

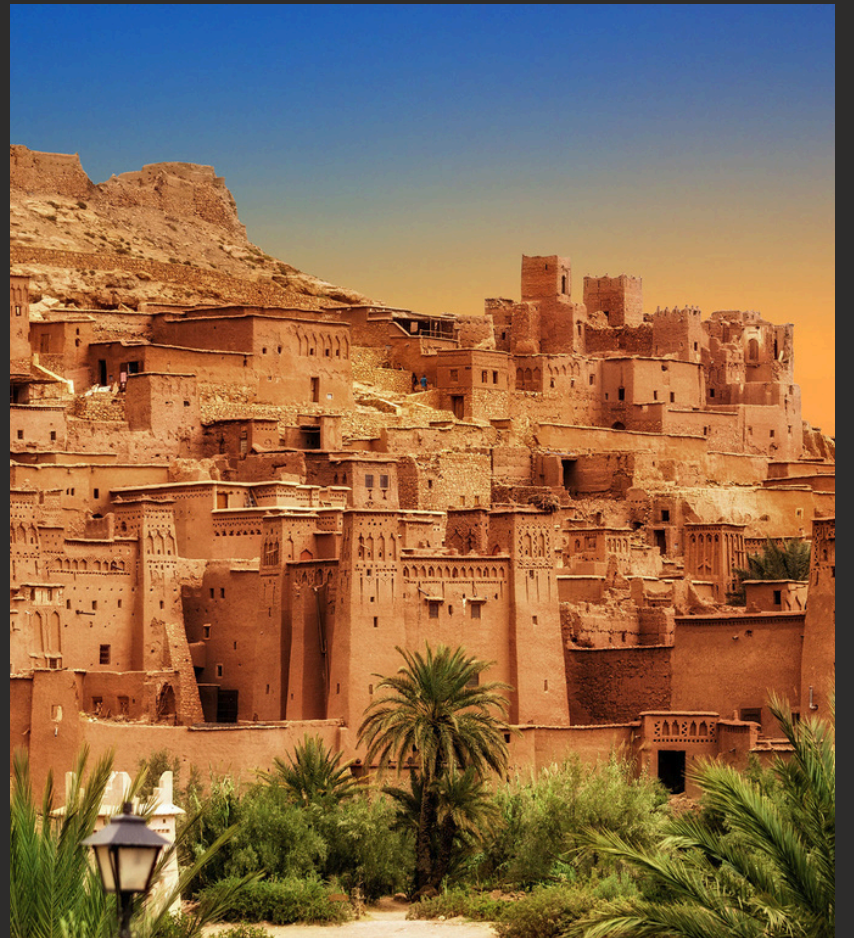
KUTNÁ HORA



Kutná Hora, located in the modern-day Czech Republic southeast of Prague, rose to extraordinary prominence during the Middle Ages due to its abundant silver mines. The transformative discovery of silver in the 13th century quickly turned this once modest settlement into a thriving economic powerhouse and significantly strengthened the Kingdom of Bohemia. Silver from Kutná Hora became the lifeblood of the region, fueling not only local but also widespread wealth, expanding trade networks, and influencing the politics of both Bohemia and greater Europe. The city's famed mint produced the Prague groschen, a stable and widely trusted silver coin that became the standard currency for trade across much of Europe. As a result, Kutná Hora was not only a mining center but also the financial heart of medieval Central Europe, attracting merchants, bankers, artisans, and royal envoys from across the continent who came to participate in its bustling economy and vibrant cultural life.

The city's immense prosperity during its golden age is still evident today in its striking Gothic cathedrals, such as the famed St. Barbara's Church, and grand public buildings, all of which reflected the wealth and ambition of its citizens. Kutná Hora's influence extended far beyond its borders—economically, culturally, and politically—since Bohemian kings relied heavily on its mineral riches to finance their courts, wage wars, and assert royal power. However, as the easily accessible silver veins were gradually exhausted and political unrest grew in the region, the city's importance began to fade. Yet, the legacy of Kutná Hora remains a compelling example of how natural resources, industry, and trade could shape the fortunes of entire regions in medieval Europe. Today, the well-preserved architecture and enduring cultural heritage of Kutná Hora continue to attract visitors from around the world, offering a tangible link to the city's storied medieval past and its pivotal role in European history.

TAFORALT CAVE



The earliest known cemetery in Morocco is the Tavoralt Cave, also known as the Grotte des Pigeons, located near the village of Tavoralt in the Aït Iznasen mountains of eastern Morocco's Berkane province. Archaeologists believe the site dates back roughly 15,000 years, making it one of the oldest known burial grounds in North Africa. The cave is especially important because it provides evidence of some of the earliest organized burial practices among prehistoric human communities. Excavations at Tavoralt uncovered the remains of dozens of individuals, including adults and children, suggesting that the site served as a long-term cemetery rather than a temporary burial location.

