

# Our trip to Portugal by Zofia Weina

**Sunday, March 6, 2022**

In the morning, Kinga and I were woken up by my wonderful alarm clock. Kinga hates my alarm clock, but what can I do if only this one, the only one, can knock me out of bed? We got dressed and went for breakfast. Later we started collecting and packing our things into suitcases. After doing this 'hard' work, we started chatting on various topics. We played the music and suddenly someone knocked on our door. We opened it and saw Mrs. Kasia. She said the boys are still "behind schedule" and we still have a lot of time. She closed the door and went to her room.

Then, Kinga and I turned on the music again and started dancing to it. About 15 minutes later we went to the hall with our suitcases and waited for the rest of the group. After 10 minutes we heard the lift. Tomek, Szymek and the ladies came out. We left our unnecessary things behind and went sightseeing in Lisbon. We got back to the hotel before 5pm. We waited and waited for a taxi, so as not to get bored, we started playing the Chinese whispers. After the game was over, Kinga called her mother. Szymon thought she was talking to Kacper Pawłowski and started screaming, "It's that silly man sitting there!". I replied: "But this is Kinga's mother". We all burst out laughing and Kinga hung up. A few moments later the taxi came to pick us up and took us to Vila Franca de Xira. When we arrived at our hostel, we entered it straight away. We went to the first floor and waited there. A lady walked past us and started to speak English. Then Kinga said: "We so-so speak English".

The lady went and we translated Kinga what these words mean. We all started laughing, but we got bored very quickly. After some time the desk clerk came, gave us the keys and showed us the rooms. We entered the room and Kinga said: "Go there, closer to the door, to sleep, because when the murderer comes, he will kill you first, not me." I didn't know how to react to that. I agreed, but then she unexpectedly took this place. She wanted to be closer to the wardrobe there, which she didn't really use at all. I took my things out of the suitcase and put them in the closet. After taking a shower I called my parents and brother. After finishing the conversation, I went to sleep.



## Monday, March 7, 2022

On Monday morning I was forced to get up at 6:00 am for breakfast. I didn't want to get out of bed at all because it was still dark and a bit cold, but I got up and got dressed. When I left the toilet, Kinga looked at me unhappily because my alarm clock rang three times. We went together to the ground floor for breakfast, but we didn't know where the canteen was. We saw our teachers and we approached them. We ate breakfast. We dressed in smart clothes. I found my tie on the bottom of my suitcase and found out it was untied. Kinga and I sat for 20 minutes and tied my tie, watching others to do it in the youtube films. Later, we managed to tie it and we brushed our teeth. Unfortunately, my tie fell into the sink and got wet. We wiped it off quickly and let it go to the sun. Five minutes later we ran down the stairs to the meeting point in front of the hostel. Everyone was waiting for us and Tomek. After the whole group gathered, we took the bus to Samora Correia.

When we got there, we saw a large school divided into several buildings (6, if I remember correctly). For example, the children have playgrounds and there are gardens next to the school where they play. We entered the school area. We waited a long time for Portuguese children. When they came, we went to their gym together. They danced a variety of national dances of the project partners and we started playing various integration games. In the afternoon we returned to the hostel and rested after the first day of meeting with the Erasmus+ group. I took a shower, got into my pyjamas and I called the family again. Later I went to sleep.





**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

My alarm clock woke me up. It was a day like every day. I got up, got dressed and combed my hair. I went to breakfast with Kinga. As I was eating my cereal with milk, I realized there were no boys. We asked why they were not there. Mrs. Kasia didn't know that either. I went to their room (number 0) and knocked a few times. After some time, Szymek, who was sleepy and was still wearing his pajamas, opened the door. I told them they overslept for breakfast. Then Tomek woke up. They closed the door and began to dress. Me, trying to hold back a laugh, went to the canteen. After half an hour, Szymon came, and even later Tomek came. After the meal, I went to my room to pack. Then we went to the bus stop to take the bus to Óbidos. When we got there, I saw a huge castle and very long defensive walls. We went with students from other schools to visit its area. While sightseeing, a lady left the house and started shouting something in Portuguese. We stood there for about 5 minutes and listened to her requests. After that time, the Portuguese students translated what she said (it was something like "Please, don't drink alcohol, don't take drugs!" etc.). We got back on the bus and drove to another place. It was a dinosaur park. The guide told us a lot of interesting facts and other things about them. After half an hour, he finished his presentation and announced that it is now possible to walk alone and visit the place. We walked in a group and saw many different kinds of animals. Two of the Turkish students stayed with us. We left this place in the late afternoon. We came back to the hostel. We were relaxing for the rest of the day. I told everything my mom and dad. I took a shower and went to bed.



