Celestina”. It’s romantic literary connections, lovely landscaping and stunning position (on top of the old city wall on one side, and the cathedrals on the other, make it a favourite spot for courting couples. Legend has it that those who attach a padlock with their names on it to the well in the middle of the garden (à la Pont Neuf) enjoy eternal love. Not coupled up yet? Leave a space on the padlock for the name of a future lucky lady/fella. Never does any harm.. And the views are well worth it.

WHERE IS IT?
Calle Arcediano, 20, 37008 Salamanca

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
... attaching your lucky padlock to the well in Calixto & Melibea.

RECOMMENDED BY...

Inés Gómez,
ISLA teacher
Spain

“My favourite spot in Salamanca, especially in Spring.”
Like Centenera, the Trastero is about 100 metres from ISLA and is a firm favourite for students to recharge their motors in the break between 11.15 to 11.35. Great breakfasts (even bacon and eggs!), good coffee and wonderful tapas like lomo (pork), chipirón (squid) and mushrooms. El Trastero has a lovely terrace too. This is where new ISLA students are taken for their Welcome Tapa and, like at Centenera, the waiters are friendly and patient with Spanish learners. It’s also a great place to watch football as they buy all the “pay per view” games.

WHERE IS IT?
Calle Rosario, 30, 37001 Salamanca

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
...trying their famous hot “tostas” and imported beers.
Time seems to stand still in this beautiful convent, which is one of the destinations on Rosana’s Walks. It was within these walls that Admiral Cristóbal Colón (Christopher Columbus), sought the support of the eminent Dominican Diego de Deza for his voyage of discovery to the West Indies. Part of Ridley Scott’s movie “1492: The Conquest of Paradise” was shot here with Gerard Depardieu and Sigourney Weaver... and several ISLA students as extras. It costs just 3€ to visit it between 10:00 and 14:00 and 16:00 and 20:00. Look out for the magnificent gold plated altar piece (designed by the Churriguera brothers who built the Plaza Mayor), the upper cloister with views to the giant storks’ nests, handsome choir stalls and the fresco of the seven deadly sins in the guise of different animals, Downstairs in the church you’ll find a Semana Santa (Easter week) “paso” (float) parked in one of the chapels.

**WHERE IS IT?**

Plaza del Concilio de Trento, s/n, 37001 Salamanca

**RECOMMENDED BY...**

Janina Ignacio, ISLA student
Philippines

“It’s exciting to walk through the places where Christopher Colombus was too!”

**DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...**

...going inside this beautiful convent. You’ll have caught a glimpse of it from several of ISLA’s classrooms, but don’t miss out on discovering its charms on the inside.
Find the famous astronaut, left by a stonemason restoring the new cathedral in 1992. He was copying the tradition started by Moorish craftsmen 5 centuries earlier, who carved a frog (among other animals) on the façade of the University in protest against their infidel masters (it was a symbol of lust). Don’t be confused (as some guidebooks are) by the lion eating an ice cream – it’s his tail. Nearby you might even spot Salamanca’s famous masturbating man! I’m not going to tell you where everything is – ask a Salmantino!

WHERE IS IT?

Calle Cardenal Pla y Deniel, 37008 Salamanca (Cathedral)
Calle de los Libreros 30, 37008 Salamanca (University and Patio de Escuelas)

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...

...finding the Astronaut, the Frog and, best of all, the Masturbating Man.

ASTRONAUT, FROG... AND OTHER SURPRISES

“ I had fun finding them and then helping other people find them.”

RECOMMENDED BY...

Louise Reed, ILSA student UK
This houses one of Salamanca’s most mysterious legends. It is actually the crypt of the long ago church of San Cebrián, which Cervantes gave a burlesque treatment in his work La Cueva de Salamanca. The very devil taught seven students the dark arts for seven years and at the end of this time, as payment for his services, he was to take one, the Marquess de Villena, back to hell with him. The Marquess, terrified by the idea, made his escape but in doing so forfeited his shadow until the end of his days. The story has migrated and been absorbed into Hispano-american tradition where the word “salamancas” means the caves where witches and devils gather to cast their spells. The cave is located in the Cuesta de Carvajal. It’s free to go in and it is open from 10:00 until 20:00. Piqued your interest? Well, we’ve made a teaching video for our students in the form of a miniseries about it called “Turno de Noche” (Night Shift).

There are three 10 minute episodes. (web ISLA: “Spanish study resources > Spanish learning videos”)

WHERE IS IT?

Cuesta Carvajal, 6, 37008 Salamanca

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...

...climbing to the top of the tower by the cave to admire the amazing views of Salamanca.
Salamanca is an easy-going place to go out and enjoy yourself. There aren’t any guest lists, entry is usually free, unless there is a concert and the price of drinks is very affordable. The whole concept of VIP lists and areas is unknown here! Thursday is a favourite night to go out as those going away home on Fridays start their weekend early to let their hair down with their friends.

WHERE IS IT?
Walk from the Gran Via up to the Plaza Mayor and from there look for Calle Bordadores.

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
…. meet up with your friends and go out till dawn.
THE “BARRIO DEL OESTE” NEIGHBOURHOOD

Don’t miss this hipster enclave of urban art. Garage doors, metal shop fronts, spare walls – even trees are canvasses for the young artists who flock from around the world to imprint their artistic expression in paint or decoration. It really is a breath of fresh air ... and it’s bang on topic, as muralism is the noughties zeitgeist. The “Salchichería” bar is a popular hangout.

WHERE IS IT?
Streets around the Plaza del Oeste.

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
...going to see these artistic neighbourhood at least once.

RECOMMENDED BY...
Jimmy Jiménez, ISLA teacher, Spain

“An open air art gallery, I never get tired of it.”
The Clock at the Plaza Mayor does more than tell you the time. It is where you meet up with people. Every day countless people will “quedar debajo del reloj”, meet beneath the clock, as Salamancans have done for generations. You’ll see them as you walk past. Singles looking likely, larger groups. Salamancans, visitors. Chatting, getting out their mobile or tipping their head up to check the time. A wave, a smile, quick hug and off. You’ll do it too, you’ll see!

WHERE IS IT?
Plaza Mayor de Salamanca

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
meeting up with your friends under the clock...
before plunging into the Salamancan night.

RECOMMENDED BY...
Emily Hanel,
ISLA student
Germany

“When I arrived everyone was talking about this clock... and then it became my meeting place too.”
Hipsters, rockers, youngsters, golden oldies.. (Almost) everyone loves “El Pani” for its unpretentious, fun, one-off style and cheapo prices. Many would argue that it needs a thorough refurb but the truth is that it’s shabbiness is part of it’s charm. The peeling walls plastered with yellowing photos from yesteryear, the damp staircase (Watch it – not for nothing is their a group on facebook called “I’ve fallen down the stairs at Paniaga”) to say nothing of the rudimentary nature of its “smallest room”, make it seem that time hasn’t gone by for this Salamancan classic.

One thing for sure: you’ll have a marmite moment. You’ll either become a loud and loyal Pani fan, starting every night out here.. Or you’ll gulp your drink down and escape with a shudder, vowing to never return again ;)

WHERE IS IT?
Calle Varillas, 7, 37001 Salamanca

DON’T LEAVE SALAMANCA WITHOUT...
… visiting all the different rooms in Paniagua, drinking a special Litre drink or playing table football on the second floor.

RECOMMENDED BY...
Jordan Goulding, ISLA student Australia

“I met loads of my Spanish friends on there.”