

## Exchange Portugal-Belgium

November 9 – 16, 2011

Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>



We all arrived early at the airport in Brussels, except the teachers. The flight went well, but when we were about to touch down, the plane suddenly dropped a bit



and we were all screaming out of fear. We all were a little sad because it was raining, and therefore our bags were wet. In the airport in Lisbon, we experienced the first 'Portuguese lateness'. On our way to school, we saw a car lying upside down, and hoped that something like that wouldn't happen to one of us. We arrived at school and all the pupils were looking at us (like we were the crazy Belgians). Since we didn't eat that morning, all the Belgians were really hungry! So we went to the



canteen and the food was special. Because we didn't eat much, (and were still hungry) we went eating at a bar nearby.

Then, we went to one of the classrooms and teacher Ligia told us where we had to be that night. We never saw so many roundabouts in one road description! Everybody went home and got a guided tour to our home-for-one-week. When we had to go to Ligia's house, all the Portuguese brought a different dish they made at home, and we had a nice dinner. Afterwards, we had a huge pie especially made for this exchange (and it was really good). In Ligia's house, we had the chance to meet each other and to get more close. We entertained ourselves with singing, accompanied by a nice guitar; talking, playing fuss bal (kicker);...At the end of the evening, everybody went home happily!

***Lauranne, Louise en Serafine***

Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>



After the first night at our 'new' family, we had to gather at school at 10.00 A.M.

Once we were there, the bus came and took us to the theatre 'hotel hotel'. Before we could go in, we had to wait a bit (which isn't really unusual in Portugal).

Afterwards, we could go in and saw the whole play. Lucky for us, the actors spoke English. They played a hotel and needed some guests from the

public to play a role.

One of the Portuguese from the exchange had to play the role of a bride, her 'husband' was one of the boys from the school. They had to watch the theatre play for their English lessons.

She had to complain about the hotel because it wasn't romantic enough. She was a little shy, because she knew everyone was watching her.



The guests had all

to complain about the hotel; it wasn't romantic enough, the view wasn't beautiful, there were no pets allowed (someone wanted to take his pig into the room).

It seemed that the hotel would go bankrupt, but at the very end, everything went fine because they got a lot of money by winning a horserace.

After the play, we chilled a bit and enjoyed the

sun (we turned 'waiting' into 'chilling'). We waited for the bus to bring us to the modern part of Lisbon. In the Vasco Da Gama shopping center, we had the time to eat and shop, and to take the cable above the sea, near the Vasco Da Gama bridge.

Once we were home, we ate the first dinner with our 'new' family. And of course, in the evening, it was time to party! It was the first time we went to the beach bar 'Costa In'. It was very nice there, we already felt a strong atmosphere in the group.

**A group who would give us the week of our lives.**



*Eva*

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>



This day the Portuguese students had to go to school because they had class. But some of them could join us to Lisbon downtown.

First we visited a big vessel, it had three levels. The deck had canons, under the deck you had the place where the people ate and lived, and then you had the cave.



We took the boat to Lisbon city. First we strolled around in Lisbon downtown, where we visited the cathedral and the Commerce Square.



Afterwards we took an authentic tram that brought us to Lisbon

uptown, where we visited the castle. To make it more exiting we acted like we would conquer it from our teachers. But unfortunately we failed.

When we were back in Lisbon downtown, we got free time to shop and see the rest of the city. That day it was San Martino, so in the streets lot of people were selling chestnuts.

At 5 o'clock we all came back together and visited the fashion and design museum. It was very strange, for example there were shoes with heels of 20 cm.



As last activity we had dinner at a fado

restaurant, during the meal there was a man and a woman who sung a few songs. At first we had to laugh with the women because her voice was "special" :D.

But when man started singing everybody was quiet because he song so beautiful.

Conclusion: another great day in Portugal. Thank you for this experiences.

**Kato & Younnah**

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**



Saturday morning we slept until 1pm. We were both staying at Mariana's house (July's partner) and we were so tired of all the exciting stuff we had done the last week. We had to get dressed in a hurry because at 2pm we were expected to be at the boat that would bring us to the old part of Lisboa, where we would try the pastéis de Belém.

As we were ON TIME at the boat, we got on the old wreck. Everybody was looking so tired. As we were sitting on the boat outside we started getting seasick but it was funny to

see all the sick faces of everybody. We got off the boat and we walked to the famous bakery of the pastéis de Belém. We stuffed our stomachs with the



pastries. We were so full after that, our bellies could explode. Then we went to the famous cathedral where Vasco Da Gama is buried, the famous cathedral was called Monasterio de los Jerónimos de Belém. It was very impressive how the church was decorated. We remember that day really good because it was very stormy and the Tejo River was very wild which gave the statue that little more. After our cultural activities we went back home. July went to a family party of her exchange family. It was very fun because you could see how the Portuguese family are really close. We had chestnuts for dinner.

### **July & Inez**



## Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>: family day

Because we went to the disco or the bar on Saturday we all slept late on Sunday morning. We could do this because it was family day, which means that the family decided what we were going to do. Most of us slept until midday or even until the afternoon. It was already too late to have breakfast so we immediately had lunch.

After that we all did something different with our families. Most of us went shopping, hung out with the friends or family of their partner, visited a monument or building and some got to know their partner's interests or hobbies.



