

personal details

Voyage 2024 en Slovaquie

Par Elsa Queran

Du 16 au 30 juin 2024

Sunday, 16th June 2024

Day 1:

The airports of Paris and Brest are really different but fortunately, the teacher M. BUI is here to help us to get used to travel alone.

The trip seems very long because of all the different means of transports we are taking.

Finally, after a long "travel day," we are in Považská Bystrica and a part of my host family is here.

The dad, his name is František, and Ema are here to take me to my house for the two next weeks.

At the flat, I can meet the mom, Magdalena, and the brother, Matej.

They are all so kind and they take care of me so much!

Ema and her mother help me to unpack my suitcase and they also explain me how the next day will be; we will start school at 10 a.m. and finish at 14:30 p.m. and we will go to the shopping centre after.



THE MAIN CENTRE OF
POVAŽSKÁ BYSTRICA,

Monday, 17th June 2024

DAY 2

So, today is the first day at school! I feel a little bit stressed but I think that everything will be great.

We take the bus to go to school so I'm not broke from my usual routine in France, and Ema is really talkative and I feel really good with her.

When we arrive at school, Ema present me to her friends and then, she makes me a "school tour" before we go in the class.

Her classmates are really kind and they're helping me and Clement to understand the teachers.

Most of their classes are in English so it's easier for us to understand.

After the school, we are going back to the flat to eat something, put our "school stuff" and then we went to the small shopping centre to buy some Slovak typical food.

We buy the food and then we need to wait for Clement and Philip (Clement's penpal) and some other friends of them.

When everyone is here, that's the moment to taste, I am really excited. A lot of things are wired but it's not so bad and it's really funny.

After this funny afternoon, we go home and we all eat together, with the Ema's family, a typical Slovak meal, named "halushky". It's very good and it's also a good time to get to know the family and I really feel good with them and they're so kind.

Everyone finished the meal and we go to bed because the school start earlier tomorrow than today.

Tuesday, 18th June 2024

Day 3:



★ THE EMA'S FRIENDS ★

Today is quite special because Ema is in a lot of pain so I have to stay at school without her but one of her friends is taking me from the Ema's home to school and she tells me that I'm gonna spend the afternoon (after school) with Clement and Philip.

The school is finished so we leave with Philip and her mother. In the car, they're telling us where we are going: the Považska Bystřica Castle, which is just a ruin but the view is really great from there.

After a 10 minutes road, we need to walk to the castle because it is in a mountain so we can't get there by car.



~ THE CASTLE ~

It's so beautiful!

When we finished our small visit of the castle, Philip's mom is taking us to "souvenir shops" and having an ice cream, because it's really hot.

Once everyone finishes everything that he wants to do, we go to the village where Philip lives, and his dad is the mayor of the city, so we can visit the town hall.

During the visit, his dad ^{give} take us a lot of things, some goodies, from Domaniža, there are some t-shirts, postal cards, USB key, stickers, books, ...

At the end, he's gifting us everything. It's so cute and it makes us feel like "home".



group of traditional Slovak music from Domaniža



traditional eggs children are painting it for easter (on real eggs)

THE PRESENTS



the church

DOMANIŽA



elementary school since 1954

Domaniža's badge



the town



After this, we are going back home and he's explaining me what we will do tomorrow, after school.

Wednesday, 19th June 2024

Day 4:

Today at school, it's a normal day; we start at 8 a.m. and we finish at 2 p.m.

The teachers are helping us to understand and they also want the students to do the same.

After that "school part" of the day, Magdalena is taking Ema, Clement and I to a small city called Žilina, to visit it and to buy some swimsuit for the activity tonight; a spa! It's in a big relaxation centre: "Aphrodita". There are some swimming pools, places to do massages, hotel...

So when we got our swimsuits, we're joining Philip to go to Aphrodita.

