

Europe-Trip

30th of June - 15th of July 2019

1. Week: 30th of June – 7th of July 2019: Prague, Vienna and Budapest

Sunday the 30th of June:

We met, the students, Chantal and the Aubiko representative on Sunday at Frankfurt Central Station. Here we all jumped on the train to Nuremberg, and got on a bus headed to Prague. During the journey, we spend the time getting to know each other, until we in the afternoon arrived in Prague. Waiting for our arrival with a big welcoming sign was our business partner,



partner, the Company Agria, who spend a lot of time with us in- and outside of the capital of the Czech Republic. We stayed at the Aparthotel SUSA, where we after check-in placed our suitcases in the appointed rooms and gathered for a small talk about the program and agenda for our journey. Now it was time to begin the sightseeing and exploration of Prague. We started off with a stroll through the streets of the capital, but decided quite just to find a restaurant, because it was getting late. We went to a restaurant named „Hlucna Samota“, where we got a traditional Czech dinner. Everybody where impressed by the beautiful city and the delicious food, but also beginning to feel a bit exhausted, due to the long journey and the new impressions and input. We therefore went back to the hotel to relax and recharge for the day to come.

Monday the 1st of July:

We started Monday with getting a Rohlík, a yeast bread with butter and jam, a recommendation from Chantal, which was really delicious! Afterwards we ran downtown to admire the old and beautiful part of town. We visited the Jerusalem-Synagogue in the Jewish district, the fundamental presence of the Jewish life in Prague



seemed to surprise and astonish the students. The students were also excited by the Old Town Square, the architecture and the friendly people of the city. In the afternoon we went on a guided tour of the Prague Castle, „Hradcany“, to visit the world’s largest closed castle complex. We made our way through the narrow streets of the city and climbed a lot of steps, but we ended up with a beautiful overview of the city, which we interpreted as a reward for the effort we made getting up there. The castle and the view were truly breath-taking! In the evening we completed a fantastic day by dining at the restaurant, „Hlucna Samota“ from the night before. Here, we once again enjoyed a traditional Czech dinner. After our dinner we went for a small picture-walk through Novy Svet, just to make sure that we’ll remember the beautiful part of town.

Tuesday the 2nd of July:

We got out of bed very early this Tuesday and after a lovely breakfast, we went to Prague Central Station. Here we jumped on the train to Kutná Hora in the Central Bohemian Region. Here we were on a day long trip in the Silver City. We learned that the name, Kutná Hora, originates from the 13th century, where silver was discovered in the city. The city was therefore the most important city in the country right after Prague, this was one of the reasons we just needed to go there! The city wasn’t only pretty, but also very interesting. Among other things we visited the famous tourist attraction, the Sedlec Ossuary. It was a unique and exceptional experience. Here we saw different objects, for example bells made from human bone. We almost couldn’t believe it, it was so odd! On this trip we learnt a lot about the history of the city. The city was once divided into rich and poor districts, painful poverty right next to ostentatious wealth. After this interesting late morning, we jumped on a ship to „Pražské Benátky“, which is commonly known as the “Venice of Prague”. This was so nice! From the water you could see the Prague Memorial and much more, the view was definitely stunning. You started to experience a feeling, that you no longer were in Prague, but instead had left and gone to Venice. In the evening we enjoyed some more Czech specialities. We ended the day by going to the theatre called “Metro” to watch the evening show.



Wednesday the 3rd of July:

On Wednesday we went to the Bohemian Switzerland. We climbed and hiked the whole day through the Czech part of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, this was so cool! The landscape made every traveller very impressed. When we got back to Prague it was certain that everybody was a bit exhausted from all of the day's experiences, but also very excited about the next town we were about to visit. In the evening the pupils had a bit of recreation time until packing their suitcases and getting ready for bed. New and exiting experiences were waiting for us the next day.



Thursday the 4th of July:



On Thursday we enjoyed our last Czech breakfast and fast got on our way further. We jumped on the bus headed for Vienna. The trip was very pleasant. Some of us enjoyed a small nap while others were chatting a little bit. We arrived in Vienna right on time. After the arrival we made our way to the hostel where we were supposed to stay, and got to check-in and unpacking our suitcases. We didn't want to waste the time so we headed downtown

as fast as possible. First, we visited the city centre of Vienna, where we got to see some great tourist attractions. We saw St. Stephan's Cathedral, The Hundertwasserhaus and the amusement park Prater. We were told a lot about the history of the city and a lot about how the St. Stephan's Cathedral was constructed. We also heard about the big fire in 1945 and the rebuilding of the city when the war ended. The pupils were very impressed by the Hundertwasserhaus, and the extraordinary architecture. In the afternoon we headed for a restaurant called the Wiener Deewan, where we got to eat Pakistani specialities. After dinner, all the students had a chance to buy presents for their families and further explore the Austrian capital on their own.

