

Mobilizzazione  
Erasmus +  
Turkey 20th-26th  
May 2022

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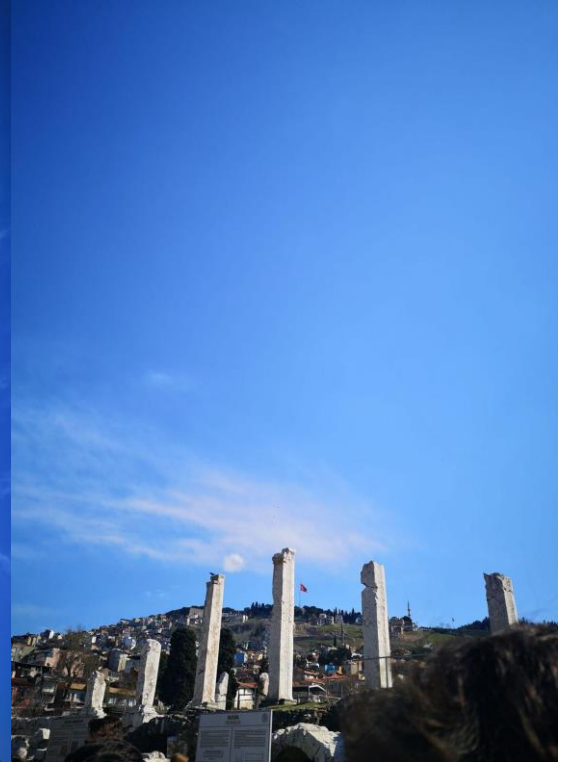


# First day

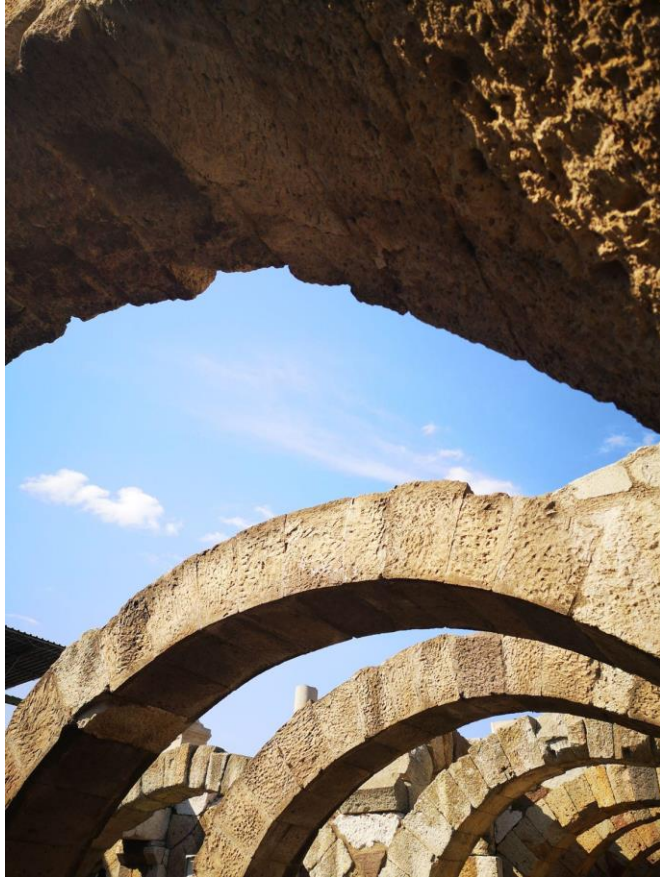


On Sunday 20th March we left from Malpensa airport to our destination, Turkey. We were very excited for this journey and after a two hours' flight to Istanbul, we took another plane and we landed in Izmir. At the airport we were warmly received by the people who would have become our Turkish teachers later in the week. They took us to a hotel where we met our host families and after a long tiring trip we could finally rest in our new houses.

# Second day



# Second day: the Agora



The second day, soon after the lessons we headed to the Agora, one of the most important historical sites in Izmir. The guide explained the history of Izmir, especially during the Roman Empire, when it was one of the trade centers for goods coming from the Middle east. In the site we can still see the columns and arches that formed the buildings, but also the big Agora in the centre.

