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Michelle Obama visits Spain's Granada

 Recomendar

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GRANADA, Spain (AP) - U.S. first lady Michelle Obama and her 9-year-old daughter Sasha toured a historic cathedral in the southern city of Granada on Thursday on the first full day of their vacation in Spain.

Before entering the cavernous church, they tried to beat the blazing heat of the Andalusia region by stopping at a well-known ice cream parlor across the street.

A crowd of several hundred people shouted "Obama!" and "guapa!", or beautiful, as the Obamas entered the cathedral with a large security detail in tow.

The Obama plans also include taking in a flamenco performance in the old Sacromonte quarter, a hillside district known for caves that serve as dwelling places or taverns for nightlife fun, and a nighttime visit to the Alhambra, the exquisite, reddish citadel that was the seat of Moorish rule in Spain.

The cathedral was ordered built by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella after they recaptured the city from the Moors in 1492. It stands on the site of what had been Granada's main mosque and houses the monarchs' remains.

A Spanish public relations company called Oak Power Communication estimated the Obama visit will be reported on by more than 8,000 media outlets worldwide and generate publicity worth euro800 million (\$1 billion).

Spanish media grappling with the summer news doldrums are giving the visit blanket coverage, with some even going so far as to report on how foreign media are reporting the first lady's trip.