Friday the 5th of July:

The first morning in Vienna we enjoyed a solid breakfast, so we had enough fuel for another day. We spend the whole day exploring the capital. After breakfast we walked to the Schönbrunn Palace, where we got to go on a guided tour of the palace. Emperor Franz Joseph was born here and this was also where he spent his last years. The history about emperor Franz Joseph and his Wife, Elisabeth the empress of Austria, is world-famous. Doing the guided tour of the palace we learnt more about the emperor couple and their relations. We were told that the emperor saw himself as the first and most important servant of the state. He was also very popular among the Austrian people, because he had



done much of positive influence for the country. But there's a dark side to this story. He got so caught up in politics, that he lacked time for his wife. His wife tried distracting herself with poetry and music, but none of it worked out well. She now suffered from a bad case of depression, due to loneliness. After this very interesting tour and story, we went for a lunch break and picnic in the park. We had a lovely lunch and were ready to experience other great attractions in Vienna. In the afternoon we visited a beer garden in the city park, where we tried some, of course, alcohol free drinks.

Saturday the 6th of July

The last night in Vienna was very recreative. After breakfast we found and jumped on the bus for Budapest. Unfortunately, we got stuck on the bus a little longer than expected, due to traffic. But we made good use of the extra time by chatting with each other. We finally arrived in Budapest in the afternoon. We stayed at the Pal's Hostel, so we went here as soon as we arrived in Budapest. After check-in at the hostel we



got to unpack our luggage. Afterwards we went for a walk, which was very nice after many hours on the bus. We walked to the centre of Budapest and through the Budapest old town. We all got to try a

Lángos, which is a traditional delicacy in the Hungarian kitchen. It was very delicious and we were afterwards only more excited about what the Hungarian capital had to offer.

Sunday the 7th of July:

On Sunday we went to see the Jewish district. Here we got to visit the Kazinczy-street Synagogue. The Hungarian culture memorial was badly damaged during the second world war, the building was therefore fast rebuilt after the war ended. After watching the synagogue from the outside, we weren't expecting much from the inside, because it looked kind of dull from the outside. But we were definitely in for a surprise. When we stepped into the synagogue was the rather dull looking building simply astonishing. We went on a guided tour of the synagogue, which gave a great insight in the life of Jews and their everyday life in Budapest. After the visit in the Jewish district we had a lunch break in the historical market hall. The market hall was so impressive and we got to try different Hungarian specialities. Here we also had the opportunity to buy presents for our families. This was really fun! In the afternoon we went on a boat trip on the river Donau. The view was breath-taking and we got to take a break and relax a little on the tour. In the evening we ate at Cukraszada, which is a café, where you can get the speciality „Ruszwurm“. While eating, Chantal told us the story about this 200-year-old location. In this delicious and exiting way, we ended the first week of our tour of Europe. At the café we had to say goodbye to Chantal, who had been with us the whole week. This was such a shame, we had such fun with her!

2. Week: 8th of July – 15th of July: Rome, Venice and Lido

Monday the 8th of July:

At breakfast we got to meet Stephane, who was to travel with us for the next week of our journey. Afterwards we took a trip downtown to the Buda-district. Here we visited the mountain Gellértberg, which in the 17. Century was known for being a meeting point for witches. On the mountain we saw the statue of liberty made from bronze. This statue was built in 1947 in honour of the soldiers, who fought to liberate the country in the second world war. The statue is 40 meters tall and appears as a female figure holding a palm leaf in the air. We enjoyed the beautiful view from





the top of the mountain before we went for a lunch break. We lunched close to the Dísz tér, which is a parade square, a medieval market place and a prior

execution spot. We ended the day and our stay in Budapest by visiting the parliament and the tower of the Budapest Cathedral. We were very impressed by the gigantic cathedral and its magnificence. This was without doubt the highlight of our stay in the Hungarian capital. In the evening everybody was free to walk around experiencing Budapest on

their own.

Tuesday the 9th of July:

After a good night's sleep and a delicious breakfast, we drove to the airport. We got on a plane headed towards Rome. Unfortunately, we experienced another delay and waited for a very long time. This meant that we suddenly had to change our determined plane. When we finally arrived in Rome, we went to the hotel for check-in and once again unpacked our luggage. Due to our delay, we had to postpone our visit at the Vatican. Instead we went to get a big and delicious ice-cream. We learned why everybody loves and swears to Italian ice-cream, it's so delicious!