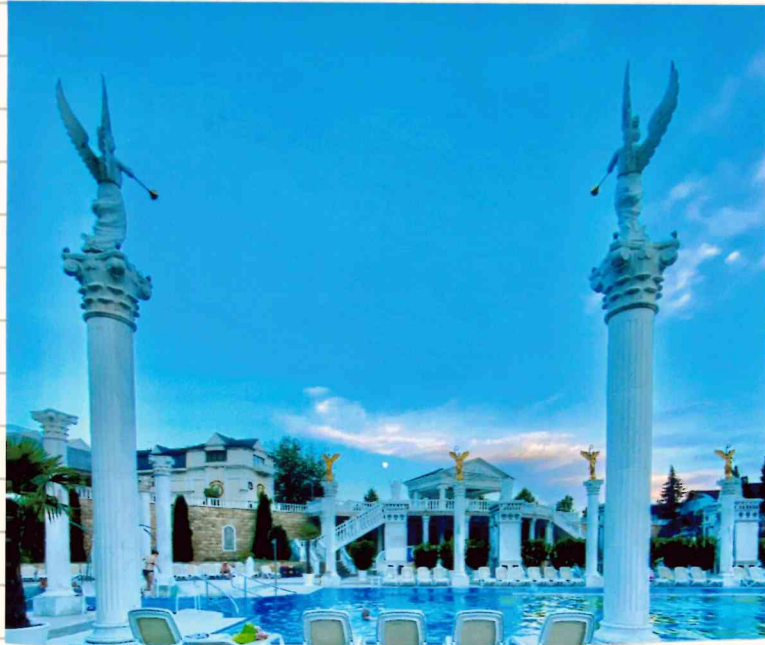
It's a so beautiful place, the pools are really big and, it's almost 8 p.m. so there are not that much people.



THE CENTRE OF ŽILINA

At 10 p.m., we are going back home because we have to pack for the three next days for the school trip to Prague.

When everything is packed, we are going to bed, quite late, but that day was really great and Ema and I are also really excited for the next days. At that moment, I start to realize how lucky I am to be there and to spend moments like that.



~APHRODITA~

Thursday, 20th June 2024

Day 5

Today is the day of departure for Prague. Everyone is excited.

We have to wake up at 6 a.m. because the meeting is at 6:55 at school. Frantisek is taking us to school before his work.

After the checking of the students, we are leaving by bus. It's a 6 hours drive normally but we have to do some breaks for the bus driver, so it takes us 7 hours to finally be in the city.

First, we are all so hungry so we are going to eat in a typical Czech restaurant. I didn't really liked it because it's very special food but the deserts were pretty good.

Around the restaurant, we find a park to visit after the meal.



THE PRAGUE'S CITY HALL

In the afternoon, we visited the city with a slovak guide and Ema was translating to us what he was saying.

The city is really beautiful and it's great to have a guide because it helps us to understand the story of the city and to, sometimes, understand things in slovak. I can note that I understand the subject of the conversation no matter who is talking, and I also start to understand some basic words.

We are sleeping in a hotel all at the same floor and we are 3 or 4 in each room. I am with Ema, Sona and Anetka.

After our showers, we go in the boys room to be with all our friends to talk and laugh to 2 a.m.

We are tired but that's worthwhile because we had so much fun and now we know each others better.

DICTIONARY IN SLOVAK

(only with the words I know)

- YES : Ano
- NO : Nie
- GOOD DAY : DOBRÉ RANO
- HELLO : Ahoj
- GOOD NIGHT : Dobrú noc
- HOW ARE YOU : Ako sa máš
- ONE : A
- TWO : Dve
- THREE : tri
- FRENCH : Francúzsky
- SLOVAK : Slovenský
- BYE : Ahoj
- GOOD BYE : Dovidenia

