

OLYMPION Gymnasium-Lyceum CYPRUS

Our impressions from FRANCE

Why bullfights and tapas in Nimes

The first impression from the city of Nimes when we first went around on Sunday the 13th of March was that there was something Spanish everywhere. However, we were in France and, to be more specific, we were in Nimes, Provence, for the fifth meeting of our Erasmus project. The answer came the next day when we went to Lycee Genevieve de Gaulle Anthonioz at Milhaud for the meeting. The Spanish Language teacher explained



to us and gave us all the information about the Spaniards who came to the area after the Civil War in 1939 bringing with them their culture and tradition which could be seen everywhere.

Our first day started with a warm welcome by the head of the school and the teachers, members of the Erasmus+ team of the school. It was a very busy day at school. All the pupils of the groups worked together preparing the events that would follow. A walk around the village of Milhaud and a warm welcome by the major followed where as all the pupils took part in a photo competition taking shots from the village. In the evening the Eurovision Song Contest was really exciting. The Cyprus

team won the prize for their Choreography .

Nimes, the Roman city

The next day was dedicated to Nimes and its historical monuments. First, in the morning, we visited Paloma, a modern music center and concert hall, and then we admired the Amphitheatre, La Maison Garree and every other Roman ruin in the city. It was very exciting walking through the narrow streets looking forward to seeing a Roman gladiator or a bull appearing round a corner. We enjoyed walking in the main square of the city with the beautiful train station at one side.

Montpellier, the academic city

The excursion to Montpellier was the next event. It was a real experience visiting the Medical School, one of the oldest in Europe. We also visited Saint Pierre Cathedral, la Place de la Comedie and walked through the busy streets of the city. In the evening we enjoyed the company of our colleagues at school and had a talk over a glass of wine.



An exciting concert

The main event of that day was an exciting concert given by the participants both teachers and pupils. It was really a professional performance and a great effort.

The flashmob at school which preceded the concert gave the chance to all the pupils express themselves in a different way.

A pic nick at the seaside and a visit at Aigues Mortes

The last day came and it was time for saying goodbye. Before that, a conference on migrants took place and people from every group talked about the situation in their countries. In the meantime, one of our students, Alisia, won the

My experience....

It was an unusual experience being hosted by a completely unknown family in another country. The fact that I took part in the Erasmus group and lived in a French family, made me feel special. Visiting France for a week, and literally living like the local people, emits the sense of meeting new culture, lifestyle and such an experience offers you the chance to compare your own country and way of living with the one of France. Yet, most of the locals tend to live more simplistic, that means smaller houses, smaller collection of clothing and in general, living with the necessary objects.

The family that hosted me was really warm and welcoming. They respected the fact that I am vegetarian and took me to the supermarket to choose a varied kind of food. As long as the Erasmus program is concerned, I found it a bit unplanned, since there were times when the students had to wait outside in the cold or in the sun, ... standing, either waiting for the bus driver to come, or patiently waiting for an entrance to open. Another thing was that the tour guides would barely have the knowledge of the English language, thus, little could be understood. However, I have to thank all for their effort to make us feel at home and do whatever they could to help us.

In the end, the overall experience helped me appreciate the place and the way of living, to appreciate my country, Cyprus, and my everyday life eases. Sometimes travelling makes people understand that being at home is good, especially going back to your own bed ...

Alisia Jordanou

prize of the photo competition.

After saying goodbye to some people leaving, we went for a picnic at the seaside and then we visited Aigues Mortes, a fortified city on the sea.



Apart from all the above, what made us feel at home was the warmth of the people. Claude, the heart of the meeting, was everywhere. She did her best to make us feel at home. All the staff and the pupils made us feel as an integral part of the school.

Now we are back home and we bring everything back to our memory with nostalgia . We only have to say

Merci beaucoup, mes amis, aurevoir.

Ευχαριστούμε πολύ