### **Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

The next day, Kinga and I came for breakfast five minutes after seven. All seats were taken so we had to wait a while. The seats got vacant, and we started eating another breakfast this week. Later we went to a certain winery. Due to the fact that the program said "The Barn Owl (Tyto Alba)", Kinga and I thought we would see owls, but that was only the name of this winery. For the first time in my life, I was able to see how wine is made in a factory. Then we went to visit the 'cork' forest (there were trees with cork growing there). We learned a lot about this tree species. Later we went to the horse farm. We saw a variety of Portuguese horses that have been bred in my opinion in a bit strange way. At the beginning, the foal is with its mother, but later, after a few years, they release it and it has to take care of its own for three years. After a certain period of time, these horses are caught and trained. After visiting the stud farm, we went to the restaurant. Kinga and I even tried octopus tentacles. Kinga wanted to throw up, but after a while she said they were good. When she took and ate another one, she felt so bad that she left for a while. As we were leaving, we saw a large book that people signed in. We walked over and signed as well. Tomek wanted to sign, but girls from other countries said: "Give up the queue to the girls," Żelek (that is Simon's nick name, which means a jelly bean, it is like that because his surname begins this way) replied, "He's a girl." We started laughing at the whole restaurant. Tom signed himself and left. Later, comments were heard that Tomek was a girl. After lunch, we drove to school in Samora Correia in the late afternoon. We waited for a while. Then we got invited to the canteen. I looked around and saw pizzas, plates full of crisps, cola and other items spread out on the table. I was very surprised, but thought it was a farewell party or something like that. Tomek and Szymek saw a beautifully baked pizza, took it on their plates and began to eat. After a while it turned out to be a sardine pizza. Everyone started laughing because the sardines had haunted the boys from the beginning of our arrival. After 8 p.m. the party ended. We were the last group the taxi driver was supposed to drop off. Before he came to pick us up, Mrs. Kasia was chatting with the Portuguese teachers, it was around 9:00 p.m. After arriving at the hostel, I immediately went to bed. After 15 minutes I went to take a bath and then - Kinga and I went to the boys' room. They showed us their door handle. They could get it out of the door. Later, when we wanted to leave, the handle was not there (we lost it). We looked for it almost everywhere. Żelek wrote to the Turkish girls for help. They came to us and opened the door from outside. After they left, we found the door handle and installed it. Kinga and I went to our room. Later, as I was lying on the bed, someone banged hard on the door. We opened it and saw that the boys were playing football in the corridor and Turkish teachers joined them. We watched and laughed. Suddenly a gentleman came and warned



us, if we didn't stop, he would call the police. Szymon and Tomek immediately went downstairs and the ladies were talking to the desk clerk. Later, the boys asked us if we wanted to change rooms. We said we didn't want to. We lay down on the beds. After a while, we started laughing. I went to bed after 10 p.m. I was exhausted.





