MY STAY IN SLOVAKIA



I think everyone who visited Bratislava enjoyed the stay. The ones who had physics or math learned a lot, and we still had plenty of time for making friendships and having loads of fun.

We spent a whole week in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. We flew to and from Vienna airport, which was only 45 minutes away. The airplane really caught me by surprise, because it was smaller than a normal airplane, with three seats on one side and two on the other.

In Bratislava, we attended school for about four or five hours per day. The schooldays went by quickly, because we had a lot of fun. I really liked that we got lunch from the school, so we did not have to bring dry pieces of bread, which we do everyday in Norway. In addition, the school building was gorgeous. My roommate Anna and I do not have math or physics, but we heard from the other students that they learned a whole lot. I attended a German lesson along with the Slovak students, and I got astonished. I learned more in that class than I have learned throughout secondary school, even though the subjects in my German class in Norway were a lot more complicated. It was funny to listen to the Slovaks speaking German, because they had a Russian like accent.

When we did not have school, we went sightseeing in the city and did fun things like shopping and laser tag. The most memorable tourist attraction was the Bratislava castle. I enjoyed the visit, because it was very interesting and tourist friendly, and our guide was extremely competent. We also visited the red stone castle, but during our visit, we could not touch things and the guide's voice was extremely monotonous, so the visit was just okay.

I enjoyed my stay, and it was nice visiting a new country in another part of Europe. I met many new and exciting people, and I learned a lot about Bratislava and Slovakia. Maybe I will return to Bratislava one day.



What did I like the most were the shopping malls Eurovea and Aupark, the school and the food. The prices were low, there were stores that we do not have in Norway, the school was pretty and the food was good.

The most interesting was visiting Space world. We had an awesome time playing laser tag, and it was much cheaper playing it here than in Norway.

The biggest difference was the smell outdoors and the tap water. While walking outdoors in Bratislava, we could often smell sewer, which is not normal in Norway. In addition, I was skeptic about drinking the tap water even though it is perfectly safe, because it smelled like either sewer or chlorine or both at the same time. Bottled water is okay, but the Norwegian tap water is the best water in the world.

The biggest surprise was a little bit hard being a tourist in Bratislava, concerning the language. Even though Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia, and the city is the country's 'tourist magnet', many of the adults, especially workers in the shops did only speak Slovakian, and in addition, they were quite unfriendly. I heard from some of the students at Gamca that the reason why some of the shop workers are unfriendly, is because of the low salary, but still, they could have tried to be nice. I knew that Slovakia was a part of the Soviet Union, and that the Slovak people were not allowed to learn Western languages during the period, but the fact that it was rare to find English-speaking adults still caught me by surprise.