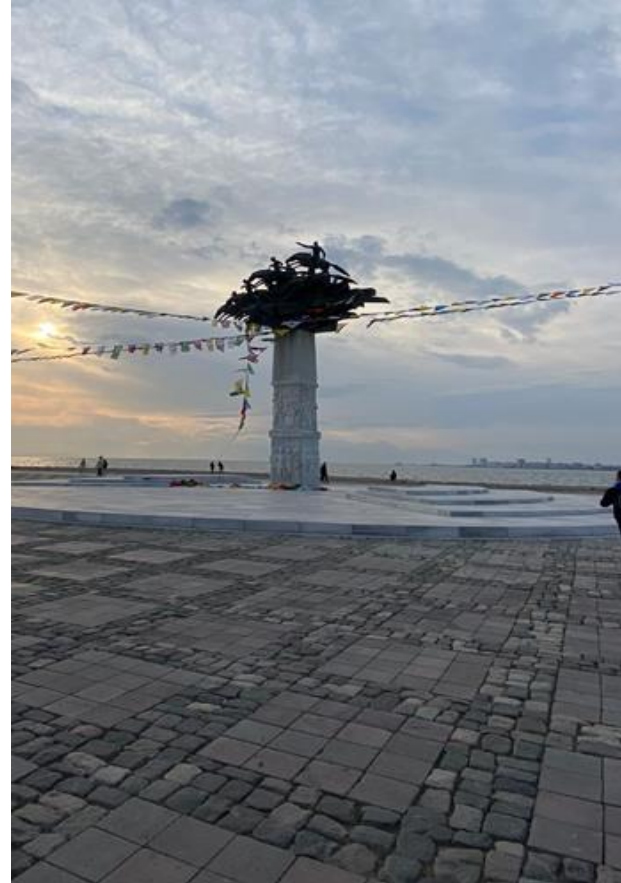
# Izmir clock tower and the bazar

Then we went to the Bazar, the traditional market. We found all type of goods from traditional food to clothes, it was very crowded and we had to be very careful to not get lost but it was unique. Also we saw Izmir clock tower in Konak square, which is the landmark of the city and was built in 1901.





# Third day



# The mosque

The main experience and the most interesting one on the third day was the visit to the mosque. We met an Imam's assistant that was very kind, told us the differences between the different cities' mosques, and said us that he has been studying how to sing properly since the age of six. He also knew all of the Koran by heart in Arabic which is different from Turkish. Walking across the streets you could feel how important religion is in the everyday life.





# Fourth day





## Ephesus

I think that the fourth day was the most interesting and the most engaging one. We went to Ephesus, one of the biggest ionian cities in Anatolia, at the mouth of the Caistro river. It was a very important and rich commercial hub and it became the capital of the roman province of Asia in 129 b.C. We came around with a guide, who told us some informations about the remaining ruins.

At the end of the day, we visited a small village nearby, where we could appreciated local products and we could felt Turkish culture.

# Fifth day



# Fifth day: the day before the departure

Thursday was the day before our departure. As every morning, at 9 o'clock we were at school and we had our Turkish lesson: we played a little game to see how many Turkish words we had memorized. Then we went to the same restaurant as the other days and we had lunch. After lunch, everyone went where they wanted to. The options were: taking a ferry, going to the bazar or to the mall. The most important event of the day was the closure dinner. Everyone got home at 17 to suit up for the dinner. Everyone was very good looking and we had so much fun for the last time all together. We didn't appreciate the dinner that much, but at least we had so much fun with guys from the other countries.



# The day of the departure



# The day of the departure

Friday was the day of our departure. We went to school where we got our certificates of completions. We said bye to the people we met during this incredible week. Even if we had known each other for only a bunch of days we created really strong bonds and long lasting friendships. This moment was in fact the saddest of the experience and was really hard to leave.

Afterwards we went to the airport and we took the flight for Italy.

# The Turkish experience

Sometimes you can not describe reality with words, you can try to convey the emotions that you felt with them, but the rational consequence of meanings that forms a text would never be able to contain all the irrational sensations that you had. Describing such experiences with a text is the same thing as taking a photo of a beautiful landscape; no matter how accurate the photo is, it will never be like being there, smelling the air and feeling the sun on your skin. My journey in Turkey was this kind of experience. Before arriving at the Turkish school, I was pretty scared and anxious, to tell the truth, but then I introduced myself to other guys, and it was really amazing how fast we could understand each other. I realised how important a common language is. I realised that communication is an essential activity that we perform every day. On the other hand, I noticed that without communication not only you can not live in society but also that if you are not able to explain yourself you will create misunderstandings that will carry you to an unpleasant situation even if you had the best purpose.

