

Amsterdam

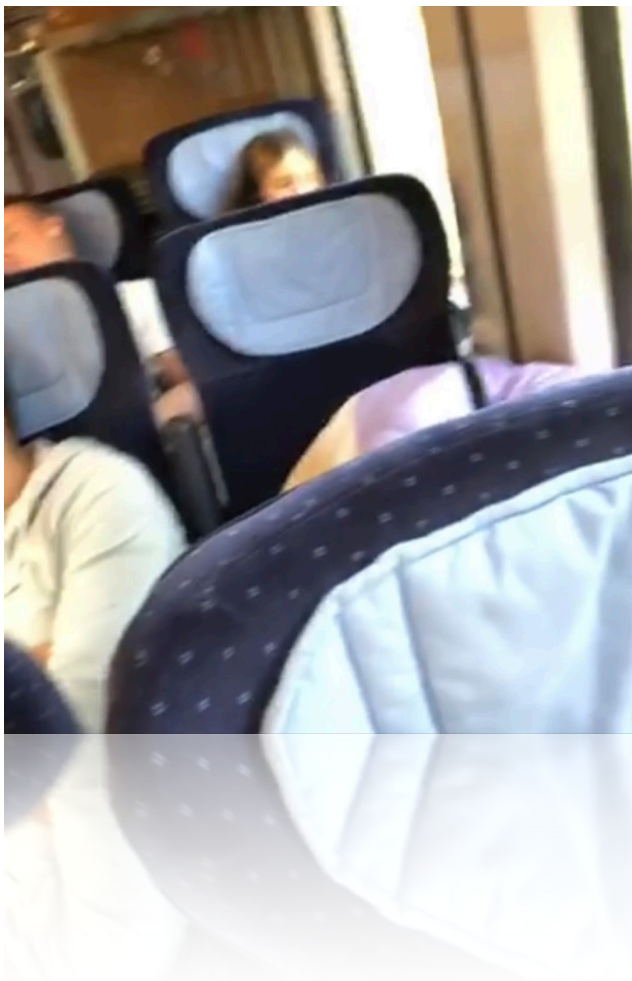
A small class lost in a big city



Monday

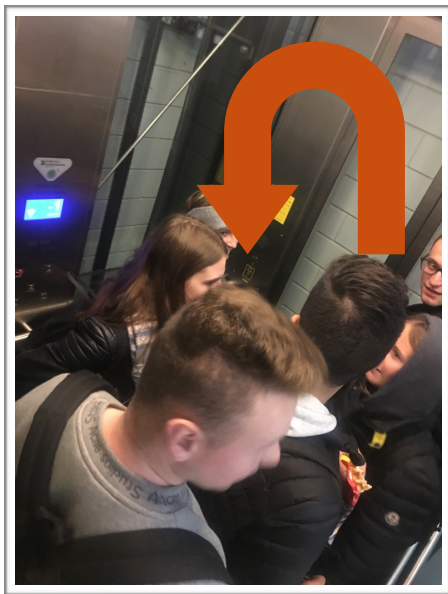
It was a cold Monday morning at the main station in Hanau when a small class of seven students, Mr Rosenmaier's LK, gathered at the entrance. Since everyone was extremely tired because no one managed to go to bed at an appropriate time, all of us wanted to arrive as soon as possible.

The plan for today: arriving at around 3pm and exploring the city in groups of at least three. Part of the group spent the train ride from Hanau to Frankfurt playing games from our childhood while the other part was listening to music and trying hard not to fall asleep. The whole trip to our destination was pretty exhausting since we missed one out of the four trains we had to take - due to a delay - and were not blessed with any aesthetic landscapes but rather green fields and cows - *a lot of cows*.



So, we didn't miss much while sleeping...

Arriving in the Netherlands, no one *but* Max was ready to carry their heavy suitcases up the stairs like we already did all day. Therefore, everyone was happy to spot functioning elevators at the train stations where all of us could fit in perfectly - well, almost all of us since **Arthur** kept putting his suitcase in the *middle of the way*..



Finally, after we had jumped off the last train, we saw a sign we were all eagerly waiting for to see:

Amsterdam, Centraal Station

But, as we thought that we had arrived, a new hurdle arose.

It was a literal hurdle. A ticket booth?

Somehow, all of us (yes, eight grown people) managed to pass the ticket booth with the only ticket that Mr Rosenmaier had in his bag.

In the end, we arrived at the a&o hostel which happened to be a very good residence. The only problem was the breakfast since all the classes in the building managed to be hungry at the same time so that queueing was not really even worth it.





After everyone got settled in their rooms (when we finished settling the issues with our room cards), the class separated in two groups and spent their evening exploring, or rather getting lost in the big city, while grabbing expensive dinner.

As already mentioned, it was an exhausting first day but definitely worth it considering the experience and memories we made during the following days.



