

Erasmus+ Trip to Pula

This article is about a trip to Pula, Croatia, which was possible thanks to the Erasmus+ program. We set off on Sunday, April 6th, and came back on Saturday, the 12th. We visited a school named Pula Vidikovac Primary School and stayed in a nearby hotel, Hotel Pula. We had a lot of fun programs during our time there so I'm going to talk about them now.

On the day we arrived, we unpacked our bags and got comfortable in our room. We got the only three-person room so there wasn't too much space, but still, it was just enough. After we finished unpacking, we were allowed to go explore the area nearby the hotel. It had a really big yard with a football field, a volleyball court, and a playground. In the back of the building, there was another abandoned one which we explored too. After some time, we got back and went to have dinner, then we sat down in the hall and discussed the week.

The next day we woke up at 7:30 and had breakfast at 8:00. There was really nice food in the hotel. At 9:00 we set off and walked to the school where we got a warm welcome from the students and the teachers. They gave us a really nice performance and also a second breakfast. After finishing eating, a few teachers and students showed us around the school. They have an enormous yard, a really nice cafeteria, and a sports field. The last stop was the sports hall. There they planned a school versus school contest. They made an obstacle course and the first team to get to 5 points was the winner. We won the competition and after that, we played a basketball match which we sadly lost. When we were done with PE, the teachers let us talk with the locals, so we were on our own when a few students came and asked if we wanted to join them playing volleyball outside. Of course, we said yes, so, we went out and played with them. We started chatting about random things and quickly became friends with them. We even exchanged our phone numbers. Shortly after that, the teachers came back, and we had to leave the people we met to have lunch. We had our lunch which was nice, they gave us a lot of food, so we didn't get hungry for a while. After lunch we left and headed to Rovinj, it was a really nice city. We had some ice cream, then we climbed some stairs and got to a beautiful church. We went inside and looked around, then we took some selfies and a group photo. After that, we were allowed to go looking around on our own. We bought some souvenirs and got back to the meeting point. Shortly after we got home, we had dinner and went up to our rooms. At 10:00 pm it was bedtime.

On Tuesday we woke up at 7:30 just like on Monday. We went down, had breakfast, and headed to the school where the students and the teachers were already waiting for us. They walked with us to the city centre where a kind tour guide was waiting for us, she showed us around the centre, and we saw 13 interesting sights. After that, the students came and they showed us the amphitheatre. While we were in the arena, we met some other really kind students and talked with them. After that, we headed back to the school and had lunch. When we finished lunch, we walked back to the centre and had half an hour of free time there, then we went to the docks and got on a boat to have a boat trip. The weather was extremely windy, but it was worth it, we saw 14 islands, it was amazing. When we stepped onto land again, we took a picture with the boat, then we had free time to go shopping and look around. After that, we went back to the hotel, had some time to relax there and then we had dinner and went to bed at 10:00 pm just like the day before.

On Wednesday we woke up earlier than the days before. At 7:30 we had our breakfast, then got to the school by bus. After some lessons, we set off again and headed to a national park, Kamenjak. Some students and teachers came with us. We also had a tour guide there. We talked about the importance of nature, and we walked in the forest. We learnt something new as well, it was how to find asparagus in the forest. We tried to eat one, but it wasn't that good raw. We learned that where we were, dinosaurs once lived, and we saw actual dinosaur footprints. We settled down on some benches and a playground and there our guide gave us some paper, and we could make postcards on our own. We asked students to sign

them and they did, so it was a great memory. We also got interviewed by some students. When we were done, we went to join the teachers at some tables to have lunch. After eating, we returned to the bus, and started to head back to the hotel. But we stopped at some park where we walked a bit and had ice cream, it was also close to the sea so we could go down there, it was really good. After that, we went back to the hotel and had some free time, we also went to the beach near the hotel. Then we got back, had dinner, and went to sleep as usual.

The next day we woke up at 7:00 am again, had breakfast and walked to the school. This day we attended some other classes. We started with ICT. The class topic was cyberbullying, it was interesting. After ICT we had a pottery class and we made our own little bowls out of clay, it was a good opportunity to talk with the locals too. After making our bowls, our next class was music, the children were very active there. After music we headed to the sports hall to attend a dance class, we learned how to dance cha-cha-cha, it was really funny. When we were done with classes, we had lunch, then went to the city centre again to go on a walk. After our time was up, we returned to the hotel and relaxed. We also had to get ready because the school hosted a party. We changed our clothes and headed to the school; some students were already there. The whole disco started with an impressive breakdance performance. After that, we were talking and dancing and of course eating too. We had a fun time there. When the party was over, we went to the front of the school and took a group picture with all the students there, then we said our goodbyes for that day. We walked back to the hotel, had some free time to relax, then had dinner and went to sleep.

On Friday we woke up early again. We had our breakfast then walked to the school. It was the last day we were there; time passed by quickly. That day we were talking the most, I think. We showed a presentation about our town and school and in return, they did that as well. We learned new things about their school again. After the presentations were done, we had a quiz, we had a really fun time doing it. After the quiz, we were chatting until lunch. When we had finished our lunch, we had to say our goodbyes. We had known each other for a short time, yet it was still hard to leave. I met really nice people there and formed many friendships. When we said our last goodbye, we returned to the hotel and had some free time there, then we headed to the beach near us. We swam in the sea even though it was cold. I really enjoyed it. We had one program left. We went to the Pula Aquarium, we saw many fishes and other sea animals, I really liked that place. When we were done there, we went to a cliff where we could see the sea. We were lucky because we saw dolphins too. After it had got dark, we returned to the hotel by bus. We had dinner then went up to our rooms to pack our things for the next day's departure. For that night the teachers planned us a little surprise too. It was a quiz night, it was really funny, we laughed a lot. When it ended, we went up to our rooms to get some sleep before our ride home.

The next day we did the final touches of packing our bags and the teachers came to check our rooms to make sure nothing of our stuff was left there. Then we went to the bus and started our ride home.

I really enjoyed every moment of the trip. It was one of the best experiences of my life and I'm really thankful that I could participate in it. It's a memory that I will never forget. I still miss my friends I made there but luckily, we can chat online, so we don't lose touch. I learned a lot during that week and again I'm really thankful that I could go.

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