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STUDENTS ERASMUS+ DIARY

*La Désirade,
Guadeloupe,
France
January 2023*

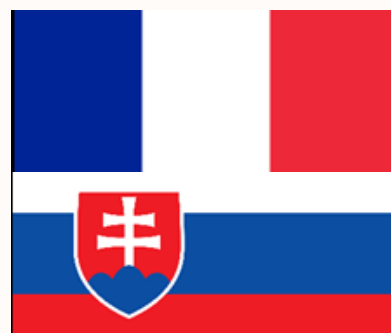


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Andreja Sládkoviča

Sliač



LETS GO... TO PARIS

There are people who consider Friday the 13th an unlucky day, they are superstitious. But we could not be discouraged and 13. 1. we went on an educational activity to the overseas part of France – Guadeloupe.



Our flight to Guadeloupe only took about 8 hours, so we used the 6-hour wait to visit the most famous monuments in Paris: the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysees, the Eiffel Tower, the Tsar Alexander III Bridge. and the Great and Small Palaces, next to the Place de la Concorde, from afar we glimpsed the dome of the Invalides Cathedral, where Napoleon's tomb is located.



We continued along the Seine to the Tuileries Gardens and towards the Louvre. On the other bank, we could see the D'Orsay Museum, the building of the National Council. The last stop was the Notre Dame cathedral. Paris is beautiful and we are glad we managed to see at least something of it.

NEW EXPERIENCE IN OUR LIVES



FLYING TO THE CARIBBEAN...

After an 8 hour flight we landed in Point á Pitre, Guadeloupe at 18.50 local time. We used the 5-hour time difference for a short walk on the beach. And so we can say that Friday the 13th was not bad luck at all. 😊



Sliač
Vienna
Paris
Pointe-a-Pitre

EXPLORING GUADELOUPE ISLAND

After breakfast, we went to explore the island. The weather wasn't ideal, it was raining, but that didn't deter us. We went by car to the northwestern part of the island - towards Sainte Rose and Deshaies. Our first stop was in the town of Sainte Rose.

We arrived at Plage de la Perle, sandy, with a beautiful view. But it didn't deter us, we collected some shells, learned about the place and continued on our way. We arrived at a small restaurant by the sea in Point Noir, we had lunch at a local restaurant. It was a pleasant time to get to know the students from Dunkirk better.



BASSE TERRE, NATIONAL PARK

We stopped at the Ecrevisse Cascades. We discovered a beautiful waterfall near the main road, but we were most enchanted by the surrounding nature, such diverse, dense greenery all around.

Finally, we returned to Pointe a Pitre, where we planned to visit the Slavery Museum - Memorial ACTe. But alas, it was closed.

Our last stop was the town of Sainte Anne. It's a busy tourist town on the coast where we walked along the beach, bought a few souvenirs and checked out the town centre. Finally, we had dinner in a small Creole restaurant. The fish was excellent and we tried the traditional side dishes - acras, fried bananas or rice with beans.





GOING TO LA DÉsirADE BY BOAT

We are gradually getting used to the 5-hour time difference and are sleeping better at night. Although the heat is sometimes unbearable. We packed our bags and after breakfast we went to the town of Sainte Anne, where we spent the morning. In the evening at 17.00 we were supposed to get on the boat that will take us to the island of La Désirade. The journey took us longer than we planned, because the traffic was slowed down by people in carnival masks, with whips



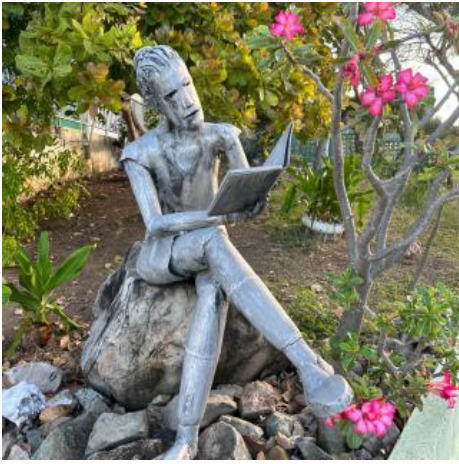
We stopped at the most beautiful beach on the island. It is called Plage de la Caravelle. Andrea, an Italian teacher, bought us a coconut directly from the pirate. He divided it for us, we drank coconut milk and finally took a picture together. From there we went to a typical market. They bought some souvenirs and looked at everything that can be bought on the island and we slowly moved to the meeting place.