Friday, 21st June 2024

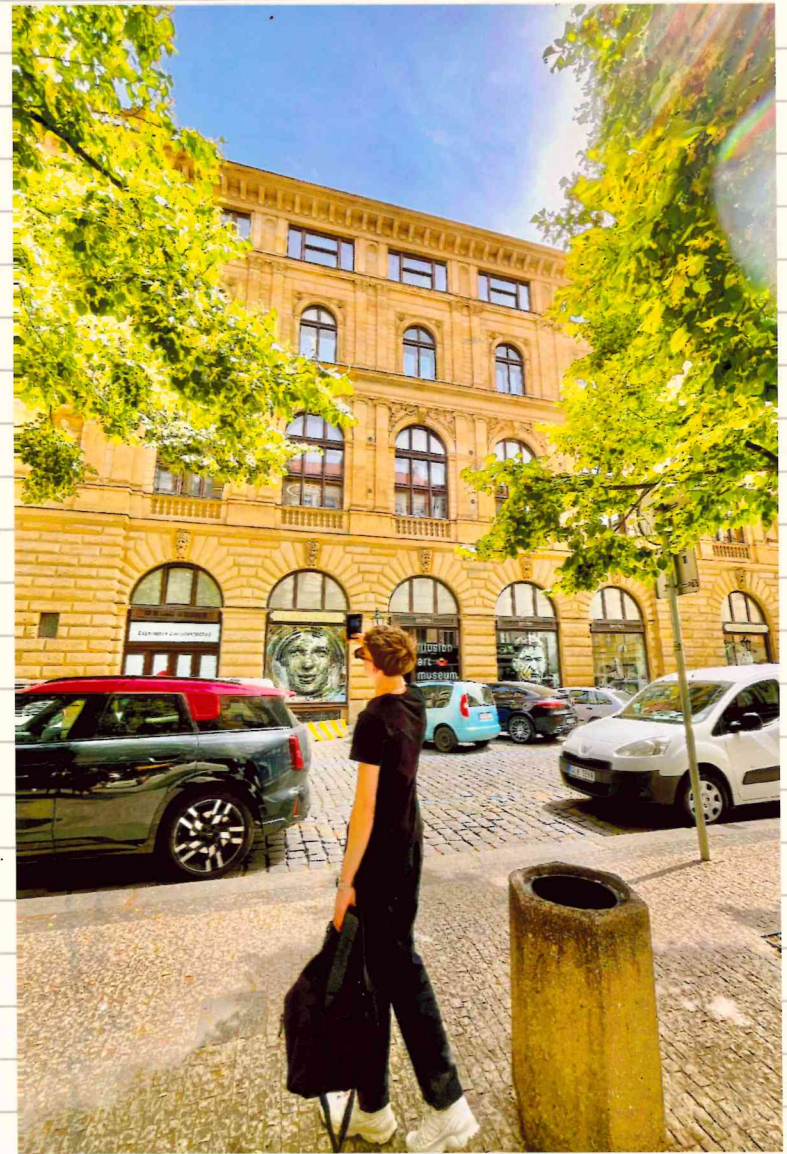
Day 6

Today, we are free in the city almost all day. We can visit some museums, do some shopping, or just visit the city. We have to meet all the group every two hours to see if nobody is lost.

For the two first hours, we choose to have a walk around the meeting place.

Then, after the meal, we want to do some shopping in the mall and then in the gift shops.

The last thing that we want to visit is the museum of the illusion. It's really beautiful and funny to do with our friends.



FRONTAGE OF THE MUSEUM
OF THE ILLUSION

After that long and funny day,
we go to eat in a fast food and we are
going back to the hotel.

One at the hotel, we are going in our
room to take a rest and have a shower
and then, like the day before, we are
all going in the same room.

Tomorrow is going to be a long day.

Saturday, 22nd June 2024

Day 7

On this Saturday morning, we are
visiting a monastery outside from Prague.
This monastery have some really big gardens
and also the basement is full of old
ruins of the older church.

One of the priests of this monastery
is guiding us into the buildings and
on the basement.

Then, we assist to a mass in the
principal church and the priest is
explaining to everyone the history of
the church, the monastery and their
ceiling because those are painted
with a lot of colors and catholic
symbols.



CEILING OF THE CHURCH

When this visit is finished, we went to a small castle to eat and then we leave for Považska Bystrica.

The travel is quite long but, as we used to do, we are taking breaks every 2 hours.

After 4 hours on the road, we are back in town at 10 p.m. Everyone is tired and we are going back to the flat.

We don't have to eat because we did on the road so, after that we said hello to everyone, we are going to sleep.

