



# Our week in Paris

an experience to cherish



RESPECT4



In the winter of 2017, we embarked on a journey to the French capital to take part in a project organized by ERASMUS+. The aim of the project was to familiarize participants with new methods of systematic conciliation and to discuss issues that currently affect the globe, such as stereotyping, migration, and gender roles.

We left Budapest on 26th November and arrived in Paris at about 7 in the evening. After a short but pleasant flight, we proceeded to our hotel where we met some of the other students who were chosen to partake in the project. The services provided at the hotel itself were exceptional and the staff were very polite.

On our first day, Monday, we went to our host school, Lycée Corbon, where we were given a guided tour of the building by the students themselves. We reviewed our schedule for the week at the adjacent Establisement Alexander Dumas, and gave presentations about French stereotypes with posters that we had made earlier at home. It was interesting to see that most features (such as wearing a beret) reappeared in every presentation. In the afternoon, we all played badminton in an indoor compound close to the host school. The game brought us closer together and we all felt more comfortable talking to one another afterwards.

The following morning, we watched each other's videos about mediation, a method that is used to resolve conflicts in schools with the help of a third party. After lunch, we headed out to the Palais Luxembourg, where we were able to observe the inner workings of the Upper House of the French Parliament, also known as the Senate. After touring the marvelous building, we decided to walk around the city. We went to see the splendid Notre Dame church and its surroundings with our newly-made Norwegian friends.

Wednesday morning, the entire team got up early to pay a visit to perhaps the most iconic building in the world, the Eiffel Tower. After admiring the grand monument, we went to the Arc de Triomphe and strolled down the vibrant Avenue des Champs-Élysées. In the afternoon, we took a cruise along the river Seine, where our guide presented all of the city's emblematic buildings to us. We even journeyed across a spooky underground canal system!

The following day, we visited the Museum of Immigration in the Palais de la Porte Dorée, which is the former Museum of the Colonies. Not only did we learn about immigration through the personal stories of refugees, but we also took time to gain insight into the history of the museum and French Colonialism from murals and mosaics. After spending many hours in the museum we were allowed to explore the city by ourselves. We decided to dine at a restaurant near the Opera, and were accompanied by our friends to go shopping afterwards. At that point we had already familiarized ourselves with the public transport system, so we had no problem finding our way around the city.

We spent the following Friday morning watching the movie *Breakfast Club* together, this time at a different school, and had lunch in the canteen. During the afternoon we were given a presentation about gender roles and equality by a French university student. We were surprised to

discover how certain aspects of a child's life (such as the toys that are available to them) can affect their identity later on. Friday was the last official day of the project, so we had to say our goodbyes to the other students and teachers. With such a strong bond having been developed between us, it was truly the hardest part of our journey.

On Saturday, the three of us decided to visit a few more important places, such as the Sacre-Cœur Basilica and the Grande Arche. We met up with our teachers at noon to discover the gorgeous Louvre Museum and its surroundings. Luckily, our plane was scheduled to leave late at night, so we definitely weren't in a hurry to the airport. Our plane landed in Budapest 5 minutes before midnight.

Having been involved in this project was an excellent experience for all of us. The things we learned and the people we got to know will remain in our hearts and minds for many years to come.



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