

1st day- Thursday, 6th May

I left my house at seven in the morning to go to Lisbon. I arrived in Lisbon at 8:00 to take the plane to Rome at 10:05, so I had to wait for two hours, but it was good because I used this time to meet my new friends from my school. The flight to Rome was good and I went to the cockpit. It was the first time and it was so cool! I saw a lot of buttons and everything was awesome, I arrived in Rome at 14:00. The next flight was to Bari at 16:05. I arrived in Bari at 17:00. Nicoló (my partner) was waiting for me in the airport with his father. They live in a nice town called Acquaviva delle Fonti. While we were waiting for the dinner we went for a walk around the town. After dinner I was so tired, I just went to the bed after a long day.

2nd day- Friday, 7th May

The experience began in this morning because in my house I have to wake up with the alarm clock and in his house the father woke us up every morning so this was a huge difference to me. The other difference was the fact we had to take a bus to school because I live in front of my school. In Italy every morning we had to take a bus to Gioia del Colle where the two high schools are. We visited the two high schools and after we went to a reception at the Town Hall and I met the mayor (Piero Longo). At 1p.m. I had lunch prepared by the families and after lunch we went to a distillery called "P. Cassano". We saw a lot of big rooms and a huge barrel- it is 100 years old and with a capacity for five thousand litres of wine. After we went to factory where they make olive oil but this was a little bit boring because I didn't understand everything. I went home at 18:00.

3rd day- Saturday, 8th May

We woke up at 6:30 to take the bus at 7:30 to go to school. There we saw a powerpoint made by students and we also saw a funny video with the differences between Italians and other Europeans. We took a bus to visit the archaeological site of "Monte Sannace", this was cool because we saw a lot of old house foundations and I saw an almond tree. This afternoon was free so the families had to decide what to do. My host family decided to go to Bari, I went shopping in the centre of the city, I saw a lot of good shops, I ate Italian ice cream, I met Nicolò's cousin. We had Italian Pizza for dinner in a famous restaurant in Bari. After dinner, Nicolò's sister and I went to see the fireworks from the celebrations of St. Nicolaus. We went back to Acquaviva at around midnight. I was so tired that I slept in the car.

4th day- Sunday, 9th May

The first thing I did on this day was to see the programme, and I thought 'this will be a long day' but I was excited. We went to Bari by bus with all the students and teachers. When we arrived in Bari we went to see a museum, after we went to a beautiful theatre called "Teatro Petruzzelli", where there was a big fire. That weekend was the festival of St. Nicolaus (the patron saint of Bari), so we went to the historical center and we saw the Basilica of St. Nicolaus. After the church everybody was so hungry we stopped to have lunch. After lunch we took the bus to Alberobello. In this town we saw the typical houses with the cone-shaped roofs, called trulli. In this town I bought a lot of things, I bought a miniature of the typical houses, pasta, chocolate and I ate ice cream. When we got back to Gioia, Nicolò's sister decided to go bowling. When we got there, we had dinner and played a lot of games. We got out of the bowling hall at 22:30 and their father was waiting for us outside. We went home and I just went to bed.

5th day- Monday, 9th May

We woke up at 6:30 to take the bus again at 7:30 to Gioia. We got out of the bus at school and went on foot to the mozzarella factory called "Capurso". This was the most disgusting part of the experience, because the factory had a strong smell of fresh cheese and I hate fresh cheese. However, I stayed there till the end and learned how mozzarella is made. After we saw the museum inside the Federician Castle of Gioia del Colle and we saw a room inside the castle where a woman cut her breasts off and committed suicide. After the scary room we had a walk around the historical centre of Gioia del Colle and we got back to school to have lunch. In this afternoon we could do whatever we wanted, play volleyball, basketball, computer games, football or just walk around the school. I just walked around the school with my friends. At 17:00 Nicolò's mother came to get us and took us to her grandparents' house. That was the biggest house I've ever seen in my life, they were talking about how the world is changing and they were talking about how the young people nowadays speaks English like their natural language. We got back to the house and I spent the rest of the night packing.

6th day- Tuesday, 11th May

I woke up at 8:00 and I was very sad because I didn't want to go home but I went to the teacher's hotel at 9:00 and after we went to Bari's airport. The flight to Rome was at 12:15, we arrived in Rome at 13:25 and we just had to wait 1 hour for the next flight to Lisbon. The flight was 30 minutes late and we arrived in Lisbon at 17:15. During the flight an air stewardess came to take us to the cockpit again. When we finally got to Lisbon I was tired. I travelled to Setúbal with Margarida on her mother's car.

The experience is over now but this was one of the best experiences of my life and I hope to do this again.

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