

1-4-2017

Dear Diary,

Today we just have arrived at Greece from Malta. The flight was 2 hours long. When we arrived at the Stanley hotel we went into our rooms to put our luggage's there so we then we went to have dinner. It took us half an hour to walk from the hotel to the restaurant. This restaurant served local cuisine like souvlaki with pita, which I can assert, is positively mouthwatering. The part of Athens we were staying was full of graffiti and abandoned offices, hotels and houses.



2-4-2017

Dear Diary,

We woke up quite early, and checked out of the hotel. Then we went to visit the ancient Athenian Acropolis. I was awestruck as we toured around the ancient ruins. We were accompanied by a local guide who kept coming up with interesting facts about the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Mesmerized by the ancient grandeur, I took as many photos as I could so as to capture every moment of the tour.



After the tour of the ancient ruins, we went to visit to the museum of the Acropolis and the National Archeological Museum. Amongst the countless

amount of statues that were displayed there, I was especially impressed with an enormous marble statue representing Zeus. This eight foot high statue, once formed part of the upper part of façade of the Parthenon. I can't help but wonder how the ancient people managed to carve such intricate detail, with their rather rudimentary tools.

After the exciting morning tour, we boarded the bus, and braced ourselves for the three hour journey from Athens to Patras, our final destination. Malta is quite tiny and we are not used to spending so much time travelling. As my fellow companions slept, I observed the breathtaking scenery, which was flashing past us. The lush green mountains, carpeted with ominous trees, gave way to sandy beaches and the clear blue sea.



We arrived at Patras' School feeling slightly stiff and disoriented. After a very cheerful reception we were invited, together with the children from the other schools from the various European countries who were participating in the programme, to watch some folk dancers dance to a captivating tune. After a hearty meal, we were all lead to a hall, where we attended a meeting.



After such a day, I felt quite elated and exceptionally tired. I was glad when we arrived at the hotel and I was allowed to take the load of my feet.

3-4-2017

Dear Diary,

Today I woke up with a face splitting grin. The long wait was finally over, and I was to live one of the most exciting ventures of this trip. At the school in Patras, we were divided into groups of five. Each group was to build a robot, which could operate to complete a particular task. We worked at it all day long, taking a break at around noon, so as to have lunch.

After we finished our challenging project we went for a walk around the city. Unfortunately, rain curtailed our trip and we had to take shelter in a cozy coffee shop. When the rain stopped we made our way to a pizzeria, which is claimed to serve the best pizza in all of Patras. The Capriciosa, which I ordered was absolutely delicious. Needless to say I had my fill of this heavenly pizza, and went shopping with lifted spirits and a full stomach.

4-4-2017

Dear Diary,

This morning we visited the 'Rio–Antirrio Bridge', which is officially known as the 'Charilaos Trikoupis Bridge', is one of the world's longest multi-span cable-stayed bridges and longest of the fully suspended type. It crosses the Gulf of Corinth near Patras, linking the town of Rio on the Peloponnese peninsula to Antirrio on mainland Greece by road.

There we watched a video on how this enormous bridge was built back in 1998, by a French Greek consortium. The total cost of the bridge was about €630 million, funded by Greek state funds, the consortium and loans by the European Investment Bank. It was finished ahead of its original schedule, which had foreseen completion between September and November 2004, and within budget. Being interested in construction and engineering, I was exceptionally fascinated by this colossal construction.

Once we were back at the school in Patras, after another hearty meal at the school canteen, we spent a couple of hours completing the robot and programming it. After passing a day indoors, it was quite refreshing when we went to the beach for a breath of fresh air.

5-4-2017

Dear Diary,

Today we went to visit the Olympic Academy, which encompassed a museum which displayed a lot of memorabilia from the Olympic Games which were held in Athens, back in 2004. Then we went to visit the ruins of ancient Olympia, which is sadly past its hay-day. The site homes various ancient artifacts, including; parts of Greek statues, pedestals, ruins of buildings and pieces of pottery. It also has a small arena. We ended the day with a friendly card game.



6-4-2017

Dear Diary,

It was another long day of travelling. We visited a science museum, which reminded me a lot of 'Esplora', back home. There we had to present the robots that we have built. When we were there, there were a lot of experiments that we could try. When we saw or tried a lot of the experiments we had to be divided into groups and there we were given one of these experiment and we had to test it and explain it to the students and teachers that were from different countries.

When we went back to the hotel and then we went shopping for clothes, souvenirs, etc.... Then we went back to the hotel and there we spent another and then we went for dinner and it was the last night we spent with the British, the Polish and the Norwegian.



7-4-2017

Dear Diary,

Every journey must come to an end. Sadly today is the last day of our adventure here in Greece. Our day commenced with a series of train and bus rides, which were to take us to a mysterious monastery situated on an eerie mountain. On the way we stopped to explore a large cave, which I was particularly intrigued by. To think that nature created such grandeur!



Finally we arrived at the monastery, our target destination. The lonesome imposing structure was quite humongous. The building was quite archaic, and housed a museum, in which some of its treasures are displayed.



On the trip back to the hotel, I tried to take in as much of the surroundings as possible. This was de facto our last day, and I want to commit every experience to memory. However I feel strangely elate, as I put pen to paper tonight. I feel extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to travel to Greece with my fallow companions. I have learnt a lot about history and culture. I have rekindled old friendships and made some new ones. It was an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

8-4-2017

Dear Diary,

Today we have spent a whole day travelling I felt really sad because I couldn't believe that this special week that I have spent with all this different people has already pass by and I want to thank everyone that made this week really exciting, interesting and not boring.

