

Trip to Brasov!

March 5-11 2018

Monday 5th March



At last, after a long but well-planned journey we arrived at Brasov. It had been a very early start in Perth and two hours were 'lost' in the travelling.

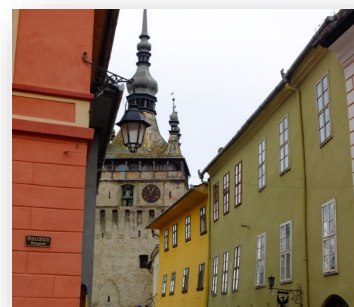
We were surprised to see the vast farmlands laid out either side of the road from Bucharest fringed with buildings some appearing to be abandoned, others brightly coloured in the western European tradition. We were soon up in the Carpathian Mountains surrounded by smart hotels obviously catering for the tourist.

More and more towns appeared towards the end of the three hour coach trip. There were no villages.

At the school Romanian parents waited for the children to whom they were to offer homestay. They were weary, a little nauseous because of the twisty roads but looking forward to presenting their projects.

What a warm welcome awaited us as we became reacquainted with partners and children we had first met a year ago at the start of the Erasmus project in Thessaloniki.

The teachers found their accommodation, supper and a thoroughly good night's sleep in readiness for Tuesday at school.



Tuesday 6th March

It was business today.

The children from all five schools presented their winning invention.

All of the explanation and description was managed very well in the common language.

A tour of the school showed us the energy and noise attached to a school.

Lunch in a nearby restaurant lasted until the teacher's meeting which was held back at the school. The children were collected from there by their homestay hosts. The meeting lasted until 5:30 and filled out the busy agenda satisfyingly well. Plans were made, actions endorsed.

Overall then a day fulfilling the tasks set for pupils and teachers. With the business out of the way everyone can start to look forward to the programme of outings organised by our Romanian hosts.



Wednesday 7th March

Peter, a Transylvanian guide set us within this areas historical context as we travelled through the hills and plains surrounding Brasov.

It was an excellent exposition of the dangers facing this area as empires expanded from the east and west. We were looking at fortifications, citadels and later an entire city protected by walls and siege defences.

As these buildings sought the best viewpoints spectacular views as we followed Peter. He from his knowledge; too much detail to supply further study.

We stopped first at Nurea moving on later to invading forces. Colour and human settlements visited the School on the Hill as it is known balcony on top of the tower in the centre of the

By this time lunch was being supplied. A three before returning to homestay hosts driving moved into the evening.



we were treated to energetic climbs and answered all our questions, we benefitted here but there are areas he pointed up for

Sighisoara a city left untouched by made this city particularly attractive. We locally. There was another climb to a square. More panoramic views.

course meal was served and enjoyed through sunlit scenery as the afternoon

Thursday 8th March



"the children chose baskets of flowers for their host families' mothers."

There was a bus trip from school to a walking tour of Brasov. Simona was our guide and explained the background to the city's development.

We went to the central square where the medieval market operated, the Black Church and the first school in Romania in which we met a dedicated priest who opened up the school's valuable book collection printing

Lunch
Brasserie
and pasta
in the
colour as
afternoon

Flowers
to mothers
Day and
celebrated
of blooms



followed and was taken in the where the children chose pizza dishes. The square we had seen morning was by then filled with people enjoyed eating in the early sun.

were being bought and presented throughout the day. Mother's Women's Day were both today. The children chose baskets to take to their host families.



Past, Present and Future!

Friday 9th March



Friday was the last day for our joint venture with Greece, France, Romania and Italy. It was fun day and we were to visit a park devoted to the dinosaur. The Transylvanian highlight was a trip to Bran Castle. It was a change from the fortified castles we had seen although it afforded a great view of the surrounding countryside. Although it would have been a great place to live Glad the Impaler might have put off casual visitors!

The children enjoyed shopping for trinkets in the market at

the base of the castle.

We were treated to lunch at a local pensione where traditional dishes were served. The children had an excellent opportunity to play outside once they were no longer thirsty and hungry.



Saturday 10th March



A warm day for a street breakfast and ice creams flavoured with bubble gum and watermelon.

Children were looked after so well by host families, big brothers and fellow travellers on the bus to the ski slopes.

Craigclowaners were visibly growing in confidence as they negotiated meeting places in a different town with a new language to interpret.

One really remarkable difference in Brasov we noticed was the respect motorists have for the zebra crossing.

Having arrived at Poiana the snow boards and skis lined the route to the terminal.

Lunch went down well and sledges and 'doughnuts' entertained the children in the sun. The air was filled with the scent of caramelised sugar and we saw the 'chimney' cakes being made. Imagine a fat free doughnut.

Travelling by bus involves ticket purchase and validation before entry. With a group it takes time. We were fortunate in having a bus ready at both ends of the journey up to the snow.

