

It is 8th November, 3 a.m. o'clock, cold and windy. Three teachers and five girls are waiting next to the gymnasium for their big journey, which starts right now. They don't know what will happen this week.

About 5.30 a.m. we are at the Tegel-Berlin airport. We take our suitcases control and then we are waiting for a plane. All of us are very tired and some are sleeping on the chairs. Our plane is ready to fly. Only three hours and our dream journey comes true.

Finally, we are in Catania. It's an Italian city on the east coast of Sicily facing the Ionian Sea. It neighbours with the biggest active European volcano- Mount Etna. For this reason this beautiful city was many times destroyed by the volcanic lava. The first impression is amazing. It's half past one p.m. The weather is great- above 20°C (when in Poland only 10). We're waiting for the bags. One moment shares us from meeting with our Italian families. We can see most of them. They are very cheerful and nice. We are talking together about 15 minutes and then split up. I and our headteacher are going with my "new family" through the narrow streets and palms. The view is awesome, we can also see the beach and Etna. We stopped in front of the hotel, where our teachers stay and since that time from about 5 p.m. till 8.15 a.m. I rely solely on my knowledge of the English language. Sometimes I meet our Polish girls after activities but I must count on myself. My friends are in the same situation.

It's our second day on the island. This day we're going to the center of the city. We're visiting the cathedral, the old Greek Theater, Ursino Castle, Bellini Museum, University Square, the famous fish market and many other places. After all of this we're going to the restaurant where we spend a few long hours celebrating our meal. Firstly, they serve us delicious tagliatelle con pistacchi. It was my second meeting with pasta on Sicily (first wasn't good). Then we receive something like chop for a hamburger but not soaked with fries. For dessert we have hot pieces of brownie with walnuts and vanilla sauce. It's great! Now, we have time to talk with other people who sit around our table. Then we are going to the train and come to our homes. This day I understood that Italian people

NEVER hurry, which I found confirmation later many times.

10th November, the beautiful weather, we're all sitting in the classroom and watching PowerPoint presentations. Most of the time we're waiting for the computer, which refuses to obey. It isn't the most exciting day of our journey. Afterwards we have dinner with our families in the school canteen. We can eat there fritattas, pizzas, lasagnes and salads. Some of these meals are really tasty, especially mushroom lasagne! It isn't our last meeting this day. We're going bowling and have great fun.

Today it's an amazing day. In Poland it's an Independence Day, but we're going on the Etna. We're admiring original vegetation and views. I can see some snow on the summit of the mountain, but there where we're walking it's very warm. Then we have a lunch break and last look on the lava. Next we're going to the honey production. Here we can try many kinds of honey, oils and other products. We can also buy it. I chose fruit of the forest honey and garlic oil. These two taste delicious for me, but all products which I try are really good.

It isn't my favourite day. We have sport activities. One mum from our families is a volleyball coach. She's making groups and then we can play. My group isn't really good but we are winners. Afterwards we're going to Acitrezza- a popular spot for Italian vacationers in summer. Firstly, we're going for lunch. Everyone gets their own pizza (the second thing which I learnt here- Italians eat a lot), but none of us can eat all of it. Then we're visiting wonderful attractions of this town.

It's our last day, which we are going to spend at all in Italy. This time we're visiting Ragusa. It's well known for its monumental center of town, which is on the list of UNESCO. It's really impressive! We're taking our last photos and staying here until late evening. Near school we're saying goodbye to our new friends from Germany, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Italy of course! Some of them we are going to see next day at the airport.

This day I must wake up earlier and then go with my family to the airport. It's really sad. We are staying with our suitcases saying goodbye to our closest people in Catania. I hope that it isn't our

last meeting. In the evening we're in Berlin. The weather is totally different. It's 7°C, rainy and windy. We want come back to Italy. The only thing we're waiting for is meeting with our families and pets.

Today it's almost two months after visiting Sicily. All the time I have a contact with Francesca, who was hosting me. This trip was one of the most amazing time in my life. I was never in such a magical place with such friendly people and delicious food. I'm sure that I'll come back there, because this journey showed me that Catania is worth visiting!

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