Sunday, 23rd June 2014

Day 8

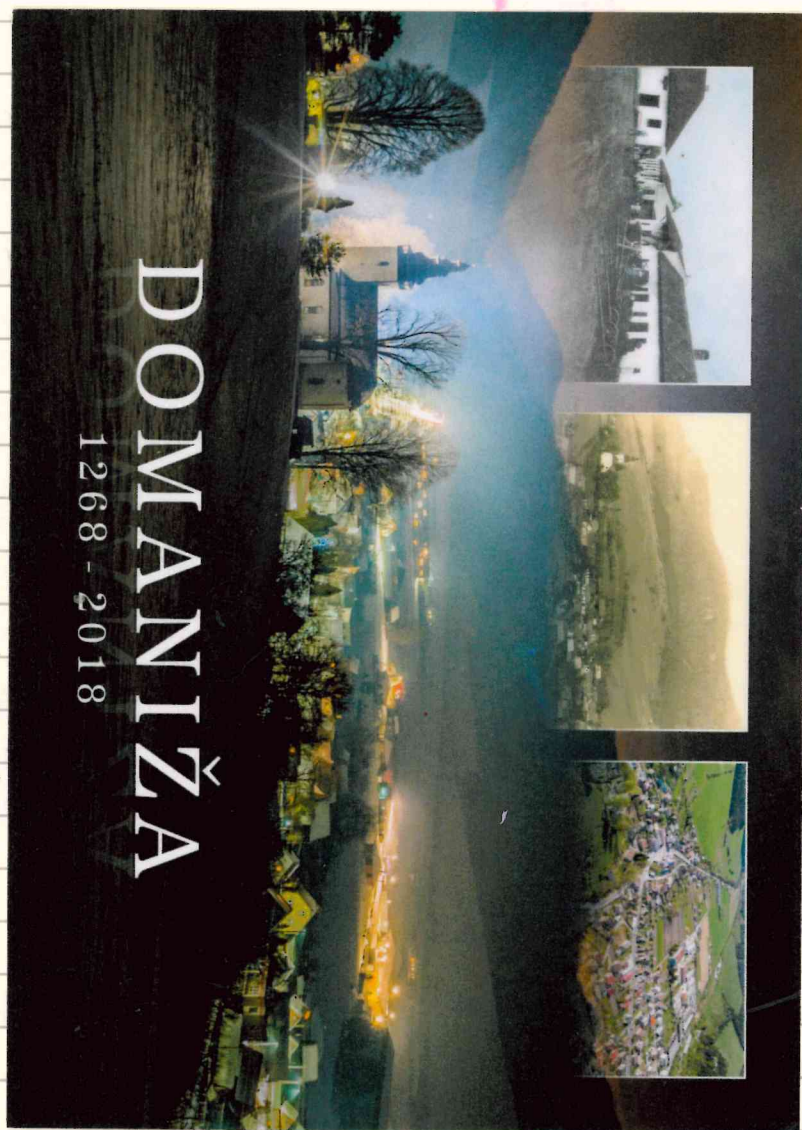
After a long night of sleep, Magdalena is waking Ema and I up to go join their friends on a lake, near by Domaníža.

The František friends are Slovaks but they also talk French because they lived in France for 5 years, so I can easily talk in French with them.

We spend all the day around this lake, playing volleyball, talking, jumping into water... and then it's time to get back home.

It's quite late and everyone is tired so it's time to go to bed.

CARD FROM THE LAKE



Monday, 24th June 2024

Day 9

We have a lot of things to do today so it's going to be a long day.

First, with the school, we are going to spend the morning to play paintball with all the class.

We did two teams, one boy team and one girl team (it's the worst idea in that type of game)

Once the director finished the explanation of the "safety rules", we are going to visit the field and take our marks there.

We play 6 times, and we are losing 4-2 against the boys. I really had fun there and we are all in a lot of pain and with bruises.



OUR PAINTBALL TEAM.

When the paintball is finished, we are taking the train to go back to Považska Bystrica.

We don't have any classes today so, at 12, Ema and myself are getting back to the flat because we have to pack for the two days hiking of this afternoon and tomorrow. We have to take less things because our bag will be in our back during all the hiking.

At 4 p.m., Magdalena is coming back from work and we left at 4:30 pm.

The mountain is named "Frysý" and it's between the Slovakia and Poland, so we have to ride for 1h30.