The pick up from downtown was at five pm.

Tomorrow we start back on the bus to Bucharest.



"the air was filled with the scent of caramelised sugar and we saw the 'chimney' cakes being made"

Jamie's Diary

This is a diary about my great trip to Romania. I was very excited and nervous about this trip as it was my first time abroad without my parents but it ended up being one of the best experiences so far in my life and one I will always remember!

Our first day was a busy day of travelling. We had to wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning, fly from Edinburgh to London and then from London to Bucharest (the Capital of Romania). From Bucharest we had a 3 hour drive in the minibus to Brasov. We were very tired but we still managed to stay awake the whole day!

Mac and my host family was Ottilia (a teacher at the school) and her son's Andrew (aged 14) and Justin (aged 17). You could walk to school from their flat and they were very kind and friendly to us. Andrew and Justin really liked football and so do Mac and I so we used to play football in the evenings with some of the local Romanians. We also played a lot of cards with the brothers who taught us lots of new games.

On the first day, we went to the Romanian school to do our presentations. It was a big school with lots of play parks around it and old fashioned desks in the classrooms. I found the classes very busy and noisy, I don't know how the Romanian children can learn anything! After the presentations, Mrs Dibnah took us all out for lunch which was tasty as we were very hungry!

On Wednesday we went to Sighisoura (which is in the Transylvania region) for the day and visited Rupea Castle. We had a guide who told us lots about it and then we walked to the top of the castle, which was very high and had our snack. On this trip we saw lots of children who were poor which made me sad, it made me appreciate how lucky I am and all the things that my friends and I have at home.

Thursday we spent in Brasov and had a tour with a guide - it was amazing! We saw and learnt much more with the guide than we would have by ourselves. We went to an old Romanian school with a teacher and then went out for some delicious pizza! Brasov has lots of castle and towers!

On Friday, we made a last minute decision to go to the Dinosaur Park. It was great fun as it had a 9D ride, you put glasses on and it took you on a rollercoaster ride through a jungle! There were moving dinosaurs and we wondered around the park with popcorn. After the Dino Park we went to visit Dracula's Castle. This is a famous castle which gets used in lots of dracula films! The castle was unusual as it had a well in the middle of it with a 1,000 LEU note in it! Afterwards we went shopping to buy some souvenirs for our families, things are very cheap in Romanian but you have to be careful as the shopkeepers sometimes don't give you the right change back!

Saturday was our last day. I was sad and happy. We were sad because it was our last day but happy because we were going sledging and shopping! We took a bus to the mountains and had lunch in a small place just in front of the slopes. I thought the Romanian food is quite similar to the food we have in our country. After lunch, we had so much fun sledging. It was a really sunny and there was a really fast doughnut sledging track which two people could fit on and another with jumps!

On Sunday we said goodbye to our host families, I hope mine can come and visit us in Scotland soon. We spent the whole day travelling home, it took fifteen hours! When we arrived back in Edinburgh at 11pm we were exhausted but glad to be home and excited to see our families. It was an amazing first trip abroad without my parents and I will never forget it. I feel a bit more independent since I've come home.

Mac's Diary

Monday: We have arrived in Romania and the weather is not much different to Scotland. We are now going to take a bus journey to meet our new family, and I cannot wait to. Jamie and I stayed with a lady called Otilia and her two sons Andrew and Justin. When we got to the house we ate pizza and played cards.

Tuesday: We woke up in the morning had our breakfast and we all met at the school. We met all the children from all the other countries and then listened to all their invention ideas, all of their inventions were very good. After that we met with their families again. Jamie and I went to play football with Otilia's two sons.

Wednesday : we met at the school and then went to a castle called Bran castle. It was very interesting being told about how they built and defended the castle. We then went back on the coach and went to a medieval town that people still lived in. there was a school there that pupils had been going to for hundreds of years and still did now.

Thursday: We all met at the school and went on a tour around Dracula's castle, we got to see all the rooms around the castle and it was very interesting. The view from the top of the castle was amazing.

Friday : on Friday we got a historical tour around Brasov. We got to see "The Black Church" which was a church that went on fire but got repaired, we got to see the only painting that survived the fire, we got told that in the olden days the firemen had to go out with buckets to put out a fire. We got to see the first ever school in Romania that only boys were allowed to go to.

Saturday: we went up a mountain where there was a lot of snow and we went on to a huge sledging slope, you could go on a sledge or a donut and the donuts went really fast. Today was my favourite day.



Fraser's Diary

Day 1= I woke up at 3am and went on a bus to Edinburgh airport. I bought some top trumps there and a comic. After that we flew to London on a British airways flight. When we got to London we had to wait an hour before we got on our flight to Romania's capital city called Bucharest. After the long 3 hour flight to Bucharest we had to do drive to Braşov where we were going to stay for a week. We got there and by now it was about 7 o'clock in Romanian time which is two hours ahead. We met the families and they took us to our home. They gave us dinner which was mini pizza slices and for desert it was brownies and chocolate cupcakes. We then went to bed and I texted my mum to say I was fine.

