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Impressions of Croatian students



LARA DRAGOVIĆ



The trip to Portugal was for me at the same time the most beautiful and stressful trip of my life. The reason I was so afraid to go to Portugal was because of the flight. I have always had some fear of heights and therefore of airplanes and I knew that if I wanted to go on this trip I had to overcome that fear. As soon as we arrived at the airport, I was overwhelmed with fear, all the confusion at the airport and the very fact that I had to get on the plane in a few hours scared me a lot. But of course there were my friends who always had some new stories to tell that kept me a little distracted. And here came that moment where I needed to get on the plane, I walked slowly, found my seat and settled down. Everything was fine until the plane started to accelerate and take

off slowly. I have never felt more stressed than at that moment, I was breathing hard and I was in great fear. The whole flight I was a little scared but mostly during taking off and landing. Finally after an hour my first flight was over. I can't say that this was a nice experience for me, but I can say with certainty that I overcame my fear of flying at least a little. But that was not all, we had another flight to Portugal. During the second flight I was much more relaxed and calm because I realized that flying was not as scary as I had imagined. And after two and a half hours, the second flight ended and the most beautiful adventure of my life began here. The next week was for me one of the most beautiful weeks ever. We hung out with children from other countries who I will never forget because they were the reason this trip was the best trip of my life. We were together every day, taught each other our traditions and really enjoyed each other. After a week, this wonderful journey needed to end. There is no need to say I was sad when we left because I knew I needed to go back to my old routine now and that these wonderful people that I met I would never see again. During the flight home I was calm and relaxed and I was not scared at all. I am very glad that during this wonderful trip I overcame my biggest fear and met as good friends that I may never see again but it was worth meeting and spending these days with them.

KLARA DODIG

For me, Portugal was one beautiful experience. Let's start with the city... The streets are really small but interesting. Portugal has specific culture which is in many situations different than ours. Also, we went across the most popular bridge of Portugal which was such a beautiful experience. About food, we tried delicious traditional meals and desserts. For example, we tried Francesinha and Pastel de nata. I very much liked Francesinha because it is unusual and different from our traditional meals.



We visited many museums which was really interesting and educational. My favourite thing was part where we had to make robots ourselves. We even saw real elements of periodic table. I saw how the life there can be hard for some people and I am really thankful for everything I got. In the hotel was really funny and we laughed until our stomach started hurting because we forgot our room keys inside the room (including the teacher). Regarding people and students there, I liked everyone, especially kids from Turkey. They were really talkative and kind. I will never forget people I met there and every friend I made. I will stay in contact with them just like I am now.

All in all, Portugal will always have a special place in my heart. It was such a beautiful experience and I hope that I will get a chance to go there again and enjoy in pretty views of the city of Porto.

DORA POSAVAC



Portugal was an unforgettable experience. I had so much fun, i learned new things such as some new words in Portuguese, Turkish and Polish. I also saw the natural beauties of the city Porto. While we were staying in Porto we visited many beautiful places such as jewelry school, filigree museum, Aveiro, Biodiversity Gallery, Interdisciplinary Center of Marine and Environmental Research, Douro crouise. I am really happy that i had a chance to visit Portugal, because it was new and incredible experience for me.

People from Portugal and other countries were really nice and friendly and i will never forget them. I had an opportunity to meet a lot of new friends, learn about new culture, get some new words in my vocabulary and im very thankful for that.

If you dream about traveling somewhere i would definitely recommend Portugal, i promise you wont regret it.

HANA VEIĆ

When I found out I had been selected for a trip to Portugal I was overjoyed. My best friend also went with me which made my happiness bigger. Such an opportunity may be offered once in a lifetime. It soon became the only thing I thought about for the last month. That day also came, the day of departure. I packed my suitcase and headed for the school with excitement, after which we headed to the airport in a school van. In addition to visiting a new country, I will be flying for the first time. The feeling was great, before taking off I felt the adrenaline but I would repeat that feeling many more times.

When we landed in Porto we set off on a short night drive, I was enchanted by the beauty of the city. Everyday trips to school and socializing with other students made this trip even more interesting. While visiting Porto, we visited many sights that left a great impression on me. I would single out the bridge over the Douro River which had a view of the whole city. In addition to sightseeing, we learned something from lectures that were in English, so they were more challenging. However, I would have to set aside my favourite part of the day, which was going to dinner together and spending hours in hotel rooms. During this unforgettable adventure, I met many people who will remain in my memory forever.

I would like to repeat this amazing experience many more times, I think it is a real happiness to have the opportunity to get to know new cultures and visit new cities together with students from other countries.



DOMINIK DRAGUŠICA

Some lessons in life must be learned at home, while others are impossible to learn until you leave home. I went to Portugal to learn one of those.



As part of the Erasmus project "Science is all around us", at the beginning of 2022, I was given a unique opportunity to travel to Portugal. I knew I could expect a lot from this journey; the first plane journey of my life, sightseeing of the largest airport in Europe, unforgettable gatherings with friends, new acquaintances, the opportunity to get to know the school system of another country... After all, Porto is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, which is a premium in itself. And indeed all my expectations have been met. But as it happens in life, sometimes what you didn't expect is far more important than what you expect. And to lose documents 2,000 miles away from home is certainly unexpected.

The journey, which began that morning at 9 a.m., ended with the arrival at a hotel room of the Coliseum hotel just after midnight the next day. It's a pretty bad timing to realize you don't have any identification. "Dad help me!" and so a dozen times. But Dad's asleep. My knees were weak and arms were heavy and there was almost vomit on my sweater already, it's kind of a smelt

like mom's spaghetti, I was overcome with a panic without money or documents 2,000 miles from home, alone in a dark unfamiliar hotel room. Luckily for me, dad woke up, he saw the messages, he calmed me down, and finally the fatigue prevailed, so I fell asleep. And it's a good thing I did because the sun is always brighter than the moon. Because it's important to have IDs and money, but when you don't already have them next, the most important thing is to have good people around you. My dad, my teachers and dear Portuguese hosts the very next day with joint efforts, they found and returned my documents to me, which I left so tired and confused at the airport in Porto the night before.

And that's my story. What did I learn from it? That sometimes you feel like you're alone when you're not. That sometimes you feel like everything's lost and it's not. That people are simply human in Both Croatia and Portugal. That we need each other... And clearly - that I have to keep an eye on the documents.

Since I had to learn lesson well, it was good that it happened on the first day. The remaining five days I relaxed and enjoyed the sun-drenched city, meeting wonderful people from Turkey, Poland, Romania and Portugal.

The corona virus pandemic has kept us apart, but at the end of this journey I realized that there is no pandemic or catastrophe that can separate us people forever. In parting, we all cried. The trip to Portugal was a beautiful experience and made me a better man.

GREGOR DÚRAS

Here are my opinions about this trip. On this trip, we were going into many museums and interesting places. My personal favorite was the Fabrica Centro museum which is a museum about physics, chemistry and robotics. Basically, there are a lot of different experiments which are interactable. During this trip, I also met new people, we had a lot of fun together, and I will always remember them and stay in touch with them. They were really kind to us, and we were kind to them.

Overall, on this trip I learned a lot about Portuguese culture, flown for the first time in an airplane and met new people, and most importantly, I enjoyed it.