There is a tradition that during the carnival season, the carnival is organized every Sunday in a different city. The carnival procession is accompanied by the playing of typical drums in the rhythms of gwo-ka. Today, the carnival is a holiday of celebration and fun.



We walked around the harbor, and at five o'clock we finally boarded the ship. It was about a 45-minute cruise, from the boat we saw the easternmost tip of the island – Pointe dex Chateaux. At sunset, we arrived at the island of La Désirade, where families were already waiting for us. It was a very pleasant meeting and a new experience for everyone. Louise and her father took us home. We had dinner together.



WELCOME TO COLLEGE MARYSE CONDÉ

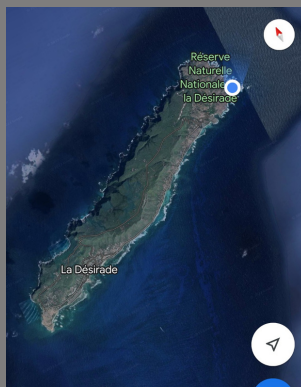
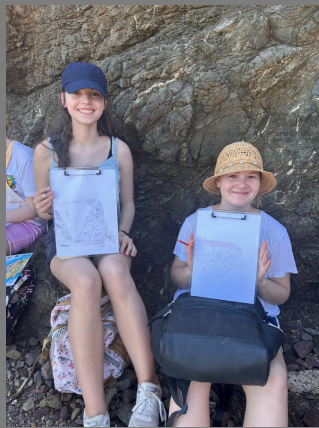
The visiting students and teachers gathered at the local school, where we were welcomed by the school principal and in an informal atmosphere at breakfast, which was attended not only by the guests, but also by all the students and staff of the College, we learned basic information about the school. They introduced us to individual teachers.



La Désirade National Nature Reserve

Project managers and reservation administrators divided the participants into groups for which they had prepared tasks with interactive interpretation.

We could observe everywhere green iguanas, whose endemic subspecies is protected in Désirade. On the way, we were attracted by the wind turbines located on the ridge of the island. They told us that they are trying to use renewable energy sources on the island.



We compared water consumption according to individual household activities, we tried to identify how many litres of water we use for hygiene, flushing the toilet, washing dishes, cooking. Pupils had a program in the afternoon, which prepared a family for them. They went swimming in the sea, cycling, and exploring the island.



JEWELLERY AND CERAMICS WORKSHOPS

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We had a workshop at a stone jewellery manufacturer. First, we drew the shape of the necklace according to the model. They cut off unnecessary material with a grinder. The lecturer helped us with this part. Then came the sanding itself. From the raw stone to the finished necklace, we had to gradually grind through six different stones. It required lots of patience. But we made it. The workshop was not only about grinding stones, but we learned a lot of knowledge from geology.



We had lunch with the other students in the school cafeteria. Then we moved, some on bicycles, others on foot, into the real jungle. The ceramist Marcella was already waiting for us there. She already had clay, mats, tools, water and coloured glazes ready for us on the tables on the porch of her modest forest house. We chose the motifs of the 4 elements of the Earth - water, air, fire and earth. Once we knew what we wanted to model out of clay, she gave us valuable advice. Marcella will bake our products in the oven and on Sunday we will take home a handmade gift from Désirade. **Today was really great.**

!It was interesting that in the end no two identical motifs appeared among our creations. We concentrated on our work so much that the only sounds that could be heard came from the forest.



"Workshops taught us to be patient and concentrate on the work we were doing."





Lessons with peers

The first class here starts already at 7:00. "Our" French teacher divided us into groups in which we played an extended version of the game "name, city, animal, thing"

The break was followed by a geography/history lesson. Here it is like one subject and is taught as a whole. That was a tougher nut to crack, because the class contained a lot of information about the development of industry in France.

Serf - volants

After the bell rang, we moved to the schoolyard, where we made kites under the gazebo. The SPRAID Foundation, whose members cooperate with the school, came and showed us the progress of the work. We used cooperation, English, and knowledge of geometry. The kites were ready to fly.



After lunch, we met on the beach with parents and teachers for sports activities. Parents also prepared snacks, drinks, something sweet for us, local fruits similar to mini apples - surette, cashew fruit and surelle - tropical fruit in sugar. But the coconut sorbet was the biggest success.



