

GUESTS FROM THE FRENCH REUNION ISLAND IN ÁRPÁD

by Losonci Livia, 10.a

For 9 days, we welcomed students from Reunion Island. When we met them at the airport, despite the long journey we faced excited people, who couldn't wait for the programs to begin.



One of the French teachers described our first destination as “the must-visit museum”, the Hospital in the Rock. I believe we can say that it was interesting for both the Hungarians and the exchange students. We all walked through the museum with disbelief and shock, as well as interest, while we were listening to the history of the hospital.

During the week, they got to use most of the Hungarian public transport. They couldn't believe how complicated our system was, and appreciated it, after knowing the difficulties in only having a few busses.

The first morning, fresh and rested, we took them to the House of Music. It was great to see the joy on their faces walking through the museum while listening to different genres as well as taking part in interactive games. On two other days, we showed them around Buda and Pest, giving them presentations about each monument. They adored how big our city was and were astonished by each monument. Some of the students took photos of every statue they saw. After walking through Pest, we took our students to places we preferred, showed them cultural dishes and walked beside the Danube. What I found inspiring was that one of the students took a Kinder egg surprise animal and took photos of it in different places, documenting the trip.



Our next destination was the Pálvölgyi cave, where they witnessed different sculptures made by nature. They listened attentively to our guide and played along with the creative ideas, while also asking questions, showing their interest in the place. With the group, we visited the Erzsébet lookout on one sunny morning. Half of the group hiked up the mountain, whereas the others went by the chairlift. Everyone loved the view of the whole city from above, and we showed them the places we had already visited. What was enjoyable in our free time was that no matter how we separated into groups, everyone enjoyed themselves while eating their lunch, talking, having fun, and even teaching us new card games.

Another interactive museum we visited was the Museum of Money, where they could master their trading skills as well as other forms of earnings. They took part attentively in every program and were open to all the activities we planned for them.

On Sunday, each family took their student to different programs, showing them unique parts of Hungary. Some families took the students to Esztergom, where they showed them around the city, visited the Basilica of Esztergom and after the visit enjoyed a meal at a restaurant. Some people also went to have some bob rides with them in Visegrád. Other families took them to Eger, or around the Balaton, while others went hiking or picnicking.



Monday was our first day at school together. We enjoyed the presentations they made, introducing their favourite parts of the island. After school, we all took them to different parts of the city in small groups, showing them the places we enjoyed visiting. Some of us also took them for the light show practice, by which they were amazed. On the other school days, they got to attend some language classes, where they learnt with other students. They also got to attend a crafting lesson, where we made small bunnies together. It was a fun experience, seeing everyone help each other and work together. On the day of the graduation, they got to take part in helping with the decorating and in the evening, they also took part in the celebration. They all stayed to watch the light show and were so impressed that they wished to bring these celebrations home.

The last day we visited the beautiful city of Szentendre. We attended the Museum of Marzipan, where we saw detailed figures. After that we walked through the old city and ate lángos. We also walked in the Japanese Garden and said goodbye to the group on the shore of the Danube. After we took them souvenir shopping and to a famous lookout point where we rested in the shade. Lastly, with most of the group, we went to Margaret Island for a picnic and played some games such as hahasi and other traditional Hungarian ones. They all enjoyed the time we spent together and loved the outdoor activities. Saying goodbye at the airport was emotional for everyone, and even the teachers cried at the end. It was heartwarming to see how much this meant for them and how enjoyable their stay was.

