

## **My First Mobility in “Folklorica” Erasmus+ Project**

The Romanian group of pupils and teachers arrive to Las Palmas De Gran Canaria, Spain after a long trip, feeling exhausted, the guests are meeting they're short term hosts and get ready to go home and know each other .

On Sunday, a simple day that you have to spent it with the family, I started eating the breakfast and then a little snack, after that me and the host we are planning to go out somewhere with his friends, we decided to go to the Las Canteras Beach and then go eat the lunch somewhere at a restaurant. I was really impressed by the weather, it was like 29° and that was so hot for Romanian people! The day went very good and I've met new persons.

On Monday, the first program day started by waking up at 6:40 and then with the breakfast, I get up changed my clothes and prepare for my first day at school. We get in the bus at 7:25 and we arrived to the school at 7:50. And now the first day here in Spain started with a warm welcome from the headmaster, all the guests were kindly greeted by the whole Spanish team. After this speech we started to show everyone a presentation from every country with the topic: “Carnivals In Spain And Valentine's Day” Romania presented how different is Dragobete event from Romania than Valentine's Day. After the presentations we've been to a quick school tour and we've been so impressed about the decorations at the school connected to Valentine's Day event. At Noon we set off to Vegueta Tour (the old town of Las Palmas), some of the most interesting things and places that are connected with the history and cultural heritage.

On Tuesday, Tejeda village, Gran Canaria, Spain tour started at 9:15 from the school. The second day of the historical and cultural adventure started with the trip to Tejeda - a village considered as one of the most beautiful villages in Spain in an outstanding mountain area which is on the UNESCO list of cultural heritage of the world. Walking along the village, filled with plenty of folk architecture, we headed for Museo de plantas medicinales (Medicinal Plants museum) which corresponds to one of the topics of the project. To appreciate the benefits of our mother nature the participants were served tasty tea of dried herbs grown in the area, commonly used to cure different diseases. The view from the mountain presenting the ocean and another island is something we will always remember.

On Wednesday, Mogán, Maspalomas, Playa del Inglés, Gran Canaria, Spain, the 3rd day of the visit we were woken up by the beautiful sun. We were very happy with such weather as it was supposed to be a bit more relaxing day than the previous ones, spent sightseeing and admiring the landscape and all beauty of the island. All participants started with the departure for southern part of the island. Our first stop was Mogán, well known for having one of the best climates in Europe. On the way to our destination we were marveling over the beautiful flora and the landscapes with the ocean in the background which differ a lot from those we have in our partner countries. The first stop of the tour was Mogán, Maspalomas with the beach and an harbor where, on the rocks, crabs were enjoying the sun and so were we (unfortunately only for a short time). After a short brunch break, we headed to Faro de Maspalomas, Playa del Ingles. The walk towards the lighthouse which is a distinctive landmark in the resort, and is the tallest masonry lighthouse in the Canaries at 56 m was worth the effort. We also visited la Charca, a pond between the dunes and the sea where migratory birds rest in their trip between Europe and Africa. Finally, we visited Las Dunas de Maspalomas, sand dunes protected as a nature reserve since 1987. They were formed by sand from the now subdued marine shelf, when it was laid dry during the last ice age and the wind blew the sand towards the coast of the island. The afternoon and evening international students spent on playing and having fun on the Las Canteras beach. It was a lovely day.



On Thursday, the 4th day of the visit we left for the northern part of the island. We first stopped in Gáldar Town, which is an area that formed one of the two kingdoms in which the island was split during the aboriginal times. Here, we visited the Cueva Pintada Museum. The students and teachers got to know everything that the museum has to offer: from a broad introduction to the history of the island to the visualization of the archeological place where aboriginals used to live around Gáldar. And then we were able to see for a short time the Cueva Pintada itself (Painted Cave), which is considered as the “Sistine chapel” of the former inhabitants of the island. We had also a walk along the streets sightseeing the Old Town and once again we had the opportunity to marvel over the architecture and cultural heritage of the area. After that, we travelled to Arucas, a town really close to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City, where we visited the Iglesia Matriz de San Juan Bautista, an impressive church of neo-gothic style which is also one of the symbols of Gran Canaria. The next stop was to visit the old town of Arucas, as well as the rum factory, where we were able to get to know how Arehucas rum is made, as well as learn the relevance of the sugar cane in the past for the economy of Gran Canaria and Canary Islands. We returned to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in order to have some time to get ready for the dinner with some typical Canarian menu and a picnic in a park joined with playing basketball this time.

On Friday, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, the last day of our folk adventure on Gran Canaria came. We were waiting for so impatiently. The final day students and teachers spent the farewell day at the high school. The first hour we spent learning both teachers and students the “Berlina” dance, is a typical folklore dancing from La Palma Island. To continue the fun with dances our Turkish friends taught us their traditional dance. We all joined and had more fun together. Then, while teachers had their final staff meeting, students were able to participate in a Carnival workshop organized by VET students of the high school in order to commemorate the famous Carnival of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which has been postponed to June due to Covid-19 pandemic. That activity was so enjoyable for all the international participants and the results were surprising. Once students finished working on their carnival masks, we moved on to visit the Aula-Museo Pérez Galdós, which is a small museum in the high school itself created five years ago and which host different objects and show different aspects of the evolution of Education in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City and in the host school ever since its opening in the 70s. For brunch, students and teachers enjoyed some typical Spanish breakfast

meal: churros con chocolate. The last part common for all the members of the short-term exchange of groups of pupils was the farewell certification time. For all the participating members of “Folklorica” project it was a pretty nice adventure hopefully not the last one in Las Palmas. I am grateful to our school coordinator for that. It was a unique experience.



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