When the car is parked, we have to walk for more than two hours to be in the cottage, just next to a lake.



VIEW FROM THE
COTTAGE

In the cottage, we are getting a room with two colleagues of Magdalena.

We eat something small for tonight and we go to bed early because of our long day tomorrow.

Tuesday, 25th June 2024

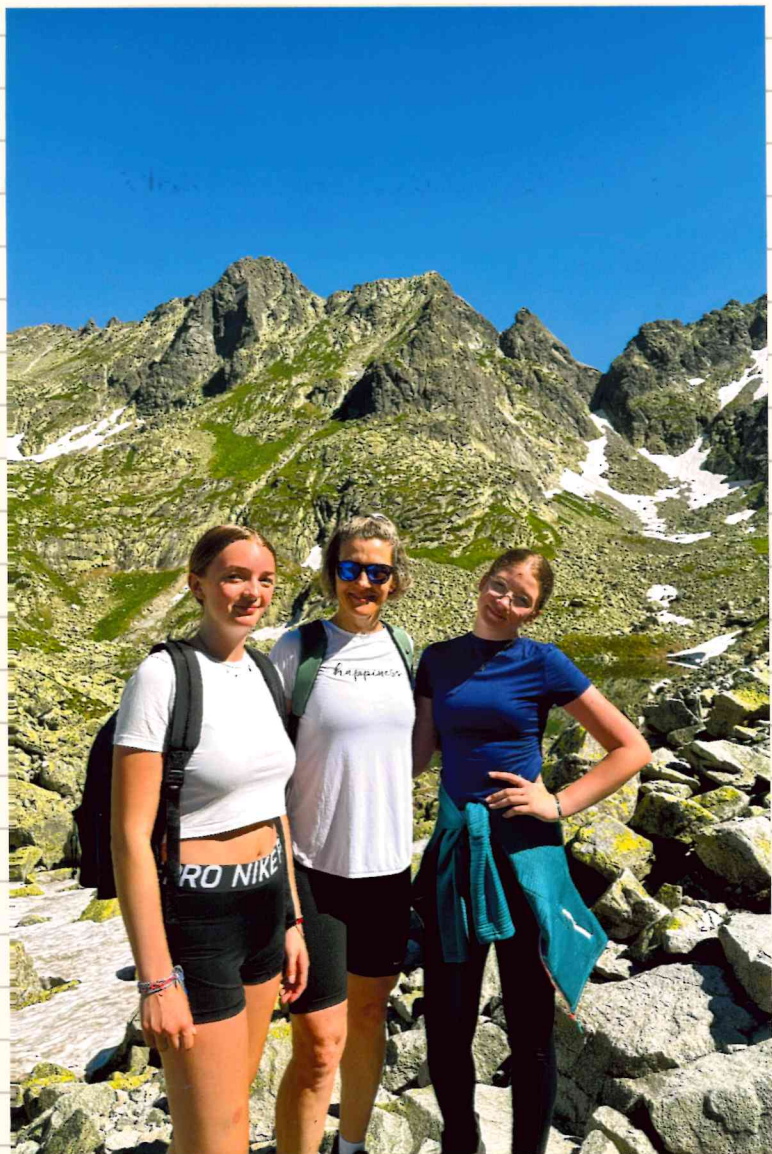
Day 10

We wake up at 7 a.m. and we leave 1 hour later for a 25 km hiking to go up to the mountain.

Ema and I are the youngest girls of the group so we are getting tired earlier than everyone else but Magdalena stays with us to eat, drink or just have a break.

For the lunch, there is a cottage close to the top and we are eating a big meal and we also have to resupply the bottles of water because it's 30 degrees outside, so we have to drink very much.

2 km later, we are finally on the top, after a walk on steep tracks.



MAGDALENA, EMA AND ME

There is a lot of snow in, spite of the temperature up there.

After 30 minutes at the top, we decide to walk down the mountain. It takes us 4 hours to get back to the cottage where we slept, and then 2 more hours to get back to the car.

My feets hurt but I'm not really tired. We eat in a fast food to get reconfort for our efforts and then we take the road to go back to the flat.