Furthermore, I do not want to be obvious, but I understood what really means that travelling makes you know different cultures. With the help of a common language, you discover different habits of life that force you to think about your own habits. Reasoning about what is obvious and daily for you in a rational way without the influence of the force of habit and in comparison with other lifestyles is the real meaning of knowing different cultures. As a consequence of that, you can recognize the prejudices that you have not only about other nations but also your own life and leave them forever.

Finally, I think that the most valuable knowledge that I achieved thanks to this Erasmus mobility is that all men are the same. I do not mean it in an obvious way; I do not mean that individuality and differences do not exist too. What I mean is that all human beings, no matter where they live, have the same rational and irrational nature. All humans act out of the same needs. If you are aware, you will notice that the differences are only different ways to show the same needs and reach the same results.

(Paolo Tironi 4C)



I left with doubts and prejudice but at the end I couldn't have been more grateful to have lived this experience. Despite its brief duration, during this time I had the opportunity to live a full immersion of another culture, so different from ours, and experience another way of living. I lived 5 months in Canada and I have seen a lot of different realities and countries in my life, but what this country and these people have given to me is something incredible that I could have never expected. The aspects that have surprised me the most are the warmth and the kindness with which these people welcomed us showing proudly their culture, and their mentality, that unlike we think is very open and friendly. I suggest to everyone to do an experience like this in their life, as it will change your perspective of the world and make you a better person.

Francesco Mazzatinti 4c

This experience was very challenging but wonderful: I am so grateful for all the people from different parts of Europe that I've met. Living for a week in a country with a completely different culture has really changed me and made me realize how lucky I am. Also I left Italy with many stereotypes but once I came back I had really understood how important it is to experience a different culture and lifestyle before judging, it is not easy of course but necessary if we want to build a great society.

Moreover the relationship between me and my host family really improved from the first day to the last one, Irem (my host) was my guide even though it was difficult to communicate with the mobile translator. She really made me part of her family without any hesitation and welcomed me as soon as I arrived. If you have the opportunity to participate in one of the Erasmus projects, do it without hesitation !

(Clara Ubbiali, 4B)

When the Erasmus coordinator gave me the possibility to choose what country I would have liked to go for the mobility, I immediately said Turkey, since I have always been attracted by the culture of this country. At the end, I can say that, on the one hand, it was the most difficult journey I had ever done, but, on the other one, it was also the best experience of my life. The most important thing I have learnt is that we have everything and we don't even realize it. I experienced poverty, because I stayed with a very poor family. They live in a small cold house, they don't have a proper bathroom, to the point that they use a jug to take a shower and a concrete outdoor latrine. In turn they sleep on the floor on a simple mattress and they use lots of blankets, since they only have a small stove to heat the whole house. Nevertheless, they are happy, because health and family are much more important than material things.

Living with my Turkish family, I understood that Western people always try to achieve success, without giving importance to what really matters in life.

Even though my Turkish parents didn't know me before my arrival, they took care of me as if I was their daughter. Having a foreign person at home was almost a miracle for them, because they have never traveled and they had never met people from a different country before. For this reason, they tried to make me feel welcome in any way.

This trip tested me, especially because I understood that there are still many women subjected to the multi-millennial patriarchal system, which does not allow them to be free and independent. They are not free to go out with their friends whenever they want, they can't dress the way they feel most comfortable and they can't openly express their opinions.

I think I was able to face such an unexpected, difficult situation thanks to the sharing and the mutual help of my Italian mates. Although we had never met each other before the departure, we created a very close group and I think I couldn't have felt better supported and loved than I actually was.

Gritti Elisa 4F



When I took part in the Erasmus project in October, I would have never imagined to live such an uplifting experience. To tell the truth, I wasn't even supposed to travel to Turkey at the beginning but due to some problems I didn't take part to the mobility in Greece. With hindsight, I will be forever grateful for that mistake that made me not travelling to Greece. At first I was really anxious about going to Turkey and even if I was unwilling to take part in this project, I decided to join this journey and try this new experience once in a lifetime experience: one of the best decisions I have ever taken. In Turkey I've met lots of people from all over Europe, I've visited breathtaking places and learnt about new cultures. I improved my English skills talking with people from other countries and learnt how to communicate with people that were not that in touch with English (it was really difficult and funny at the same time). I will cherish forever every single moment and person that I met there because everyone has left a mark on me and I will be forever grateful for that, even if I will not see them again. In conclusion, this experience made me meet also guys from my school that I had never seen before, and now we're such a good group of friends and I'm so thankful to them for all the handsome moments we spent and we will spend together. I would suggest this project to everyone, it will change your life.

Edoardo Barbetta, 4 A