

## Pauline's Blog: Norway



### Day 1:

When we arrived, I was very excited and glad to see my penfriend (Christel) again. She brought me to her home, it was lovely. The houses made me think of the places in Canada or in the United States where all the houses have their own garden with only grass. I was very tired because of the trip but my host family welcomed me very well. Then we went to Celine's house to have a barbecue party with almost every girl in the class at five pm. It was very greasy but delicious. After that, we played to "Yams" all together. When we came back home, we ate again. Her mum had made waffles with brown cheese or



peanut butter or jam.

## Day 2:

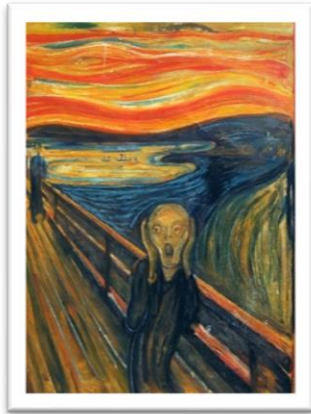
Today we left the house at 8 to catch the bus. We arrived at school at 8.40. Then we had French class. We played a game where we had to ask questions in English and in French like a "speed dating". It was very funny because there were too many French people so we had to ask questions to get to know each other between friends when we already knew the answers. Then we stayed with this French class to play baseball. I had never played this sport before but it was fun and I was proud of myself because I hit the ball once. Next, we attended a Power Point presentation about political parties and traditions in Norway. They explained us what the "Russ" was. It's a tradition that lasts a month where you go to parties with your friends in a bus but it's during the exams. I think it's cool but I would be too scared of failing my exams. Then we had a visit of the school. I think it is amazing to have so many infrastructures like beautician classes, cooking classes, a beautiful library. They can even get tests for chlamydia if they want to... Then we ate at the school restaurant. It was both elegant and delicious. And I was crazy about the dessert. After lunch we attended to presentations made by former refugees and a woman from the Red Cross. My favourite presentation was the history teacher because it was really moving and realistic. I found that his way of thinking, his humility, his intelligence, his sincerity and his strength was just so admirable. After class we went to the mall to chill and eat, AGAIN.



## Day 3:

On the third day, we went to Oslo by coach. I was so glad we had the chance to see the Norwegian parliament and enter in the principal room where deputies were discussing about laws. Then one of the left members of parliament agreed to answer some of our questions. And we ate too. I was surprised by the MP's answers because I always thought that Norway was very open-minded regarding migration politics. But actually, I learned that this country was very strict in terms of welcoming migrants. After that, we had free time to eat, so we went to the mall. And then we rested on the grass for an hour while the other group was visiting the multi-cultural museum. After that, we switched. The museum was very interesting because it was interactive. The guide asked us questions about our mentality and thoughts about prejudice. So, it was really enriching for everyone, I think. And before leaving we even added our personal touch to the

project by making a sheet with one of our prejudices. To finish the day, we ate Tacos at the mall with a group of friends.



### Day 4:

On Wednesday we went to Oslo for the second time. There we saw the opera and the huge library (the biggest one in Norway). And finally, the Munch Museum. I was very excited to see the "scream" because I love art and museums and I had never been to Oslo before so I never had the chance to see this artwork. I also saw the reconstitution of Munch's house but it was creepy and kind of oppressive. We could feel the presence of death all around the room. Then we ate sandwiches that one of the Norwegian's fathers gave us. Next, we took the boat to go to the Fram Museum. But before, we also visited the Kon-Tiki Museum. It was very funny because there was a scary cave and we all