Wednesday, 26th June 2024

Day 11

Today is a quite calm day, we are going to school in the morning, but, given it's the last week, we are playing games all morning long.

On the afternoon, Ema, Claudia, Sona and I are cooking and baking some specialities from our countries.

First, they are making me "halušky", it's a really weird rice and nobody really knows what is inside.

This meal is so good and I'm sad that we can't find it in France



HALUŠKY

And next, we are baking some crêpes, a speciality from France, and much more from Brittany.

They really liked it and we had a really good time all together.

When the meal is finished, we watch a movie, in english, to take a rest and then we are going to have a walk around the flat.

Thursday, 27th June 2024

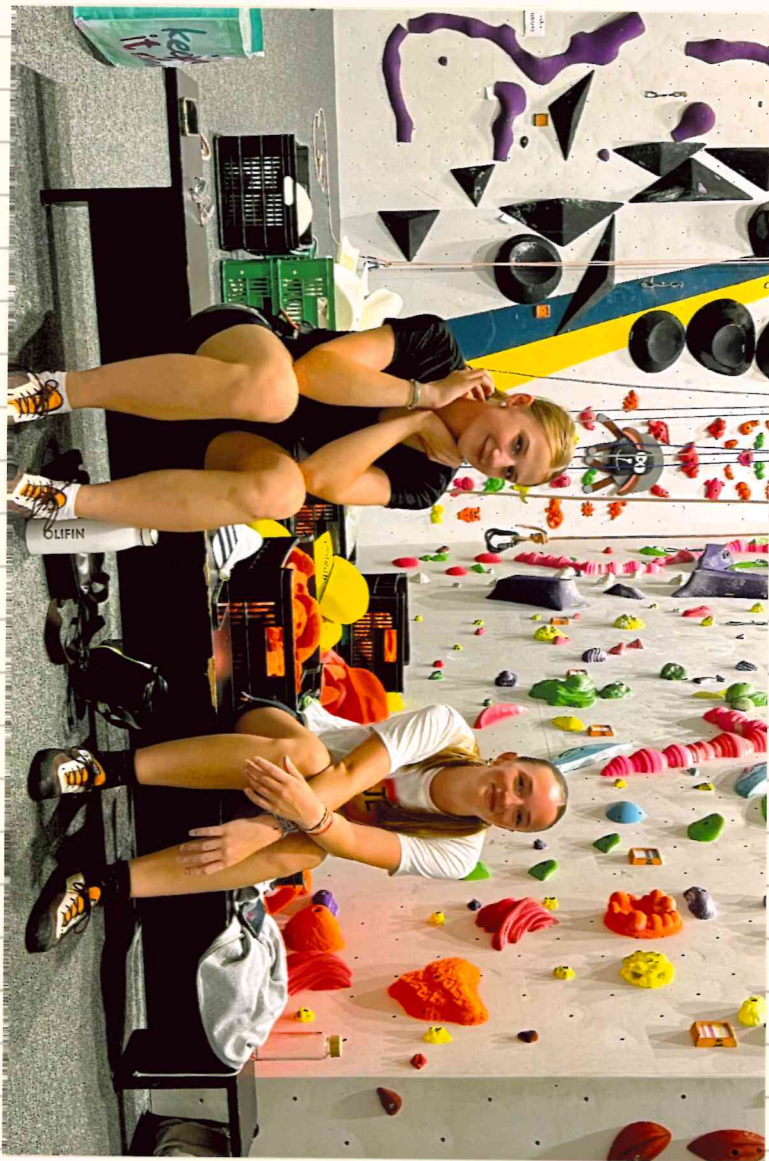
Day 12

Today, we didn't had school in the morning so we spent all morning, because only Ema and me were home.

For the lunch, we just ate pastas at home while watching a movie before we leave to go to the climbing room.

Claudia is joining us on the way to the climbing wall and she is gonna spend the afternoon with us.

The wall is open just for us this afternoon so we can do whatever we want, with the coach of course.



CLAUDIA AND ME

We spent the entire afternoon there and it was really entertain.

When the "sport session" is finished, we went to a pizzeria with all the family and Claudia.