## Thursday, March 10, 2022

I woke up a minute before my alarm clock rang, at 5:59 am. I didn't feel like sleeping at all. I got out of bed and went to get dressed. Kinga was still asleep. After leaving the toilet I got a little scared because suddenly Kinga was sitting on the bed playing on the phone (it lit her face a lot and she looked like a ghost) she was staring at me. I walked towards my bed, lay down, and called my family. After talking with them, I went down to have breakfast with Kinga. Traditionally, I ate cereal with milk and a banana. After eating my meal, I went upstairs to our room to pack all possible things so as not to do it at 3:00 am. After doing this, I went down with my backpack ready for the expedition. We got on the bus and drove to the park. We got off there. A gentleman came up to us and started to say that we are now playing a field game. There could not be people from the same country in one team. Only two people from Portugal could be in our group. The game started. You had to find the right buildings in the photos and take photos of them. Sometimes we had to ask someone we didn't know to have a picture in front of a certain building with us. I really liked this outdoor game. The last exercise was to create a pyramid. We got on top of each other and it worked by some miracle. The opposing team took a photo of us doing it. We managed to win the field game just like any other team. After some time we split up and started exploring the city located near the park. Mrs. Donia managed to buy nice earrings - crayons. As it started to rain, we went back to the bus. We waited for the rest of Erasmus+ group. When they came, we drove to the hostel. We thought we would see the Portuguese children again, but we didn't make it. We didn't manage to say goodbye to them before leaving for Poland. We were desperate, but there was nothing else we could do. In the evening, Szymon, Tomek and girls from Turkey came to us. We started playing spin-the-bottle games. After the boys left, we started learning different languages. Then the door opened. We saw Tomek, Szymon and others. They entered our room and started to play - just like us before - in the spin-the-bottle game. There was a lot of laughter and joy.





## **Friday, March 11, 2022**

We were playing this game until 2:00 am. Suddenly someone knocked on our door. (Szymon and Massimo (the Belgian student) hid in the toilet). I opened the door. It was the desk clerk. He said something in English and asked us to leave. I didn't know what was going on, but I left. As I was going down the stairs, I realized what he said. "You know the rules. The one who does not live in this room must leave now" (these words circulated in my mind all the time). Why did I leave my own room then? I do not know. Together with Kinga and Tomek, we went to room number 0. We didn't know what to do. We wrote via Messenger with Szymon. He wrote that he was coming. We decided that when he comes, we will go to room number 8 (ours). He went down the stairs and said that the desk clerk wasn't there. I went with Kinga towards the stairs.

I looked back and saw him (the desk clerk). My heart started pounding hard, but I turned and walked away. We walked up the stairs as quietly as we could. We came to our room. The first thing I did was going to the bathroom. I flushed the toilet and heard footsteps. I turned off the light right away. I locked the door. You could hear someone walking along the corridor. I was afraid. I took a risk and closed the lock on my suitcase. You could even hear it in the hallway. I immediately ran to Kinga's bed and lay down on it, because she took mine. I recharged my phone. I looked at Kinga and in a whisper I said: "If it will be in five to four, wake me up." I closed my eyes. After a few minutes I fell asleep. Before 4:00 am Mrs. Kasia woke me up she had to ask the desk clerk to open our door from the outside. I barely got up and realized we had overslept. I got out of bed, took my things, and then left the room. There was a taxi in front of the hostel, which later took us to the airport. I fell asleep while driving. When our teacher went to check in the large suitcase, I sat on the chairs with the other people and closed my eyes with exhaustion. I opened my eyes when I was given a croissant and a muffin for the road. I got up and went with the group. The only thing I wanted to do was to go to sleep. We took our suitcases after checking in and off we went. Kinga dragged me to the shop to check things out. There were only sweets there. Nothing interesting. We turned around. We sat down in our seats. After a dozen or so minutes, it was possible to go on the bus that took people to the plane. We waited for our turn. It was a bit of a frost that tormented me. I preferred not to speak. I watched planes take off and land on the runways. Our turn had come. As we boarded the plane, we took our seats. I wanted to sit by the window, but the teacher told me to sit next to Kinga. I knew it wouldn't do her any good if I sat down near her. If she was saying something, I would listen to music or sleep. I pulled out the plastic 'side table', lay down on it and went to sleep. I woke up when we were close to Krakow. The plane had landed. We got off and walked to the airport exit. My dad and his brother came to pick us up. On the one hand, I missed them during the trip, but on the other hand - I was able to take a break from them. I greeted them and we dropped off all the trip participants.



**It was the best trip in the world!!!**