

Wednesday:

On Wednesday we arrived in Madeira and I got to meet my host family for the first time. They were very nice, and I got along very well with Francisco, the student in the project from my host family. We went to the beach and the mall and it was a nice relaxing day. Later at night we went to pick up two more girls to live at the same family for the week. At the airport waiting for them to arrive I got a weird feeling. I was surrounded by people who I have never before met and who didn't even speak the same language as I, in a place I have never been in, and I still felt comfortable being in the situation.

Thursday:

On Thursday we got to see the school and the city for the first time. We had some exercises to get to know each other and a tour around the city and a local museum of tiles, which was interesting. After the day at school all the students got together at another mall and hang out together. That's when I really got new friends from the project.

Friday:

It was a bit exhausting to wake up early after a long day, but I was excited. We went to visit a beautiful tropical garden and got a ride on a cable car. We walked for hours and I got very tired. But after the garden tour we went to try a local restaurant. I had been waiting for that. We also had a literary soirée later that day and I had a fun day with my new friends.

Saturday:

On Saturday morning we hopped on a bus and I fell asleep, my feet were sore from the walking from yesterday and then we got to more walking. We hiked a Levada walk and despite the tiredness it was very fun. We ate outside and the food was nice and different. At night we went to taste nikitás, traditional Madeiran drinks in a city near Funchal. I think they were not as great as described but some people really liked it. That is the night when I really felt bonding with the other students in a way I had not expected.

Sunday:

At this point of the week I was already really tired and I was just hoping a relaxed day sitting in the bus at a bus tour. The bus tour was not just sitting tough, we did a mini hike and after that we cut the bus tour short and went to a beach together. I loved it. There was even a bike race finish line at the beach so there was a lot of people.

Monday:

Monday was probably my favorite day in the behalf of activities. We got to paint tiles and just sit down. We did not have to walk as much as the other days and we ended the day by going on a boat trip. The best part was that we got to jump to the ocean from the boat. I had gotten so much friends and just when I was really getting comfortable it hit me that this was the second last day.

Tuesday:

Tuesday was an emotional day. We had a lot of activities and I was just holding my tears. It was the worst feeling to know you were probably never going to see those people again. Last we had a farewell dinner and people sang karaoke. We even went out to the city and had a great last night. Finally, I said goodbye to all those great people I had met and went home to sleep.

Wednesday:

I had an alarm in the morning, but I did not wake up until my host came to wake me. I was so tired that I did not even go shopping any more even though I could have. I just packed my bags and was so ready to get to the airport and home into my own bed and my own Finnish bathroom. I was feeling little sad leaving the island but I was really tired and homesick. Now I am just waiting for students to come to Finland.