

Alexandros C.

My trip to Valencia,

Spain, this past month was a great experience that taught me a few things about myself as well as the Spanish culture. Specifically, I realized that Spanish and Greek people share a lot of similarities since we are both Mediterranean people.

During the trip we visited many places in Valencia, but I especially enjoyed the Park of Calatrava, the famous architect who also designed one of the main Olympic stadiums in Greece for the 2004 Olympics.

However, there were a couple of things that I did not enjoy during my trip. I actually felt really tired because we walked for many hours each day and I would rather we had walked a little less so that I could enjoy my time with my host family. You see I am not an athletic type.

I hope I go back to Spain soon and spend some time in the other big cities!!!

All in all, thank you very much for the hospitality and fantastic stay!!!

Kriton M.

The trip to Valencia was an unforgettable experience. It was the first time I took part in such a program. I had a good time. I saw my friends from Spain and I met new incredible guys from Italy, Poland and of course from France. In Spain everything was just fantastic. Everyone was so kind. The Spanish students were the best. Their hospitality was very nice. They were very kind to us. I have to thank all the students from Spain for all this.

But I have to give more thanks to my host Adria. He is the best guy I have ever met. His hospitality was the best. He made me feel at home. Everything was so good and I will never forget him and his family.

Finally I have to say that the last day was very sad because we had to say goodbye for one more time. I had not cried for many years but when we arrived at the airport and understood that we were leaving Valencia, I don't know what happened to all of us, but we started crying. It was very hard to say goodbye; not to some friends of mine but to a second family.

I will never forget anyone of the guys that took part in this programme. I will remember you forever and I promise that I will see all of you again, because now you are my new family...

Thank you

See you soon..!!

Ioannis T.

There is so much to say about Comenius. The people I met, the places I visited, the memories I will have for the rest of my life, every little thing was just perfect. For 6 days I lived in another reality, in another world.

I was hosted by a wonderful girl, Naiara. I want to thank her for everything. She was very kind to me and made me feel so comfortable.

We visited many fascinating places like Calatrava's City of Arts and Sciences, the centre of Valencia where mascleta takes place (I loved mascleta, it was very exciting because the earth above your feet was trembling as it does in earthquakes!), a beautiful lake (it was so relaxing that I could sleep!), a sunny beach, a farm where Orxata is produced, some museums and many other shops and places inside the city of Valencia.

We also went to a disco, to a street disco and hung out at some other places. I loved all those nights because we were all together and we had so much fun that even if we were tired we couldn't stop dancing and enjoying every single moment.

Another thing that impressed me is that when someone was tired he sat down on the ground! I will remember this and I will do the same here in my country. I also liked petardos. It was really exciting. I wanted to take some with me but Naiara told me that I couldn't pass them through the airport control. It was such a pity that we weren't able to be at the Fallas, too. I liked the foods too, like paella, churros and tortilla. It was all so delicious! The thing that I also loved in Valencia was the weather. It was very sunny and with a warm, fresh air!!!

To conclude, I enjoyed every moment in Valencia. So many memories in so few days. For me, you are my second family. All of you. Someday, I will see all of you again. From now on, you own a huge piece in my heart. I will always remember you because I just can't forget you after all these memories and scenes imprinted on my mind.

I love you, Te quiero, Ti amo, Je t'aime, kocham cię!

Athanasia T.

From the beginning till the end it was an amazing trip! We had a lot of fun with the kids who travelled in Greece in November but we also met new kids and made new friends who we will never forget.

Everything was awesome from the first day in the school when we danced for the Woman's Day till the last day that we were saying goodbye at the same place for the last time. All the tears and the moments we'd been through, was an unforgettable experience that will remain in our hearts and minds forever! The hospitality, the atmosphere of Valencia, the parties, the guided tours, the food excited me! Alba's family made me feel at home and made my stay as comfortable as it could be. I will always remember their words "You will always have a home in Valencia, ours!".

I loved the Fallas and all the fireworks and the noise and the colors, it was spectacular! I hope I will see everybody soon! I wish! It was the best experience of my life and I hope it will be that way till the end!

I love youuuuu so much!

Vaitsa V.

This Comenius meeting in Spain was one of the most unique experiences!! Even from the first time that we arrived at the airport, the Spanish students welcomed us warmly and we all felt very excited to finally see our friends, after 4 months since the meeting in Greece. After the airport, we first went to their school, where the Spanish students danced a choreography for the International Women's Day and we had the chance to meet and talk with other Spanish students either from the Comenius project or not.

Later, my host student, Ana, took me to her house where I met her family -her parents and her brother- and I tasted the traditional Spanish dish paella. In the evening all the Greek and the Spanish students went out together to eat ice-cream and at night some of us went to a surprise birthday party of a Spanish girl and then to a night disco. There, we met for the first time the French students from the Comenius project and all together, dancing and singing, we had an amazing night.

