

Thessaloniki Trip – Arthur

Thessaloniki is a wonderful city in the north of Greece which was named after Alexander the Great's sister and is bordered by the beautiful Aegean Sea and contains many amazing sights such as the white tower and Saint Dominic's basilica.

The six of us took a 4 hour flight to Athens and then a 1 hour flight to Thessaloniki. Usually when my family and I go on holiday we will stay in a hotel or villa. This usually means you can't explore the culture very well and only really see the "must Do's." However, this time Freddie and I were lucky enough to stay with a wonderful Greek family who gave us special insights to the Greek culture that we usually would not be able to experience as they fed us traditional Greek food and pointed out all the hidden gems of the city that we would have normally would have missed.

Both Sunday and Monday were very relaxed for Freddie and I and this gave us a special chance to get to know our families better and have a good time with them. For example we loved to play basketball and football with the host family and ended up having a scots vs Greeks football match which became highly amusing after I missed 3 open goals.

On Tuesday the whole Greek Fifth year and all the Erasmus students went to the Axios delta but unfortunately it was so windy that most of the birds had been blown to the other side of the wetland. However this did not prevent us spotting a couple of hardy flamingos who were braving the wind with some pelicans.

King Phillip's tomb was up next for Wednesday and we spent half of the day in an amazing underground museum which had preserved 3 Macedonian tombs which were about 2000 years old. King Phillip II's tomb was amazing and it was mind blowing to think that our guide's teacher had held the bones of the founder of the Macedonian Empire in his hands.

Thursday was an amazing day as we explored the city of Thessaloniki and its History. On this Day we went to places like the white tower (built by the Ottomans as a prison) a famous Roman Arch and the catacombs of Saint Demetrius Basilica. This tour was made extra special as our guide explained everything perfectly and still managed to point out all the extra special mini details which in many cases would keep everyone entertained.

Mt Olympus was the final outing of our stay and was probably the most breath taking. It is the largest mountain in Greece and has some utterly amazing views. We all drove up to the half way point and then walked a small way up this snowy giant. As all the scots walked towards the coach Freddie and I went hunting for lizards but was cut short by threats from Mrs Court to leave us behind.

Finally on Saturday the Morning was spent shopping and then devouring some ice cream with our legs dangling over the Aegean and watching some Jelly fish show their peculiar light displays. We then headed off to the beach café where we all ate some delicious food and had an amazing swim in the Aegean Sea. All in all the entire trip was absolutely amazing and I met some great friends who I hope I can keep in touch with.