

Visit to Vallada, Spain from October 14 to October 20, 2018

Sunday (Antonio)



Our group met on Sunday morning at Tegel Airport and we said goodbye to our families. After the security check we started our trip to Vallada. First we landed at the airport in Alicante. There, after we had eaten the typical Spanish Bocadoillos, we met the English group and went with them to our hostel in Vallada, which is close to the mountains. There we were shown our rooms. In

light rain our group started a first expedition to one of the mountains. When we returned, we ended the evening having dinner.



Monday (Arina)

Our first day in Spain was interesting. After a delicious breakfast we met the Spanish teachers, who led us to a church nearby. It was beautifully decorated with paintings and candles and was built in the 16th century. After that short visit, we went to the city to the monastery of Vallada. To the left of the entrance there was a small garden. Particularly admirable was the wall of mosaic stones, which represented a landscape. Next we hiked through the very narrow streets of the place. The houses were much more colourful than ours. We also noticed that there were fountains all over the area. Afterwards a workshop took place.



We learned something about weaving. Palm and willow products are typical in Valencia and Vallada, for example furniture, baskets and bags. Later we could weave a small basket ourselves, which was not as easy as it looked. Our last destination were the mountains behind our place of accommodation. The



road was rocky and exhausting, but fun, as we were able to talk with the English. On the way we found fig trees and a breathtaking view of the city and the surrounding mountains. Unfortunately we had to turn back before we reached the summit, because we did not have enough water with us. Exhausted we finally returned to the hostel and enjoyed the evening.





Tuesday (Bianca)

After breakfast we took the bus to Murta National Park, where we looked at monastery ruins. In the area around the ruins we had a scavenger hunt during which we learned a lot. The park is named after a plant called Murta. It has bell-shaped purple flowers. Its leaves are like those of the Leticus plant. There were also some aromatic plants such as rosemary or thyme. It was also interesting that we saw two different types of pines: the white pine and

the sea pine. After visiting the park we had a picnic. There were bocadillos de tortilla (baguette with egg and potatoes), apples and water. When the picnic was over, the bus took us to a town called Alcira. We took a bus-like vehicle to a castle. It was built in the 13th century, then partially destroyed and rebuilt in the 15th century. In the castle there was an original floor from the Roman era. The best thing definitely was the highest point of the ruins: Sophie, Antonio and I screamed as loud as we could. When the castle tour was over, we walked downhill to the city on foot. On the way to the train station we passed a small bakery, where we had typical Spanish pastries.



Wednesday (Sophie)

When we arrived by bus in Valencia, we first ate empanadas (stuffed pastry). Then we went to the botanical garden, where we were divided into two groups. One group made Aloe Vera cream, the others made paper. Then we had a tour during which we learned a lot: The oldest trees there are over 200 years old. Banana plants do not have a wooden trunk. The petals feel like plastic. Bamboo grows up to 90cm a day at the beginning. Pandana is called a "running plant" because it moves to the sun. Venus fly traps can only open three times, after which they die. Spines of cacti are white, so that the sun can be reflected.



Then we went for a hour on the beach. Seweryn went into the water with his normal pants because he did not bring his swimming trunks. Then we had a boat tour during which we could dry our things. There we saw grey herons, mallards and grouse. Everywhere on the banks of the canal there were paddy fields, which are flooded, so that the rice can grow. By bus, we finally went back to Vallada.



Thursday (Seweryn)



On Thursday, together with the English and French group, we visited an olive garden, where we heard about the "mechanical" and later the traditional field. The Spanish farmer also told us a lot about the trees, such as how old they can be and how the olives are harvested. Next we went to an oil factory and were shown how olive oil is produced with different machines. Then we could taste different olive oils. After the tour, we went to school and made a kind of paste that you can eat with various foods. Afterwards our final dinner took place in a restaurant.

Friday (Jonas)

On Friday we ate "Churros" on the way to school. These are typical Spanish baked rolls. When we arrived at school, we were divided into two groups. In one group we made "Stakes of Memory". We engraved the name of the school in a wooden beam and the abbreviations of the country were sawn from small wooden tiles, which were then glued to the wooden beams. In the other group you could play badminton or a Valencian game called "Pilota". You have a glove with fingertip protection and you have to hit a small ball with this hand. The teams take turns hitting the ball. This goes on until one team has scored a goal. The game can be played in pairs or with many people. Then there was "paella" for lunch. This dish



comes from the region and is mostly made with rice, meat and vegetables.

After that, we said goodbye to the French and English who were with us. We stayed one more night. In the afternoon we climbed the mountain next to the hostel. On the top was the summit cross. The path led through scrub and rocks. At the summit cross we all enjoyed the view.

Saturday (Antonio)

On the last day of our stay in Vallada we left the hostel in the early morning. We drove to the train station of Alicante. There we left our suitcases in a locker and went to the castle "Castello de Santa Barbara". We explored the castle and then spent some time on the beach. The sun was shining, but unfortunately it was windy. When we returned to the station, we took our bags and suitcases and went to the airport, where we ate lunch. The return flight passed quickly and everyone was happy to see their families again. We said goodbye to each other and went our ways. It was a very successful student trip!