Beecome Sicily

Sunday 13 January 2019:

Full of joy and eager to see what would await us in Sicily, we met on Sunday 13 January at about midday at Vienna Airport. After checking in we waited for the boarding of our flight to Zurich. But as we soon realized, this flight was delayed by 30 minutes! That left us only 10 minutes to change planes in Zurich!

We were therefore rebooked for another flight that would stop in Rome and continue three hours later. In order to pass the time, we played Stadt-Land-Fluss until, after several hours, the boarding for our flight finally began. Finally we arrived in Italy, we had to taste our first Italian ice cream and so this waiting time passed very fast! In the bus to the plane we met the Spanish group of the Beecome project. Then we flew from Rome to Catania and arrived there at 22:30, but our suitcases did not!

So we started our two-hour trip to Patti by bus without our suitcases. At half past two we arrived in Patti, where we met our host families, with whom we then drove home. Our host families were kind enough to provide us with a small meal and the essentials for our personal hygiene. After a long day we went to bed.

Monday 14 January 2019:

At 8:30 a.m. we went to school with our host family children, "ice-breaking activities" (basketball, volleyball and football) were part of the program to get to know each other better! First contacts were made and we won against France in volleyball! Then we drove to Montagnareale, where we visited the town hall and had lunch at the local school. Photos with all group members were taken! Unfortunately we were accompanied by pouring rain the whole day, our luggage did not arrive that day! In the evening we were fed with delicious food by our host family!

Tuesday 15 January 2019:

On Tuesday we were taken to school shortly before eight, where we hoped to learn something about our suitcases. Unfortunately there was no good news yet. Afterwards we heard various lectures, pupils of the guest school sang the national anthems of all participating countries. Then came the lectures we had prepared. Afterwards we went shopping with Professor Bauer. When we had bought everything, we got the call that our suitcases were there.

At noon our host parents picked us up and we drove home for lunch. In the afternoon we drove to Tindari, where we visited a Roman temple and a Greek theatre. After we finally got our suitcases in the late afternoon (all except Thomas Gangl), we went together with our host families to a pizzeria where we enjoyed the pizza Margherita.

Wednesday 16. January 2019:

First we took the bus to Galati Mamertino. During this trip we stopped briefly at beehives. The owner, a local beekeeper in Galati Mamertino, accompanied us and told us a lot about his work with the bees. At this location there were 40 hives. Arriving in Galati Mamertino, we were welcomed in the town hall and learned interesting facts about the town. During our city visit we visited 2 museums and walked on a viewing platform. At the top, one could look up to the sea on one side and marvel at a snow-covered mountain range on the other side. After our city tour we went to the previously mentioned beekeeper, who showed us his products and explained how he treats his bees. After dinner we drove to Nebroni Park and Mangalwati Forest where we could see the smoke of Etna. The way through the forest was very muddy, frozen snow was at the roadside and led us to other beehives. Then the way back began. In the evening Thomas Gangl finally got his suitcase! Back with the host families, we learned that a cultural festival would take place in the school. There we had traditional food and every country had to sing or dance a song. There was a lot of dancing! Around 23 o'clock the party was over and we went back to our host families.

Thursday 17 January 2019:

On Thursday morning we met at Piazza Murales to go to Castelbuono. There we were guided through the castle and explored the village. Here we found a shop where we stocked up with traditional Sicilian sweets like panettone. For lunch we stopped at a country estate (Agriturismo Bergi), where we visited the beautiful orange garden with beehives. We continued to Cefalù, a coastal town. There we took photos and bought an ice cream. We spent the end of the day with our host families, who gave us a lot of pleasure.

Friday, January 18, 2019:

On Friday we had to get up very early because our bus left for the airport at six o'clock. The farewell from our host families was partly very emotional, because we really had a great time. By bus we drove about two hours to Catania, there arrived we also said goodbye to the groups from the other countries and checked in. Afterwards we flew to Rome after some waiting time, the start in Catania was very spectacular, because you could see Etna directly from the plane. Landed in Rome, we drove into the city. By taxi we went to the Circus Maximus and from there we visited Rome by Hop-on Hop-off bus and on foot. We ate in a typical Italian restaurant, and then went to the Trevi fountain where a couple got engaged. After a good ice cream we went back to the airport. At about 23 o'clock we arrived at the airport Vienna, from where our ways unfortunately already separated. It was a really nice and instructive week, many thanks to all organizers!

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