

Visit to Paris, France from March 24 to March 30, 2019



the whole group with Seinab, Josephine, Lara, Tara, Taylan, Mr Aley and Mr Riesopp

Monday the 25th of March, 2019 - Seinab

The first day started around 7 o'clock with a typical French breakfast - one croissant per person and coffee from the bowl. After breakfast, we went to the French school at 8 o'clock. After a journey of almost two hours we reached it shortly before 10 o'clock. There we were already expected. First there was a programme of music. The students played on self-made instruments and were "directed" by a man from India, after which there was a round where everybody could join in. The school had prepared several tasks, for example planting tomatoes and lettuce. Then there was a short lecture on the composting of kitchen waste. Afterwards we designed bags with colour spray. Finally, we had cake, which was baked by students of the school. On the way back to the hostel we stopped at Notre Dame and visited the cathedral. The Louvre we only saw from the outside on that day. At 7:30 pm we finally arrived back at the hostel and had dinner, so the first day was over.

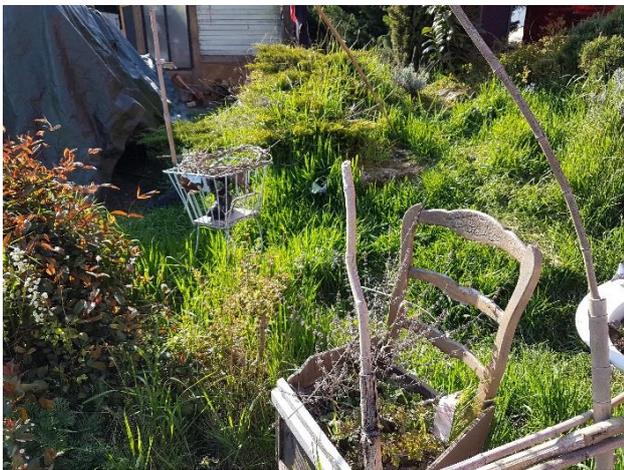


In case you speak french as well... :)

La première journée a commencé vers 7 heures avec un petit-déjeuner typique français - 1 croissant par personne et un café. Après le petit-déjeuner, nous sommes partis à 8 heures. Après un voyage de près de 2 heures, nous sommes arrivés à l'école française un peu avant 10 heures. Les étudiants jouaient avec des instruments qu'ils avaient construits et avaient été "dirigés" par un musicien Indien, après quoi il y avait une autre ronde à rejoindre. L'école a préparé plusieurs tâches, par exemple: la plantation de tomates et de la salade, et un bref exposé sur le compostage. Ensuite, nous avons conçu des sacs avec le spray de peinture. Enfin, nous avons manger un gâteau, qui a été cuit par les étudiants de l'école. Sur le chemin du retour à l'auberge, nous faisons un stop à Notre-Dame et avons visité la cathédrale à l'intérieur et le Louvre uniquement de l'extérieur. À 19h30, nous sommes finalement revenus à l'auberge et avons dîné, alors le premier jour était fini.

Tuesday the 26th of March, 2019 - Lara

“Are you ready to rock? Are you ready to roll? Are you ready to rock'n'roll?” This was how Mr. Aley cheered us right after the French breakfast. We reached the French school around 9:30 and were greeted with joy. There we listened to a lecture on plastic waste and were introduced to the “Flowers of Change” project. To support the project, we developed fantasy flowers out of plastic bottles. For lunch we had a picnic in le CRAPO, an artists' garden. In the afternoon we were shown some other techniques to make our plastic flowers bigger and more eye-catching. In the late afternoon we looked at the Eiffel Tower together. We were able to buy small souvenirs and marvel at the big Eiffel Tower. Also, we ate macarons for the first time and shared a delicious pizza margarita. In the later evening we reached the hostel.



Wednesday, the 27th of March, 2019 – Tara

Together with the French, English and Spanish groups we went on a boat tour today.

At 8:15 am we set out from the hostel and talked quite a lot on the way. At 8:29 we took the metro at Marx Dormoy and got off at 8:45 pm at Concorde. Then we walked along the Seine to our boat. On the way there we already saw many sights, like a big obelisk (a kind of stone tower). We had to wait for half an hour for the group from St. Martin, but that was not bad, because Mr. Riesopp told us a lot of interesting things.

