

Italy Exchange

My name is Anna and earlier this year I took part in the ERASMUS project at our school. It took place in Desenzano del Garda, Italy, from the 30th of March till the 5th of April. Our theme for the project week was “How to be a sustainable tourist”. We worked in groups on that topic and found out what it means to be a sustainable tourist. We shared our ideas in a presentation to the other participants. In our free time, we did many excursions to cities or places around the Garda Lake and learned more about the region and the history of the area.

We arrived by train after a long trip from Germany and our exchange students picked us up at the train station. My exchange student is called Serena and she is such a cute and nice person! Overall, I got to know so many new, nice people and made many new friends. All the Italian people were so nice and accommodating and I always felt very well looked after. At first, I was so nervous about being alone in another family and I was afraid about the communication because her parents could not speak English at all, but everything worked out well. I really loved all our excursions and activities but one of my favorites was our trip to Sirmione, an island on the Garda Lake. We got there by boat and I loved the nature at the island. There were so many olive trees and on the grass were like thousands of daisies. We went into the “Grotte di Catullo” and looked at archaeological remains. I also loved our two dinners with the whole Erasmus group, all the Italians, all the Germans and the Spanish students who took part in the exchange. Once, we ate pizza directly next to the lake and it was so delicious. After we finished, we went outside, looking at the sunset and just sat at the lake and chatted. It was wonderful. On our last evening the Italian students organized our night out. First, we got ready together with Nisa and Matilde, also some new friends of mine. We went to a club and had a big dinner with everyone. After we all finished, we played some music and danced and just had a good time. We also stayed outside the club, there were some fairy lights and the vibe was just perfect. But the mood was a little bit sad too, because we all knew that this was our last evening together. One thing I enjoyed above all was the Italian food. Especially the ice cream was so much better than in Germany, we had some everyday and I loved it! One day, I was at Serenas grandma's house and her whole family was there, it was beautiful. I really liked her cousin, her name was also Anna, and she was the only one besides Serena who was able to speak English. But she was so sweet, and we got along really well. Serenas grandma made the best Lasagna I have eaten in my whole life, it was more than delicious.

The time had flown by and soon it was the last day. We were all so sad and I cried a little bit too, because we didn't want to leave them. We knew that we would have to wait half of a year until we would see each other again, it was a horrible thought. We exchanged numbers and joined WhatsApp groups, but I already miss them and our time together. Overall, I would say that it was the best decision to take part in this exchange, and I can

recommend it to everybody else. Of course I was afraid at first, but it was worth it! My English skills improved a lot, and I made many new friends. I loved my time there.