

Trip to Wrocław

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Polish weather might be challenging for those who are coming to Poland for the Erasmus exchange program, especially during the winter time. However, the international office of our university knows that there is only one remedy for the boredom related to the capricious weather, and it is a trip! Recently our Erasmus students have had a tremendous opportunity to visit Wrocław – one of the most recognisable cities of Poland also known as Venice of the North. Here comes a short account from the trip.

The students arrived in Wrocław at 9.30. They followed their mentors from the bus station to the centre of the city where they were given one hour to explore the main square on their own. On the way to the hostel they managed to take some photos with a beautiful view on panorama of Wrocław from the Oder Boulevards. The city welcomed our students with the magnificent weather. Though it was cold, the sky was blue, therefore they could admire the wonderful cityscape. After checking in at the hostel, the students were given some time to spend on their own again. We hope that they visited some of the restaurants present on the culinary map of Wrocław. The mentors took care of the students during the whole evening. At first they showed the participants of the trip Ostrów Tumski, the oldest part of the city. They spent a couple of minutes taking photos of the Tumski Bridge and then they entered the famous Cathedral of John the Baptist. After that the students came back to the hostel and had fun while participating in the quiz about Poland, organised by the mentors. The aim of the trip was to integrate the people, therefore we are glad that our mentors managed to help them form new bonds. Later, some of the students decided to better feel the atmosphere of Wrocław and try a little bit of the city night life.

The second day of the trip started with a guided tour. The students had an excellent possibility to learn about the city and its interesting culture connected with the fact that for many years Wrocław had not been a Polish city. Salt square was the first place visited during the tour. The guide showed the students the oldest building in the city and drew their attention to the dwarves. Have you known that there are about 400 of them in Wrocław? They are the pride of the city dwellers but there are also hundreds of other attractions in the city, which by the way is the winner of the European Best Destination 2018 contest. The guide told the students about some historical places such as the Gothic town hall placed in the Market square and brought them to the monument built to commemorate the Memory of Animals for Slaughter. Guided through the city, the students could also admire the street art created by Eugeniusz Get-Stankiewicz. The trip would not be complete without sightseeing the famous Więzienna street. Nowadays people can find there some great restaurants and cafes, however, in the past there was a prison located on this street. Later, the guide showed our international students the building of the National Ossoliński Institute as it is known for its great collection of books important for the Polish culture. After that, the students were welcomed to visit the Museum of the University of Wrocław where they could see the pearl of Polish Baroque,

Leopoldin's hall and the musical hall. The most interesting part of the guided trip was probably the visit in the Mathematical Tower, previous astronomical observatory, from which there is a view of the whole city. When the guided tour finished, the students were given time to have dinner and walk around the city one last time. They left Wrocław in the evening and arrived in Kraków at about 9 PM. The city welcomed them with snow. As we have said it earlier, the weather in Poland is pretty capricious sometimes.

We hope that from then on Wrocław has a special place in hearts of those Erasmus students and hopefully they have already started calling it Wroclove.