And then, we went back to the flat and we prepared our outfits for the next day, because it's the last day of school, and the tradition is to be dressed as the best as you can, for the "closing year ceremony".

Friday, 28th June 2024

Day 13

Here we are, the last day at school! We don't have any classes today, we only have a ceremony to celebrate the end of the year.

During this ceremony, some students are thanked by the school and they go on the scene.

Then, the headmaster did a speech to say everything important that happened this year, and, after the hymn of the school, we are going back home.

We went to the supermarket to buy the food for lunch and then we get back to the flat to make our food and get ready for tonight because we are going to a concert!

We spent almost all the afternoon to get ready and to talk about everything.

I really feel good with Ema, she is so funny and very talkative so it's easy to spend an entire afternoon to talk to her.

At 5 p.m., we take the bus to join Ema's friends to go to the concert.

That's not really big but there are food trucks, two scenes and, at 10 p.m., the most famous singer from Slovakia is coming.

The atmosphere is really good, most of the people are 16 or 17 years old so it's really friendly.

We had the opportunity to take a photo with the singer!



So this is our photo with him.
He is really funny and he talked
french for me!

At 2 a.m., we are starting to get
tired so we went back to the
flat with Sona's sister (on the
photo with the red sweatshirt).

Saturday, 29th June 2024

Day 14

We didn't sleep that much last night because we have to wake up at 8 am. to go to Bratislava.

Before the departure, I have to pack everything in my suitcase and then we have to wait for Sona and Clement to join us.

At 9 a.m., it's time to say goodbye to Frantisek and Matej, because they are not coming with us.

I am really sad to let a part of the family and I think it's gonna be worse tomorrow...

On the road, we were listening to music and sleeping all the trip.

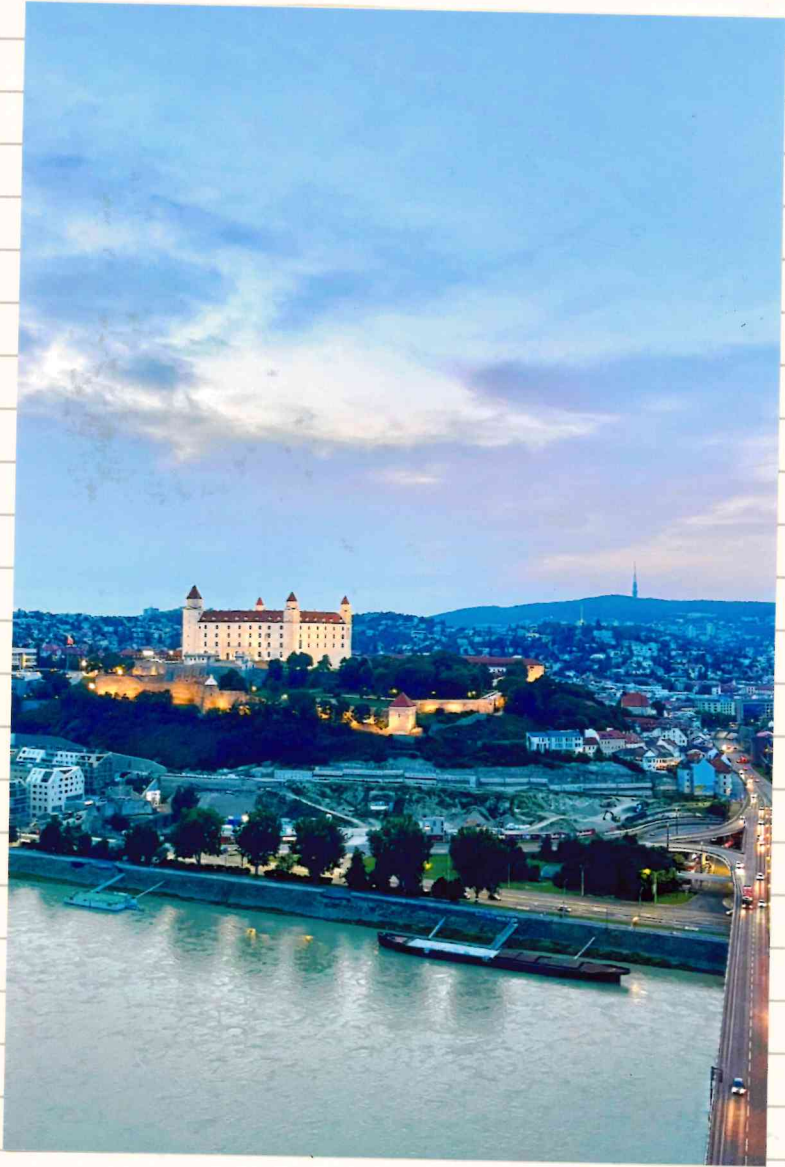
After 2 hours on the way to Bratislava, we arrived at Magdalena's sister flat, where we're gonna sleep tonight.