Day 2= Today we presented our presentation to all the other Eureka winners. Ours went very well. After that we went to a restaurant for lunch I had chicken skewers and pancakes. We then went home and played at their house for a while and then went to the city centre of Braşov. It was really cool because there was a Hollywood sign saying Braşov. We went to McDonald's for dinner and me and Orley had a happy meal we both got a snoopy dog toy from it. We then went back to our house and went to sleep. **Day 3=** Today we went to Sighiasoura castle. It was an amazing castle and it was very old. We walked around the castle and went inside it. After that we went to a medieval town. There was a big clock tower that we went up, it was great. We also went to a school there but you had to walk up loads of stairs to get to it. The students had to walk up those stairs everyday. Then we went home and went to sleep. **Day 4=** This Thursday we went on a tour around the town we were staying in called Braşov. There was lots of different things in the town including one of Europe's smallest streets. We then went for lunch and played cards at lunch. After we went home and had dinner. **Day 5=** Today I woke up and was really excited because we were going to Dracula's castle. But before we went there we went to a place called Dino park. We played there for a bit and even went to a 9D cinema that was there. Then we got back into the minibus and went to Bran castle which is Dracula's castle. It was really cool because it was in the middle of nowhere and let you walk into it. There was lots of things there. Then our families picked us up and took us home. **Day 6=** This was my favourite day because we did lots of fun things. We got to lie in until 12.00 and get a long sleep. We then met everybody at the bus stop and got a bus up to the mountains and had lunch up there. After that we got an hour to go sledging and zone tubing down a ramp, it was great. Then we went home and packed our bags to get ready for the next day.

Orley's Diary

Hi. My name is Orley Mowat and I am in Form 6 at Craigclowan school, in Perth, Scotland. Our team, Electro-magnet, was chosen as the winners of the invention project as part of Erasmus. Our prize was a week in Romania. Here is my diary of the week.

Day 1

I woke up at 2.30 am which was so early! We went to Craigclowan where we met the teachers, Fraser, Yi and Charlotte. Mr Dibnah kindly drove us in the school minibus to Edinburgh Airport. We met Jamie and Mac there. Once we had checked our bags in, and gone through security, we sat down and had a Pain au Chocolat. The flight to London Heathrow was not long. Once we arrived there we had something to eat and had a look around the airport. It was then a 3 hour flight to Bucharest, in Romania. Once we got there we had a 3 hour minibus journey to Brasov, our host City. We stopped on the way for a drink and a snack. I chose a white chocolate to-blerone which was amazing!! When we arrived at Brasov we met the Romanian family that Fraser and I were going to be staying with for the 6 nights we were there. The family have 5 children! We had dinner and then straight to sleep. It had been a long day!

Day 2

We woke up at 6.45am and had cereal for breakfast. Our first morning was being spent in the Romanian school so that we could present our project, Electro-magnet, to the other children from Romania, Greece and Italy. The presentation went very well and our teachers said they were proud of us. We then all went out to lunch to celebrate. It took a while for lunch but it was worth the wait for the chocolate crepes! After lunch we had a look around Brasov town centre - it's really beautiful and I took lots of photos.

Day 3

We headed to Sighisoura with a wonderful guide. We stopped off at Rupea castle where we had hundreds of steps to climb to reach the top. I am not very good with heights but I did enjoy seeing the views. Mrs Dibnah took some great photos of us at the top. The medieval village was brilliant too. When we went back to our hosts house we had dinner with the family and then played some games with Theo, the family's 13 year old son, who had visited Greece last year with the Erasmus project.

Day 4

It was a really nice day today - it felt a lot warmer than the previous days. We were in Brasov town centre again. There were flowers everywhere as it was International Woman's Day. I got a bit mixed up though and sent my mum a message saying "Happy Romanian Mother's Day"! Fraser and I bought our Romanian host mum some flowers. We went to a really nice restaurant where I had a burger. I was so full after it. When we went back to our host family's house they took us to a shopping mall and then we also visited the mountains.

Day 5

We went to Dino park this morning. This was so much fun - there is a great picture of the 6 of us inside a Dino egg! I bought my little sister and little brother some presents here. The Dino park also had a 9D cinema which was amazing. After that we went to a Dracula's castle which is called Bran castle. It was so much fun. We walked round the castle and looked at interesting things like the torture chair and the. We took a ride back. In the evening we had a KFC with the family - this is the first time I have ever had a KFC! We were tired after a busy day.

