

POLAND

Everybody was excited with the idea of travelling to Poland, a northern country with a different culture, completely unknown to us. And there we were, setting off for our destination.

The first thing that made an impression as soon as we got there was the big amount of snow which covered Krakow, the second capital of Poland. There, we were warmly welcomed by a teacher of the participating school of Sosnowiec who took us to the hotel where we were going to stay.

The next morning we visited the Mayor, who gave us a really warm welcome too. Afterwards, we arrived at the school of Sosnowiec where we had the chance to meet all our friends from the other participating countries.

We watched together the celebration that had been prepared by the Polish and we got an idea of their traditional dances. After having a tour at the five-storey school building we tasted the polish traditional cuisine. Later on, we visited the town centre and we exchanged our money.

On Tuesday morning we woke up full of joy as Sosnowiec was full of snow again. The trip we made that day was really exciting as we visited the biggest salt mine in Europe. We were really astonished by what we saw there as we could not imagine that some years ago people would construct a facility that could not only produce salt but it would also constitute a sight for people in our days.

At the inside of the salt mine we got the chance to see some statues, some temples and some tools that were used for the extraction of the salt. We also saw some lakes and we visited the mine's museum. After our tour to the salt mine we ate at a traditional restaurant. There, we tasted wine and the traditional polish soup which is usually served in a loaf of bread instead of a

plate.

After our lunch we visited an old polish settlement which has been now turned into a museum. There, we had the chance to enter the houses, the schools and the churches of old times. We hiked on a small hill which was covered with snow and we finally reached a big stone castle. In the evening we enjoyed polish traditional music and took the opportunity to learn polish dances too.

On Wednesday we travelled to Krakow where we stayed for one night. During our stay in Krakow we admired their breathtaking renaissance buildings and walked in the centre of the old town. In the afternoon we visited an underground museum where tools, skeletons and vessels from the old town were displayed. We also enjoyed visiting a candy factory where we tasted delicious sweets and learned many things about the way they are made. At the end of the day we drank hot chocolate in a traditional cafeteria of Krakow.

Leaving Poland we carried all the good memories so as to let our peers and out teachers know what a great experience this trip had been. Our visit to Poland was the last of the Comenius Programme in which our school participated during 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

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