It's 38 degrees outside so we decided to visit a museum of modern art.

The sculptures are really funny and we had so much fun there.

When the visit is finished, we went to an Italian restaurant to eat (it was 4 p.m. but, why not?) and then we had a walk to visit the city and we stopped in a fountain to refresh ourselves.

Just before the sunset, we choose to go in a tower called "UFO" to see the sunset from here. The view is crazy and the city is really beautiful.



THE VIEW

After that getaway, we bought some sweets to nibble because we ate a big meal at 4 p.m.

When we are back at the flat, we spent a huge part of the evening to talk, and enjoy our last night all together.

Sunday, 30th June 2024

Day 15

Today, we have to leave for France...

A part of me is excited to see my family again, but the other part of me don't want to leave. I felt so good with Ema and her family...

We finished to pack our suitcases and then, it's time to take the bus to Vienna.

It is time to say goodbye to Ema, Magdalena and Sona. I am really sad, it's hard to say goodbye to someone who you spend the two last weeks, with 24/4, and we are not sure to see each other again...

After our last hugs, it's really time to go, the bus is here...

We get in the bus and we promise that we won't lose touch with each other.

That moment is really sad but, neither Clement nor I are crying, because we don't really realize that it's the end.

After 50 minutes of bus, we are at the airport of Vienna. We have to wait there for about 2 hours, so we start to go to the right terminal and eat our lunch.

We check in and we look for our gate for the boarding and then we just walk in the airport while waiting for the right time.

1 hour later, we are finally in the plane and we can have a rest, because we have a long night behind us, even if we don't know it yet...

The plane is supposed to land in Paris at 8 p.m. and the boarding for the next plane is at 8:20 p.m., so we can't dawdle if we want to get in.

But this was without taking into account that the plane is going to be 30 minutes late, in other words, we missed the plane.

We are two 15 years old guys, in Paris, and nothing to get home.

First, we ask someone for the air France "helping board", and then we get there.

One lady is taking us in charge and she reassures me.

She says that we have to take another plane tomorrow, at 9 a.m.

And also that we are going to sleep in the hotel and they will pay our food.

We are really tired and we only want to sleep, but that's far in the program. They gave us 15€ each to eat our meal, and then we go to the air France's offices, to eat and take a rest while waiting for the person that is going to come with us to the hotel.

Midnight, someone is taking us to our hotel and she gave's us a toiletry bag for tonight, with a pyjama.

At 2 a.m. I am finally in my bedroom and I can sleep, for three hours...

Monday, 1st July 2024

Day 16 - Bonus Day

It's 5 am. and someone knock on my door. The girl who we were with yesterday is telling me that I have to be ready in 30 minutes, for the breakfast.

So, 30 minutes later, still asleep, we are going to the breakfast.

After the breakfast, we did the exact same thing as yesterday and we get to the same room, to wait for our flight.

3 hours later, we are going to our boarding gate and in the plane.

Finally, after 24 hours of travel, we are in Brest, and I've never felt that tired!



THANK S

First, I want to thank the Erasmus program to gave me the opportunity to live that experience.

I also wanted to thank M. Desjardins, Mrs Le Roy for the accompanying during all this trip, even if they stayed in France, they were here to help us every time.

And finally, I want to say thank you to M. Bui, because he came to Slovakia with us and he was helpful for the travel.

I am really glad that I could live that experience!

A big thank you to all the people who participate to the organisation of this trip. This experience has been very enriching for me, both from a personal and academic point of view.