

Travel diary of my Estonian journey

First day :

After arriving to Nantes's Airport, we had to register our luggages. Then we went through a security check and we arrived at the gateroom. We took a shuttle bus and we went in the plane. My friend Mailys took the plane for the first time. We saw the sun rising between the clouds. It was wonderful. We were so excited to go to Estonia !



Amsterdam is a giant airport with different gates everywhere ! The walking time is written on the signs, it goes up to 20min of walking. Then we waited again, we played some games, we watched a movie, we talked and we ate. We were a bit tired but so thrilled to arrive

After we landed in Tallinn, our host families took us to their home. I was in a very nice family. My correspondent had a little sister and a little brother. They were all very kind to me. We played UNO, drank tea and we went to sleep.

Second Day :

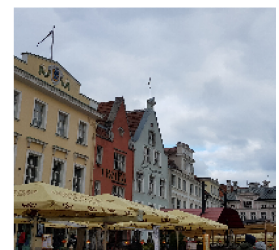
When I woke up, I saw snow everywhere ! The grass wasn't green anymore, it was all white. We went to the school with the bus and we made games to break the ice. After that, we watched the videos about culture in everyone's country. We also shared our flyers. My favourite flyer was the Croatian leaflet. The workshops in the afternoon were very good to learn about each other. We were a little bit shy at first. I worked in a group to find differences and similarities in history and governance of our countries. We made a colourful poster.

After the workshops, we went in Tallinn's old town for a treasure hunt but I was freezing, just like everyone else. We went in front of a cafe, a pharmacy, Tallinn's town hall (which looks like a church!). I think that Tallinn's streets are gorgeous with their little colourful buildings. In the evening, we went to a bowling place where we played pool and bowling. It was fun and I was with a friend of mine.



Third Day :

The morning, we visited the ENM (Estonian National Museum) in Tartu. We saw a lot of old traditional costumes. We were told that the colors blue white and black were forbidden during Soviet occupation and it was a symbol of resistance. The museum is very particular because the shape of the building looks like a plane take off but when you are inside, the further you go, the further in history you are and lower is the ceiling. It means that when you go to the entrance, you are at the



moment where history is made: current time. The ceiling is also at his highest point.



After this guided tour, we had a free time in Tartu. We decided to go to the town hall first. We saw a market and we bought souvenirs like honey, stones and some food. Then we went to Tartu's cathedral. It was amazing because we didn't know that it was in ruins. Nonetheless, we were amazed by its size. Then, we went to Tartu's botanical garden. It was so calm, that we stayed for 30 minutes. We took photos on a bridge, and in a tree above water



Fourth Day :

On Sunday we stayed with our host families. I played darts and UNO with Elizabeth and then we went to the TV-Tower. I met a friend of mine and her host. The view was breathtaking. From there, I was able to see Tallinn's old town, the harbor... I even went on the edges of the tower. But I needed to have a rope for safety. The sensation was incredible, my feet were hanging in the void. The cool wind was blowing in my hair and it felt so good ! After the TV Tower my family asked me if I wanted to go to a maritime museum. I said yes because I love the sea as much as I love boats : a lot. We rented an audio guide for an hour and it explained us how was the museum created and how the objects are classed. I went in an old submarine



The fifth day

We went to Northern Estonia where we walked in a natural and protected forest.

We could have seen lynx or bears but we didn't see them. The walk was nice. The trees were huge and so green. The sun was passing through the leaves. We talked and laughed a lot. After the walk we went to a villa-mansion called Vihula which was amazing. There was an eco-farm and a car museum. It was huge and there was so much trees...



Then we took to bus to go to tree-top climbing. It was ver fun ! We laughed so much ! I was too small to reach the rope. That's why I fell so many times. At the end of the day, we were a bit sad because we realized that it was one of our last days.

The sixth day



The last day was very sympathetic. We visited the school and we were so jealous because we don't have that in France. They have a gym which has a view on the pool. They even have a UV cabin and a massage room! They also have a kitchen room, a sewing room, a dance room and a robotics room



The afternoon was interesting because we made black bread, we learned traditional dances and we made some art. We played an Estonian instrument called « kannel ». The sound that it produced was wonderful. It sounded like a guitar but it wasn't. We also visited Jüri. We went to the top of the church's tower. In the evening we took a bus to go to a restaurant. But when we arrived, it looked like a viking camp. There was a fortress and the director gave us some swords to fight. We were embarrassed at first but then we really had fun! We were fighting with everyone and that was so funny! After the fight, we ate our meal and we went back to our host houses.



The seventh day

It was very hard to say goodbye to everyone. We promised each other that we will see us again one day. My host family took me to the airport and my group and I took the plane to Amsterdam. When we arrived at Amsterdam we were very stressed because our first plane was late and so were we. We ran as fast as we could in the airport. We were screaming « Sorry! We're late! ». Unfortunately, we missed the plane but hopefully we took the next. We waited at least 6 hours at the airport and we took our plane to Nantes. It was the end of one of my favourite school trips.

My opinion on this trip is very positive. I liked speaking English for a week. Furthermore, I learned a lot about Estonia but also about Bulgaria, Croatia and Germany. It was so nice to talk with different people and learn about them. This trip was a golden opportunity and I had the chance to be part of it. I also improved my English skills.

It is hard to evaluate in our modern world where borders are only lines on maps and where we never stop talking about globalization and trades without knowing this world. Thanks to Erasmus+ I know Europe better than what I used to. I feel more like a European citizen than a French citizen. That is the reason why I would like to thank every person that participated, because we had very good moments. I would also like to thank Erasmus+ for this wonderful trip. I learned so much about people, traditions, culture...



« Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit »-- Jawaharlal Nehru.