It was the perfect day to get or buy a present/souvenir for each other. We had dinner in the restaurant with friends or just the family and others had another chance to taste their "mother's" cooking skills.

Later in the evening the whole exchange group got together at the mall to do some shopping 😊. Unfortunately we only had one hour and a half to see all the shops of the Almada Forum, which was far to less: we only had time to see four or five shops.

At about 11 pm we all went home to get some sleep. It was the shortest day of the whole week because we slept late and got to bed "early".

***Tine & Leen***



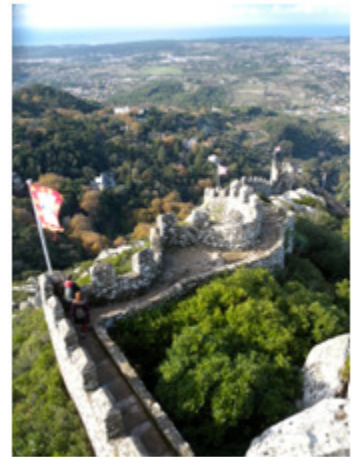
**Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**



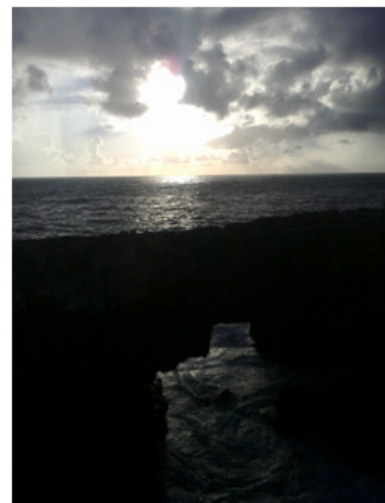
We met at school at 9 am. We took the bus to Sintra, a very touristic place in Portugal. First we visited the palace, we got separated from the Portuguese people

and went through the palace with an English guide.

The guide wasn't so kind, her explanation was boring and not interesting. In every room she always told the same things. Afterwards we had lunch and a bit free time for ourselves and visited the shops in Sintra.



Then we took the bus to the old castle. We walked around the castle. At the end of the visit most of the group was sitting in one of the towers where we were singing Belgian and



Portuguese songs. The castle was on a mountain, so the view was amazing. We could see the Ponte 25 de Abril. The replica of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

We waited for the bus to get back to the village. In the village we took our own bus to Cascais. First we stopped at the devil's mouth for 15 minutes. We watched how the water entered it. And after that we drove off to the village of Cascais. There we had 1 hour of free time. Most of the group went to eat something and others went to the beach.

After that we arrived at the school where the parents were waiting. Everybody went to their houses to eat with the family. At the evening, most of the group went to a bar in Almada.



And that was our amazing Monday!

***Suzanne & Andreas***

**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**



On Tuesday morning we needed to be at school at 8.30 a.m. We all had to go to class for 90 minutes. Caroline and I followed English class together with Tine and Lauranne. The teacher told us that we had to take a picture together of several families. The groups was divided in 5 persons, in almost every group a Belgian one. After class, we had different activities.

Some people could partake a quiz of 'How to be a billionaire' and the others were watching a football game of the Belgians and the Portuguese people. Unfortunately the Portuguese won with 12-5.

Afterwards we went to Almada, the shopping centre. Normally we had to take the bus but of course we were too late, so Teacher Lígia brought us with her car.

When we arrived, we needed to be under the dome, that was the place where we had to paint. The assignment was collecting money for 'Make a wish' by painting and selling things to people. We put the heads together to brainstorm.

After a while we got an idea what we were going to paint with our group. Every group made a wonderful painting (some of them were better than the others) but we succeeded to sell all of them. We don't know precisely how much money we received, but it was enough money to make a child happy. At least 500 euro. We had a lot of fun!



Around 19 o'clock everyone went home to prepare for the farewell dinner at Costa at 20.30. We were looking forward to go there because it was the last moment we could be together. First of all, the night started at the table where we had dinner. During the dinner there was a football game: Portugal against Bosnia. When Portugal scored, the Portuguese peoples went crazy! After a while we also went crazy. Portugal won with 6-2. After dinner, the evening turned into a big party! We enjoyed the evening very much. We talked a lot and we also laughed the whole night! A funny story actually. But no further details because what happens in Portugal stays in Portugal. One thing is for sure: it was the best night of our lives!

Unfortunately, not every story has a happy ending. The night was finished and we turned to our house for the last hours in Portugal. 😊

***Roxanne & Caroline***

**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> The last day**



We're going to describe our last day in Portugal.

Some had to wake up quite early because their partner had to go to class at 8:30, but the others could sleep a little longer. Everybody was a little bit tired because of the party the day before and everybody was in a bad mood because we had to go back. We went from the school to the airport, all the Portuguese went with us to say goodbye. At the airport we first made a picture of the whole group. Then the Portuguese made a queue, so we could say goodbye to everybody and give them a hug. Then almost everybody started crying, but we had to go to get our ticket. While we were waiting for our tickets the Portuguese came back to say goodbye a last time.

Our flight left at 1:00 in Portugal and we were in Belgium at 4:30 local time. There our parents were waiting for us and we all could go home, though everybody wanted to stay a little bit longer in Portugal.



**Wart & Jasper**