Day 6

We got to lie in today as it was Saturday. We didn't wake till 10am! We met up with the teachers and the other children at midday. We got to choose an ice-cream....I chose water melon and it was sooo good! A new flavour I had never tried before. After that we got a bus up to the mountains where there was a ski resort. We all went sledging and tubing, which is like sledging on a big donut. It was so much fun. We had a look around the market place and then took a bus ride back to Brasov town. When we got back to the house we had a lovely dinner - this was our last night with the family as the next morning we headed home.

I was so lucky to take part in this trip to Romania. I loved it. It was amazing to see how different Romania is to Scotland and it has so many interesting places to go and visit. I also really enjoyed staying with my host family. They were so kind to me and Fraser. Living with a family allowed us to learn so much more about Romanian people, and how they live. It was also nice having the brother, Theo, as a friend and we shall keep in touch. I really enjoyed being away with Fraser, Ye, Jamie, Mac and Charlotte too. Thank you to the teachers for looking after us so well, and being so kind.

Yi's Diary

Day 1

The plane journey was really fun because Charlotte and I played the Bean Boozled challenge and we watched lots of films, I really enjoyed the plane flight even though I was exhausted.

When we got to Romania I was really tired and wanted to go home but I didn't cry because otherwise my mom would worry about me and got a really good sleep.

Day 2 :

The host family where really nice but it was pretty cold outside even though there was sunshine. We met the dog called Stella , Bia their eldest daughter , and Sophia the little 2 year old , when we got to the school we got introduced to Bia's classmates and then did our presentations , We met Georgia the Greek teacher, who was very lively.

When we went home we went to an arcade and went bull riding , played laser tag but lost -95 and we couldn't understand what the other team were saying.

Day 3 :

We went to Cetatea Rupea an huge ancient castle that reminded me a lot like Fettes and we went to Sighisoara.

The village that Dracula was born in it was a very old village and there we met Jimmy the dog who has his own facebook page.

Day 4

We got a huge tour round the town center and we got to see the Black Church which was really old . The narrowest street which was absolutely tiny. At the end of the day we went to see jumanji 2.

Day 5 :We went to Dino park and looked at the amazing huge life sized models of dinosaurs after that we went to Bran castle and it was a very good day with sunshine

The best part of Bran was seeing the torture room which was quite creepy. Then we went shopping for squishies.

Day 6: We went sledding it was on donuts and had the best icecream the view on the mountain was amazing.

Day 7:

I really didn't want to go but I knew I really wanted to go home we explored the airport and we slept a lot on the plane and at the airport I found a Harry Potter shop but at last we got home and I was so happy to be back in Scotland after such a long journey!

Charlotte's Diary

5/3/18

We woke up at 3:10 and drove to school. From there we all got the minibus to Edinburgh airport. Our flight took off at 6:15 and took us 2:00 hours to get to London Heathrow. From Heathrow it took us 3:30 mins to get to Bucharest airport. We then took a bus to Brasov (it took us 3:10). When we arrived at the school we met our host families and they took us back to their houses.

6/3/18

We woke up at 6:30 and then we were driven to Bia's school where we showed our inventions to the Greeks the Romania the Italians and the French. We then went for a meal at a Restaurant with all of the Eureka people. Then we were picked up by Bia's mum(Lolly) and taken on a surprise which was space club where we played on virtual reality, on a bull and we played laser tag it was so fun. After we had pizza.

7/3/18

We woke up at 6:30 and then went to Bia's school. At 9:00 we drove to Setatea Rupea and then Sighisoaha. We went for a walk around the town (where we met Jimmy the dog) and went to an old Romanian school. It was a 9:00 hour road trip, but great fun. After we got back from the town centre, we ate at a restaurant, then walked up a tower, before going back to Bia's house, playing with her grandmother's cats and eating donuts! It was such fun.

8/3/18

Woke at 06:30 and went to Bia's school until 09:10, when we left to go into the city centre. We walked to the Black Church, went inside; it was freezing! Afterwards, we visited Romania's first school, which is now a museum. Bia's dad collected us, took us home at 4pm, going on to the cinema, where we watched 'Jumanji' in 3D - which was excellent.

9/3/18

Woke at 06:30, going to Bia's school for 09:30 (she was there from 07:30). Today was the day for the famous Bran Castle and, perhaps more importantly, Dino Park! Bran Castle was the home of Count Dracula and is beautiful white castle on the top of a hill in the middle of Transylvania. We had all expected this to be quite a frightening visit, however, it was actually very beautiful and the only scary bit was the torture chamber, including a huge, spiked, chair.

10/3/18

Cooked breakfast today (my hosts very kindly gave me a cup of tea each day!). It was off to Brasov today for ice cream and sledging. A really great day.

11/3/18

After a fun packed week we reluctantly said goodbye to our host families and to Romania, then set off back to Scotland.