

This April, I had the opportunity to visit the beautiful country of Greece by taking part in an Erasmus activity during our school hours. This was my first time to travel without my family, although I still got to travel with my twin sister.

We left Malta on 1st April and we stayed in Athens for a night. I was a bit disgusted by the vandalized atmosphere... There was graffiti on some cars, too! We had a great night out and ate at a traditional fast food restaurant. Our hotel was amazing and I had an opportunity to sleep with my friends. The day after, we got to meet students from different countries, which was really exciting. We visited the Acropolis, which is an ancient fortification which is located on an extremely rocky outcrop above the city of Athens. The breath-taking view from up there was amazing! We had a tour around the Acropolis and I was astonished by the perfect architecture. We visited the Acropolis museum, which had beautiful statues of Greek gods.

Later on we set on a 3 hour trip to Patras, where we were going to stay for 6 days. When we arrived at the school, we were welcomed very warmly. The students held the flags of the 6 different countries which were participating in the project. The school staff showed us a Greek dance which looked quite tricky and they prepared delicious suvlaki (traditional meat kebab) in pita bread. We stayed at a beautiful hotel called Astir Patras hotel. The next morning, we went to the local elementary school and we had a busy day building a robot from scratch. I made some Greek friends. We had to build a robot from small Lego pieces which took us a whole day to build. Our aim was to build a robot to complete a tricky Star Trek mission that we were going to present in front of the local people and the mayor. I found this difficult task quite hard. After school we were going for a long walk around the coast but unfortunately, it was raining cats and dogs so we stayed at a cafe. That night we ate at one of the best pizzerias in Patras. The pizzeria served large pizza which I couldn't get enough of! Later that evening we went shopping.

On 4th April we visited the Rio-Antirrio Bridge which is the world's longest multi-span cable-stayed bridge. It crosses the Gulf of Corinth near Patras, linking the town of Rio

on the Peloponnese to Antirrio on mainland Greece. We went on a nearby highway which was still being built and we asked questions to one of the engineers, which helped to construct the road. In the afternoon, we went back to school to complete the robot and the Star Trek mission. We played basketball with the Greek, Polish and Norwegian students and we really had fun! After, our bus arrived and took us to a beautiful rocky beach. Some students swam but we decided to relax and sit down. There was a spectacular view at sunset and later that evening we returned back to our hotel.

In the morning, we took a bus to Olympia, a sanctuary of ancient Greece. It is mostly known for being the site of the Olympic Games in classic times. We had a tour around the stadium and we went to the Olympic museum. There were beautiful blossom trees and nature was at its best! I really liked the museum because it was very interesting. We had a short break and left to Patras to go to another popular sandy beach. When we arrived at the beach, we decided to have supper. Strangely enough, our table suddenly shook! It was a strong earthquake but fortunately nothing was damaged. The waiter told us that it was quite normal and it happened a lot. We had dinner and went back to the hotel.

On Thursday, we had to present our fantastic robot at a science centre. Before our presentation, we were divided into groups to explain a science problem that was given to us. After that, we had our presentation which went quite wrong because our robot didn't function well, but our aim was to have fun and I felt quite proud that I had learnt to build a robot in 2 days only! This was our last day with the foreign students, so we said our farewell and left. When we arrived in Patras, we had some free time and we wandered around the city. It was such a busy but beautiful day!

The day after, we went to a small village in the mountains, called Kalavrita. We left Patras by taking a strange small train and we visited the Cave of the Lakes. It was quite dark and humid. There were many local traditional shops. We visited the memorial site where there are graves of those who were killed by the Nazis. After, we visited a monastery which was on top of the mountains. I was amazed by

the beautiful architecture! We strolled around the beautiful village and returned to Patras. We went to the city to shop. At night, there was a protest near the hotel and I was quite worried that there would be a terror attack, but nothing happened. We ate at the same pizzeria and walked a bit around the city. It was the best day of the holiday!

Saturday was the last day in Patras. We had a long trip to the airport but it was not boring because we observed many beautiful sites. I was happy that we were going home! I had a great experience with my friends and teachers and I learnt a lot! I made new friends which I will keep in touch with. Thank you, Erasmus! I will surely remember this exciting experience!

