

During our stay in The Hague and Aurich we met people from different nationalities and stayed with a Dutch host family. Everyone has memories of their experience about food, accommodation, workshops and hospitality in general, so we asked our classmates some questions in order to know their point of view

QUESTIONS:

- 1 Did you like how the family welcomed you?
- 2 Did you like the food? What was a typical dinner like?
- 3 Did you enjoy most the stay in Aurich or in The Hague?
- 4 Did you get on well with your Dutch host? Are you going to keep in touch with him/her after this project?
- 5 Would you recommend this experience to other students??

ANSWERS:

FEDERICO

- 1) Yes, they have all been very very kind to me.
- 2) In Aurich the food was awful (meat and pasta-overcooked, lots of potatoes, sad vegetables which didn't have a proper taste), but in The Hague was alright.
- 3) The Hague for sure, I would have spent there the whole 10 days.
- 4) Yeah definitely and for sure, we already are.
- 5) Definitely , it's a unique and amazing experience.

LORENZO

- 1) The family welcomed me very well; they were very kind, they gave me a lot of presents and they also took me out to the restaurant.
- 2) In his home I often had Indian food, especially rice with curry. I liked this food but I was a bit disappointed with the drinks because there wasn't they are not used to having water during meals, but only sparkling drinks.
- 3) The days in Aurich were an interesting experience. I enjoyed the workshops, in particular the art workshop, but the experience in The Hague was more complete because I lived in a Dutch home.
- 4) Yes, but my host was 14 and very shy. However, I also have to say he was very kind and now I write him on WhatsApp and on Facebook.

5) Certainly, it was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life and I consider myself very lucky to have participated in this project.

MARIETOU

1 I think my host family was very nice and welcoming. They tried to make me feel at home, not being too formal.

2 The food was alright. We ate fried food and once the mother cooked an omelette with rice, peas and ham, another time they made pasta and beef. I have noticed they don't eat fruit and they are used to having a single course with every thing mixed together on the dish.

3 I enjoyed The Hague most as we got to visit the city, going around and spending more time together. I felt that part of the stay like a more complete experience.

4 She is very shy, and at the beginning it was difficult to have a conversation, but slowly I got to know her a bit more and we started to open up; after all, I can say I got on well with her.

5 Yes, definitely. It's a great experience to meet new people, visit places, learn, meet different cultures and learn to adapt to situations which are different from ours. It has enriched me and it's been also very funny.

ELENA SOFIA

1- Yes they were really nice and kind. I liked them a lot.

2- The food was really good. There wasn't a typical dinner, the dinner was always different and the food was always plenty

3- I enjoyed The Hague most; in Aurich it was boring.

4- Yes, we became really good friends. I'm still keeping in touch with her.

5- Yes of course. It's a really nice opportunity to meet people from different countries, to make new friends and to improve your English.

STEFANO

1) With the family I had a great time! Even if they went to work, they let us all the necessary facilities and they helped us to move around the city. Beside the excellent food, both parents have told me about the city's history, traditions and attractions.

With regard to our brothers and sisters, it is clear that they were curious of everything I did; even though I come from a country that has different habits from the Dutch, but they have always been friendly and nice.

2) I really enjoyed the food, we ate traditional Dutch food - really good, always accompanied by a salad, which, as the host Mother said, is always healthy.

They made me feel more even more at home , when they let me cook lasagna, to which they also added peppers.

3) I personally would have preferred to stay longer in the Netherlands, because staying in contact with the lives of these peers of ours is an incredible and unique experience.

Plus we were free to go where we wanted ...with the consent of the family, of course.

4) With my Dutch host I was fine, even though I was riding a bike in the rain and -10 degrees!! Unfortunately now I'm not in contact with him even though I have recently called him to ask him when we can meet again!

5) Yes, I would recommend this experience because, in addition to being fun , it also offers the opportunity to improve your English and, why not, your Dutch!

VALENTINA

1. I liked the way the family welcomed me, they were very friendly and hospitable, very very kind.

2.The food was a problem: for lunch indeed I always ate a sandwich just with a slice of cheese (that had been my lunch for five days). Apart from this, the family that hosted me was Egyptian so I didn't eat typical Dutch food ,but, rather, typical Egyptian one , rice, salad (and this was ok as I am a vegetarian) and a lot of sweets. Moreover they are not used to sitting at the table for dinner.

3. I enjoyed most Aurich because of the company; indeed I could stay with my friends all the time, working in the various workshops and meet them after dinner without the problems that you might have if you stay in a host family.

4. Not so much, my Dutch host and I are very different and also the age is different (I am 17 and she is 15) . So I don't think I am going to keep in touch with her.

5. Yes, I would recommend this experience to other students but I think that this kind of projects are good when you have mates the same age as you.