even our  
Then the  
Museum

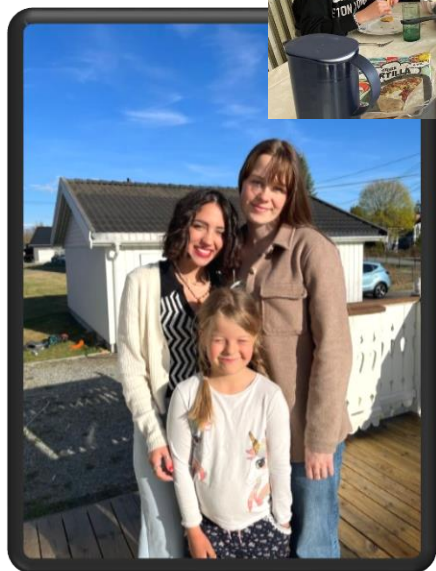


screamed,  
teacher.  
Fram  
was really

impressive because the boat was huge and all his story is so important for the world's history. The strength of these men who crossed the North Pole is incredibly impressive. Then, we tried a sort of small amusement park in the museum where we could feel the North Pole's temperature and be scared by corpses. It was really amusing, we did it at least three times. Finally, we went home and ate egg rolls.

### Day 5:

So today we had first a presentation about the Samis' culture. It was very interesting because we had the point of view of a person of our age who spoke about her urge to preserve her culture by learning the Sami language or wearing their traditional clothes. We even had the chance to ask her questions. Then we saw a film about the famous painter Munch. And I am not going to lie I kind of fell asleep during the movie so I can't remember it very well I'm sorry. I just remember how depressed this artist was and had only painting to cure his pain. Then we ate at the school's cafeteria and I choose a sandwich and a yogurt. Then, we had English class with a very nice and funny British teacher. I'm glad because I learned a lot of things about English accent, new words, celebrities, the UK's history and I even revised my geography. But unfortunately, we didn't win. To finish the day, we had a technology class where we had to say what we wanted to take in our suitcase if we had to live on Mars for more than two years. I wanted to take a living thing like a baby or a dog but it wasn't allowed. The Norwegian guy in our group said "brunost", which mean brown cheese so it was very funny but understandable because I find it delicious. And finally, we went bowling and ate pizza with the whole class. I was not very good at it but it was very fun because every group was mixed, French and Norwegians all together.



### Day 6:

For the last day of school in Norway, we went to Eidsvoll, the place where they signed the Norwegian Constitution. The guide was very captivating because he was very passionate. He told us about Europe's history and we also heard about the impact of Napoleon on Norwegian government. We also learned that for a long time, Norway wasn't independent but under the rule of the Denmark's king. I really appreciated the fact that the house had stayed exactly the same as in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I am fond of classical architecture. Then we went to eat sandwiches in the garden in front of this house and went back to the school to play basketball with our penfriend. It was very amusing but I was stressed because in our class there are a lot of people playing basketball in a club, like they are real professional. But I tried my best. After, the teacher announced us the results of the matches. I was at the bottom of the podium obviously. But we ate pastries so I forgot my failure quickly. Then we took a last picture and went to Kasper's party to celebrate our last evening all together.



## Day 7:

For the last day some people were going back to the mall at Oslo but I was starting to get sick of shopping so we decided to go for a walk in the forest. I thought it was a much better idea because we were in the city most of the time and we never had the opportunity to discover the Norwegian nature. It was a short hike but it was very steep. When we arrived at the top, we ate a picnic and I ate carrot cake for the first time, it was very good. During the walk my penfriend explained me that we were in a haunted forest because there were Vikings that were killed and buried all around us. She was telling me the history by translating signs from Norwegian to English. There was a party again but my penfriend and I didn't go because we thought it would be too difficult to wake up at 4.30 am the day after. So instead of going we stayed at her house and watched "Modern Family" with blankets while eating snacks and it was totally fine.

## The day of departure...

*I am feeling a deep sadness to see the end of such a beautiful adventure...*

*I said goodbye to Christel and to all of my beautiful meetings, Dorthie, Carina, Celine, Patrick, Anujha, John Patrick, Tobias, Hennie, Sondray, Rob and more I didn't have the chance to get to know enough...*

*Thank you for this trip, Mrs. Garcia for being so supportive with all the students and Mrs. Deries Glaister for organizing this trip. Even if you were very stressed 😊, you have given all your time, strength and energy in this journey and we (all the students) are so grateful to you for that.*