When the St. Martin people arrived, we went on the boat almost immediately and enjoyed the beautiful and instructive, if chilly ride. From the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower everything was there. After the boat trip, the French took us through Paris and told us about the city. We looked at the Sorbonne and wanted to have a picnic together, afterwards. But that did not happen, as we left the





others, because our teachers did not want to eat at Burger King. They led us to a healthier shop. We wanted to meet again in an adjacent park, but the others thought we had left and did not come. After some time we went to the Louvre and with an audio guide we looked at the various artworks. We also saw the Mona Lisa, which was a great experience. Some of the group wanted to go shopping at some point, so we bought our loved ones nice souvenirs and then took the metro back to

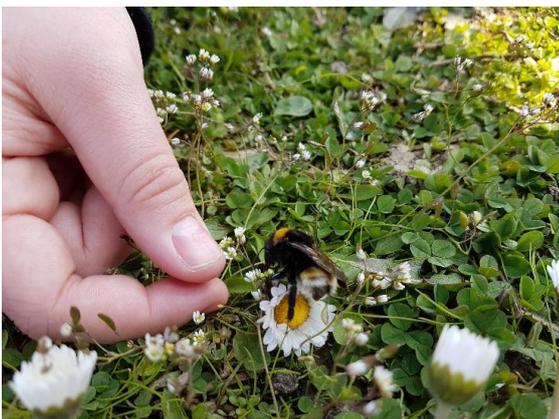
the hostel. Mr. Aley and Taylan had a competition about not eating sugar all day long. It ended in a draw (applause for the two) and we are still discussing who won...

Thursday, the 28th of March, 2019 – Josephine

Today the majority of our group met, as every morning, around 7:30 am for breakfast. After our missing group member, it was Tara, showed up and bought something for breakfast at the bar, we were off. We walked through the quarter to the nearest train station and got on the train to Versailles. First we stood in front of the castle, but then we turned to go to the vegetable, fruit and herb garden of the castle. The size of the garden is now nine hectares instead of five. It has the last original gate from the kings' times, which



was walled up during the French Revolution by the gardeners. In the garden we received a guided tour by a student of landscape gardening. Our tour started under the statue of the former landscape gardener, fittingly the guide told us basic facts about the garden and the architect. Then we went to a field where there once was the royal terrace, which was full of fig trees. Next we



went to a smaller terrace, from which one could see an artificially created lake. From there there tour continued past the already mentioned gate and an empty stable for chickens and geese to the pear and apple trees. Looking at the trees we learned about the breeding of different varieties, the landscape gardeners' approaches to improvement and the number of apple and pear varieties in the garden. The tour ended with the herb garden, after which all the

groups met for our picnic. After the picnic we went to the castle and after a few problems at the entrance we finally got into the castle. Our group arrived one hour later than the others at the meeting point, so for us the sightseeing of the unbelievably large gardens of Versailles Castle was very, very short ... We only looked briefly from the stairs to the lakes and fountains. The following free time started with a discussion about "reasonable food" and at the end some of the group went to the hotel to relax and the others went to a department store.

Friday, the 29th of March, 2019 – Taylan



The last day started at 8 o'clock with breakfast. After that we went to a big museum called "Cité des sciences et de l'industrie". First, we looked at the aquarium with big fish, then at displays about the creation of the universe, with films and experiments. On the next floor we went to the sports area and did some sports. Then we left the museum and walked for 30 minutes to a real French restaurant, with a typical French appetizer, fish or duck as main and chocolate

for dessert. After dinner it was time for the people from Saint Martin to say goodbye. After hundreds of photos, we parted ways with the group from Saint Martin. Afterwards we looked at the garden. On the way back to the museum we discovered a big slide, which we slipped down at least four times. But then the way to the museum continued. But this time we only went to the souvenir shop of the museum.

Some bought something, some did not. Then we took the tram to Montmartre. There we ran the more than 300 steps to the top of the church "Sacre coeur", which was very exhausting. Finally, we went shopping for the ride back. I enjoyed the trip to Paris with my "4 big sisters" very much. It was very funny and you learned a lot of new things.

