

Reseña de experiencia como auxiliar de inglés en IES Guadalpeña 23-24

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Guadalpeña thanks to great colleagues, helpful administration, and the gorgeous setting of Arcos. I am so grateful for the smooth transition and overall great experience of my first year being an auxiliar. So much so, that I am renewing for another year and hope to have a similar opportunity in my next school.

I appreciate the organization and knowledge that those at Guadalpeña have provided. The administration is prepared, organized, and timely with paperwork and payments. The director and coordinator have years of practice with the aux program, so they are knowledgeable and empathetic to the adjustment to living abroad and in a small town. The schedule is flexible and offers a variety of classes and age levels. As someone who studied Spanish education, and also is a curious traveler, I enjoyed observing the different teaching methods and material that is taught across different subjects. I also appreciated how my co teachers were adaptable and gave lots of control in the classroom; a characteristic that is not the norm in my work in the U.S. school system. This school has been integral in the ease and joy of being a part of this program.

In addition to a great school, it's located in a beautiful pueblo that is perfectly located near big cities and nature destinations. Arcos de la Frontera is one of the main pueblos blancos (white towns) in a series of them that are a popular tourist destination for the architecture, history, and beauty. My absolute favorite part of the day is walking from my apartment in Casco Antiguo (old historic part of town) down the cliffside on one of the many hiking trails in the town because of the breathtaking view of the countryside and the vibrant flora and fauna I pass on my way to school everyday.

The weather here makes planning easy because it's known for having over 320 days of sunshine. The population is a bit bigger than a small town which provides opportunities to meet locals and attend many cultural events. Yet it is small enough that you get a feel for authentic Andusian life and become a local celebrity as students shout your name across the street. They're so proud to tell you the next day in class that they saw you at the Playita (small beach on the Lake of Arcos) or feria (annual festival) or any of the community events that Arcos always seems to have going on. The other auxes in the town and I (this year there were 9 of us in total) were always surprised at how popular each event was; from the live Nativity Scene to their celebration of Carnaval or to the extravagant processions during Semana Santa (Easter week). Despite its size, it has a bit of night life as well, and with a bit of planning you can visit nearby cities like Cádiz, Jerez de la Frontera, or Sevilla where there are beaches, sightseeing, and a variety of restaurants. However, Arcos offers its own sites, trails, seasonal local produce, restaurants with authentic Spanish dishes, and more. Plus, the affordability here compared to nearby cities offers you to experience more for less. Overall, the town is a great blend of slow living with its own energy of liveliness and natural beauty.

I will always remember this year fondly of my time learning from my colleagues, my students, and this wonderful town. I have been blessed with a great school that cares about my experience and has taught me so much of the language, culture, and just how to be a

kind human. Thank you for including me and sharing your time and knowledge with me. It's been a pleasure.

