



A beach at Sitges; (inset) Hugo is learning Spanish and Catalan.

EDITED BY CLAIRE BRADLEY. PHOTOGRAPHY: COTO ELIZONDO/GETTY IMAGES.

Barcelona, Spain

Since eight-year-old Hugo Hetherington moved with his parents to Vilafranca del Penedès, in Catalonia, he's had a fiesta of fun under the Spanish sun

When did you move to Spain? More than three years ago, when I was five.
Do you remember much about Australia? I do, but I just went back there for a holiday and saw a kangaroo in my grandad's front yard. I miss the weather in Australia – I like that it's warm and cold.
Tell us about your school. It's big and my teacher speaks Spanish and a little bit of Catalan. I only speak English in my English classes.
Is it hard learning Spanish and

the local dialect of Catalan? A little, but I'm getting used to it. The other kids mostly speak Catalan, but they're learning more English.
What's your favourite subject? I have lots: maths, PE, English, multimedia and medi – a mix of science and social studies. We're doing a project on Barcelona Zoo right now.
What do you do after school? I usually watch TV; I like *Gormiti*, a cartoon about these little lords of nature. It has tribes called Forest, Sea, Air, Earth and the baddies, Volcano. But if I don't get a good report, I'm not allowed to watch it, plus I don't get my pocket money.
Do you have any pets? I have three turtles: Peter, Grak and Snippy – he bites a lot. I keep them in a plant on the porch. When it's sunny, I put them on the table outside.
What do you like about your home? We live near a park and sometimes, in summer, we can see tractors going down to Torres winery, a place full of grapevines where you drink wine. It's a special thing in Spain.

Do you like Spanish food? Mostly. One of the nicest meals is meatballs with sauce.
What's your favourite place to visit? I like going to the beach in Sitges, about 30 minutes away. You can climb up the rocks to a cave and look for crabs, but the tide can be too strong, even for a big person.
Where do you go for holidays? On the first day of summer vacation, we usually go to Fundació La Granja, which is a farm with stables and horses. Sometimes they bring them out and we ride the little ones, but I once rode a big horse and it trotted.
How is your life different now that you live in Spain? It's sort of changed. It changed my language from English to Catalan, and I just have to keep learning so I can speak to my friends. But I like living here – I'm having a really good time.

RHIANNON SAWYER

Hugo's father, Brett, writes about the family's experiences of living abroad at www.bretthetherington.net.

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