Researchers have discovered that the people buried there belonged to the Iberomaurusian culture, a prehistoric group that lived in North Africa during the Late Stone Age. The remains found in the cave reveal valuable information about the diets, health conditions, and lifestyles of early human populations in the region. Scientists also found tools, ornaments, and traces of ochre, a reddish pigment often associated with ritual or symbolic practices. These discoveries suggest that the people of Tavoralt may have practiced ceremonies or spiritual traditions connected to death and burial.

The cemetery is historically significant because it demonstrates that complex social and cultural behaviors existed in prehistoric North Africa much earlier than once believed. Tavoralt has helped archaeologists better understand migration patterns, early human societies, and the development of burial traditions. Today, the cave remains an important archaeological site that continues to provide insight into the lives of ancient human communities.

SPANISH CLUB



I've found that the Spanish Club is a great way to get to know Hispanic culture and work on my Spanish outside of class. Each semester, we have different activities, and one that stands out for me is Bingo Night. It's a relaxed event where we practice vocabulary, learn random facts about Spanish-speaking countries, and sometimes win small prizes. If you're in certain Spanish classes, you can even get extra credit for joining in. The free snacks and casual vibe make it a nice break from regular coursework.

To help members become more comfortable with conversational Spanish, the Spanish Club regularly organizes Conversation Hours. These informal sessions provide a supportive, low-pressure space for students to build confidence, improve their speaking skills, and connect with other language enthusiasts. No matter their level of experience, members can benefit from these sessions as they work toward greater fluency outside of regular coursework.

Additionally, the club hosts special social events that unite Spanish Club members with others from the broader UAS community. These friendly gatherings often include hot chocolate and snacks, creating a cozy environment that encourages new friendships and celebrates the richness of Hispanic traditions. Whether students are interested in earning extra credit, sharpening their conversation skills, or meeting peers who share an enthusiasm for the Spanish language and culture, the Spanish Club fosters a welcoming environment where learning happens beyond the classroom. Through these dynamic activities, students can experience firsthand the excitement and enjoyment of learning Spanish.

TANORA CULTURAL NIGHT



I recently attended the Tanora cultural event hosted by the South African Association to support my friend Margary, who performed as a dancer. The experience was both entertaining and educational, celebrating African culture through music, dance, fashion, and community involvement. From the moment the event began, the atmosphere was energetic and welcoming. People from different backgrounds gathered together to appreciate the performances and learn more about South African traditions and cultural expression.

One of the highlights of the event was watching Margary dance. Her performance was full of energy, confidence, and passion, and it was clear that she had practiced hard for the event. The dancers moved in rhythm to traditional and modern African music, creating an exciting performance that captivated the audience. The colorful clothing and lively music added to the overall experience, making the performances even more memorable.

In addition to the dancing, the event offered attendees an opportunity to connect with others and experience various aspects of African culture. There were moments of celebration, laughter, and appreciation throughout the program. The event showed how cultural gatherings can bring people together while promoting diversity and understanding. Overall, attending the Tanora cultural event was a meaningful experience because it allowed me to support my friend, enjoy talented performances, and gain a greater appreciation for South African culture and traditions.

SPANISH CLUB MOVIE NIGHT



I attended the screening of *Todo sobre mi madre* as part of the extra credit event, and it turned out to be a very meaningful experience. Before watching the film, I expected it to be an emotional drama, but it explored deeper themes of grief, identity, family, and womanhood. The story followed Manuela, a mother dealing with the loss of her son while trying to reconnect with people from her past. As the movie progressed, I became more emotionally invested in the characters and their struggles.

One thing that stood out to me was how realistic and emotional the characters felt.

Each person in the film had a unique story and different personal challenges, which made the movie more powerful and engaging. I also appreciated how the film showed the importance of compassion, friendship, and support during difficult times. Even though the movie dealt with serious topics, it still offered moments of hope and connection that balanced the emotional intensity.

Another part of the experience that I enjoyed was the discussion after the film. Hearing other students share their interpretations helped me better understand some of the themes and symbolism in the movie. It was interesting to hear different perspectives about the characters' decisions and how the film portrayed identity and relationships.

Overall, attending the event was both educational and enjoyable. It introduced me to an important piece of Spanish cinema while also encouraging me to think more deeply about human emotions, relationships, and personal struggles.