OUR FRIENDSHIPS BECAME EVEN STRONGER AND WHAT WAS MOST PLEASANT, IN ADDITION TO FRENCH, WE COULD ALSO HEAR OUR SLOVAK SPOKEN BY FRENCH AND ITALIANS.



Today we got up quite early. At seven o'clock we were already at the port, where Francis was waiting for us on his motorboat. Before we set off, he took care of our safety - he gave us life jackets and explained to us how we should behave during the cruise.

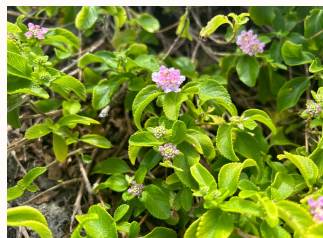
NATURAL RESERVE - PETIT TERRE - PARADISE ON EARTH

Petite Terre is a nature reserve where strict rules apply to protect animals and plants. Therefore, one of the islands is completely inaccessible to tourists, and on the other island, they can only move along marked educational trails. Jean Claude, the chief administrator of the nature reserve, was waiting for us on the shore. He familiarized us with the rules of behavior in the reserve and we chose to explore the kingdom of iguanas. It was they who took over this island. There are two species of iguanas on the island.



IGUANAS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Bertille also took snorkels for us, so Simon and I could also dive and explore the bottom of the ocean lagoon. There are places where swimming is not allowed - rare underwater plants grow there, which are also food for the sea turtles that live in the lagoon. Francis told us that there are about 40 of them in the lagoon. In addition to them, we also saw a ray and some kind of fish. On the way back we were lucky and saw flying fish.



EARTHQUAKE EXPERIENCE

Zemetrasenie s magnitúdou 6,2

Ovplyvnené krajiny: Dominika, Guadeloupe, Martinik, Montserrat, Svätý Krištof a Nevis, Karibské Holandsko a Antigua a Barbuda
48 km od Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe · 12:23

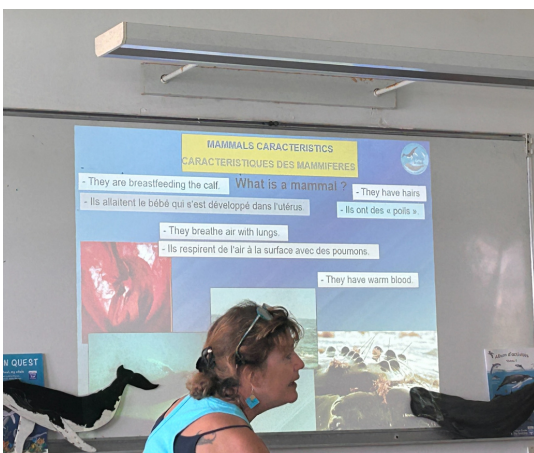


Our presentation started with a bombastic introduction. As soon as they invited us to introduce the project classmates to what we had prepared for them, the ground began to shake. It caused an earthquake in nearby Guadeloupe. The whole school had to be evacuated and we had to wait to see if the tremors would repeat themselves. Only when it was clear that there was no more danger could we return to the building.

” Right after the presentations, we moved to the workshop, where we worked in groups to design wind turbines, an important source of electricity. The material was simple - cardboard, skewers and adhesive tape, but that didn't stop us from experimenting and designing and testing our own prototypes of "wind towers" together.



"My school-my whale"



The topic was whales. The lecturer lectured so interestingly that you could literally hear breathing in the classroom.



CERTIFICATES AND GOOD BYE PARTY

THANK YOU GWADA TEAM

After lunch, we met again at the school, in the yard under the gazebo, where a program was prepared for us - traditional songs, dances and music.

We listened to a Creole song, got to know the seven basic rhythms of gwo ka drumming, which we could also try. Drums were also accompanied by a traditional Creole dance, which the teacher rehearsed with the students. The dancers had traditional hairstyles and were dressed in traditional patterned skirts.

Afterwards, the director addressed us and thanked everyone for their work in the project, the parents for their help with school activities and the students for their active participation and peer education. The mayor also came to the meeting, who appreciated the school's involvement in the European project and wished us many successes in the future.



Bertille handed out certificates to all participants, followed by refreshments, joint photos and the exchange of gifts. Some teachers are going to Guadeloupe for the weekend, so they said goodbye to us already today. We both want to thank you all for an unforgettable week in your school and host family. You will always stay in our hearts.