The next morning, we met the rest of the Comenius students and we had a tour of the city of Valencia, mainly the historical center, during which, we learned a lot of fascinating things about the history of the city. We were all so lucky, because we visited Valencia during one of the best periods, a week before the "Fallas" and the whole city had started the preparations for this annual and traditional celebration. Apart from the lights in every corner of the city, every day at 2 o' clock they had the mascleta, a type of fireworks, and on our second day in Valencia, after the tour of the city, we went to the main square, where thousands of people were gathered, and we saw the mascleta... It was just incredible...!! In the evening we went out together and we saw the decorated streets of Valencia. I also had the chance to go to the falla of my host student, meet her friends and also take a photo with their fallera!! At night, we saw the masleta with colours, which lasted even less than that morning's mascleta but it had so many colours and sounds from the fireworks that it was simply breathtaking... Everyone got so excited about it!! After that, there was a street party, where we danced a lot and we had a lot of fun.

The other morning we went on a trip to the lake Albufera, but first we visited the museum of the Fallas and then in Alqueria we drank horchata, a traditional

drink which I really loved! In Albufera, after the boat trip, all the foreign students stayed together to have lunch, and we had the chance to talk, laugh, play a funny game and share some time together so as to know each other deeply and build up our friendship. When we left the lake, we went to the center of Valencia and we saw some of the buildings of the famous architect Santiago Calatrava in the City of Arts and Science, the Hemisfèric, the Oceanogràfic, the Umbracle... That evening my host family made me a delicious omelet and then all the Comenius students went out together.

The next day, we went to their school for the presentations of each country's festivals and we spent our morning and afternoon there, because the Spanish students had to study for their exams. All the foreign students stayed at the school yard, where we played football, listened to music, laughed and generally had a great and funny time... That evening was the last one in Valencia, so we all went out together (about 40 people!!!), we bought some souvenirs, ate pizza and went to a bar for a beer.

Those moments and generally the last three days of our trip, were the best days of the Comenius project and some of the best of my life!!! We spent time all together, danced and laughed so much. On Thursday, when we had to say goodbye, it was the most difficult time for us because we had to say goodbye to our friends, to people who we met for just a few days but somehow formed a strong friendship... At the airport we were all crying, wishing we could stay there and we gave a promise, that we will find a way all the Comenius people to meet again... There are no words to describe my moments in Valencia... Comenius people I love you and I miss you a lot!!

Antonia S.

My trip to Valencia was amazing! We met our Spanish friends again and spent five days with them and their families.

First of all, we did a lot of sightseeing, we learnt a lot of things about the fallas which is a part of a Spanish tradition and I really liked it.

In addition, we tasted different types of food like paella and tortilla. We went shopping to the center of the town in a very big mall whose shape was like a pyramid.

Finally, the accommodation was perfect it felt like home. I had a very good time in Spain. Something that really attracted my interest was the opera and the aquarium of Calatrava city, it was really beautiful and huge.

To sum up, I hope to travel to Spain again in the future to see my friends and spend my leisure time with them!

Thank you friends and families FOR EVERYTHING!

Fotini T.

My trip to Valencia lasted only 4 days. We visited many places and sights. Valencia is a wonderful, big city with friendly people. The buildings all over the city have a great architecture.

When we met the Spanish students, after 3 months since our first meeting, the airport was full of hugs, happy screamings and smiles. From the first time our hosts were very friendly and excited that we were in Valencia with them. They did their best to make us feel at home.

We went to Valencia a week before the Fallas which is a local festival. Every day at 2 o' clock the citizens gather in the center to watch the sky became colourful by the fireworks and the sound was so big that it was like an earthquake.

Generally, this trip was the best of my life! I met new people and learned a lot of things about the culture and the life in Spain. We had a great time with the Spanish students and it was difficult for us to say goodbye. We were crying and we didn't want to leave them. Comenius is a great experience and I really hope Spanish students visit us again in the summer. Many thanks, to my hosts-friends, once again!!!

Nikoleta P.

My Comenius Stay in Spain

This was my first time abroad and I was looking forward to it. I was glad to meet some of my Comenius friends again. I also met some new people that participated in the program.

We stayed in Valencia which is the one of the biggest cities in Spain. During our trip we learned about the Spanish culture. We visited some lovely places such as the park of Calatrava. There, we admired the Opera House of Valencia. We also took a ride on a boat in a lake near Valencia. We also had the opportunity to visit a cottage and taste their locally produced drink as well as a lovely sweet treat. We were very surprised to see a fallas event on the street. There were some people with traditional costumes that danced and paraded. This reminded me of the carnival we have in Greece.

I was sad to leave Spain. I miss my friends a lot. We will keep in touch and I hope they will visit us in Greece in the summer!!!