Wednesday the 10th of July:

After our morning coffee and tea, we went to see the Vatican. We got to visit the Sixtine Chapel, which was very fascinating! We were all very impressed by the beautiful decorated ceiling and walls, also there was a lot of pretty paintings alongside of the walls. Afterwards we went to the Peter's Cathedral, which also only impressed us. The splendour and great big dimensions on the inside of the church

really blew us away. It was a great pleasure for everyone to watch the view from the dome of the Cathedral. This day we also went to the Vatican museum, here we actually spend a lot of time, due to the exhibit being quite extensive. We didn't even get to see it all, because there were too many things on display. But although we didn't get to see everything, what we saw was thrilling. In the afternoon we went to see the Trevi Fountain, which was definitely a must for our travelling in Rome. All of the students found



the fountain wonderful, it's located in one of the prettiest parts of the Italian capital. The fountain is neatly restored, with water running perfectly in turquoise colours reflected by the sun. This is definitely a spot where the students think they'll come back to visit someday. For dinner we ate at a lovely pasta place where we were served freshly homemade pasta. The restaurant is located close to the Spanish Steps. After our meal we spend a bit of time strolling through the narrow streets of the thrilling Italian capital.



Thursday the 11th of July:

After an Italian breakfast, we had planned a trip to the Roman Antiquity. We went to the Colosseum, where we after a great long line finally got to see the antique amphitheatre. We were told, that the most brutal and cruel events were arranged here, as an attempt to entertain the Emperor and the imperial family, only the free ones of course. Today, Colosseum is landmark of Rome and operates also as a monument against death penalty. All of the students were stunned by the architecture and almost



didn't believe their own eyes when they heard how old the Coliseum is. Afterwards we went to see the oldest inhabited part of the Italian capital, which is called Palatin. While walking through the streets, Stephane told us the ancient legend about Rome and the brothers Romulus and Remus. We also went to see the market place, the Roman forum. Here we found out that it's the oldest Roman forum and the most important spot for the people of the Antiquity. The forum was the centre for political, financial, cultural and religious ancient life. We've also seen the remaining of the public buildings and memorials. We were stunned about the chance to see the preserved remains and ruins of the great antiquity of Rome. And for being a bit culinary, we ate delicious Italian pizzas for dinner, that certainly lived up to the reputation of being the best pizza. Thank you, Italy, for the exquisite kitchen and cuisine!

Friday the 12th of July:



On Friday we once again ate a lovely breakfast, before we got on a train headed for Venice. Everybody was a bit sad that we had to leave Rome already, due to it being a great, beautiful and exiting city. But on the other hand, we were exited and curious what Venice might bring. When we arrived in Venice, everybody agree that the city was just as gorgeous as everybody says. Venice is just unique! You can either walk or sail around

town to see the attractions. We decided to go for a walk, which was just amazing, there's no kidding when calling Venice for a lagoon city. In the afternoon we took a sweet break, when eating a great tiramisu. There're always things you'll have to do or try when visiting a new country, when in Italy, eating tiramisu is one of them.

Saturday the 13th of July:

On Saturday we had a tight schedule and a lot ahead of us. Therefore, we had to get up really early, and get on our way right after breakfast. First, we walked to the Markus square, where we were convinced that no place in the word was more





beautiful. The Markus square is just wonderful on a sunny day like the one we were having. This is the only place in Venice, which were paved from the beginning. On this square we saw an abundance of attractions. For example, there's the Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale), the former home for the Republic of Venice's head of state, which formerly was know as Doge. The absolute highlight of Venice made a big impression, but due to the big line, we decided

not to go in. We also visited the famous bridge of Venice of curse. But first we took an intermediate stop at the Bridge of Sighs which connect the Doge's Palace with a prison. From here we had a perfect view to the Rio del Palazzo, which is a canal in Venice. The Rialto bridge made from stone and build over the Grand Canal was also very impressive. We also went to visit the San Bartolomeo, which is one of the most important churches in Venice, and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, which is a building known for its wealthy furniture and important paintings. We ended the impressive day by eating delicious homemade burgers. This was so nice!

Sunday the 14th of July:

We spend the last day in Italy on the beach of Lido. This was a great time-out after all the big cities we've visited. In the lagoon of Venice, we visited the cutest little fishing village, this place was so wonderful we almost couldn't believe it was real. Lido was so great that we all got in this silly- and happy mood. The colourful village and enchanting nature made us speechless, we really enjoyed the view. After a small visit to the wonderful town of Lido, we were to be found relaxing at the beach. We were indulged by the weather, which made it even sadder that this was our last day on this unforgettable tour of Europe. On Monday we got on our way back to Frankfurt, where we had to say goodbye to our lovely exchange students from Columbia. See you next time!