Tuesday

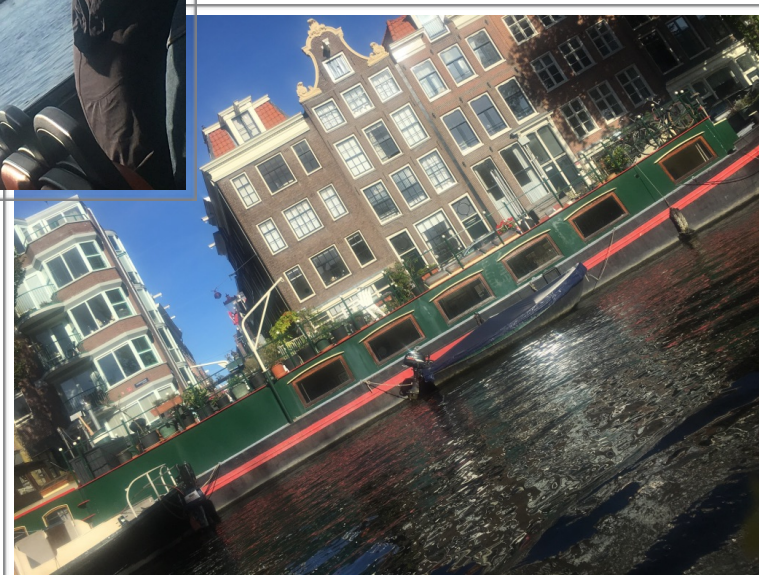
The classes of Mr Rosenmaier and Mrs Maser met in the early hours of Tuesday to take part in a Gragtentoer that everyone was very excited to experience.



As we got on board, everyone put their headphones in to listen to the historical informations about the city. It was an amazing experience for both classes because the weather was nice and you were able to spot a new building each time with the blink of an eye.



The trip went by quickly and the class was ready to continue exploring the city (but by foot this time).





Walking along the main street in Amsterdam, we kept spotting amazing souvenir shops and restaurants we wanted to come back to in the following days.



Spoiler Alert: we got lost all the time so we couldn't really remember half of the places we marked on our imaginary map.

Around 3pm, after we decided on which museum we were going to visit in the evening, we walked around the city and visited shops which were too expensive to afford and cute, little supermarkets that made us spend all our money on flavored sodas and sweets.



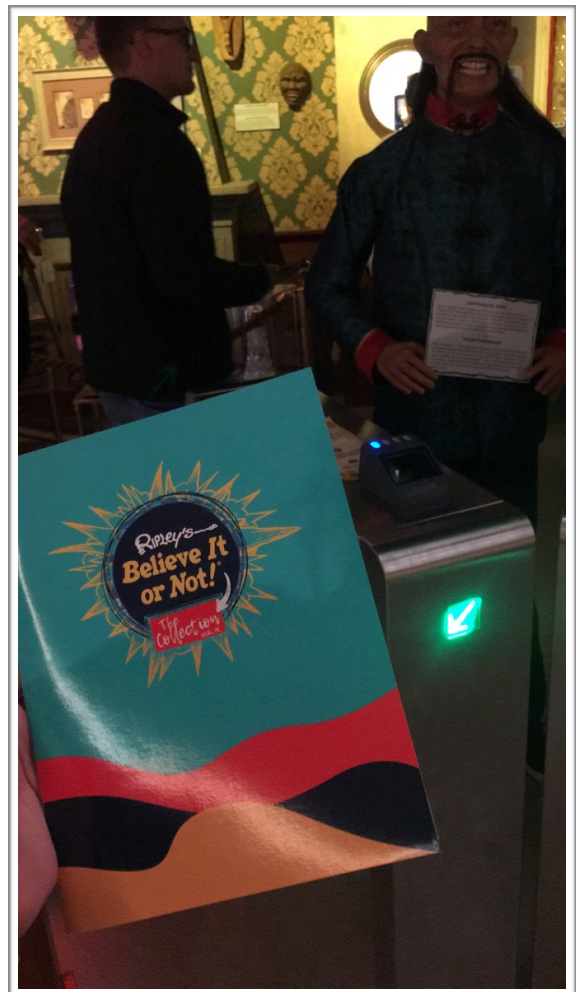


By 6pm our bellies started grumbling. Food! Since we had pasta yesterday, we went for some of the best fries in the city.

After we finished our food, we made our way to the museum and we were very excited to visit it: **Believe it or not**



Very tasty!



Wednesday

Good morning "Den Haag"!

The flixbus took us directly to the beautiful city on the western coast of the Netherlands in less than half an hour. We were all very happy to visit the Peace Palace since it is something that's a must for students majoring in politics and economy!



Sadly, arriving there after a walk of 20 minutes, we were told that it was closed. But the free visitor center that gave us a sound tour with pictures and headphones was still a nice substitute since we were able to learn a lot about the entire historical meaning of the also visually impressive Peace Palace.

The way back was very relaxed since we also stopped at a cute cafe to get our daily "morning coffees". We sat down and talked about the trip so far and shared experiences from the day before. Moreover, since Rojhat caught a light cold the day before, Mr Rosenmaier facetimed him to check on his well-being!

He was fine of course, he just needed to rest a bit.



We spent the rest of the day exploring the city and taking a look at the parliament.



Our bus had a delay of almost two hours so the way back was a bit troublesome because we also couldn't find a shelter, we had to wait in the cold.

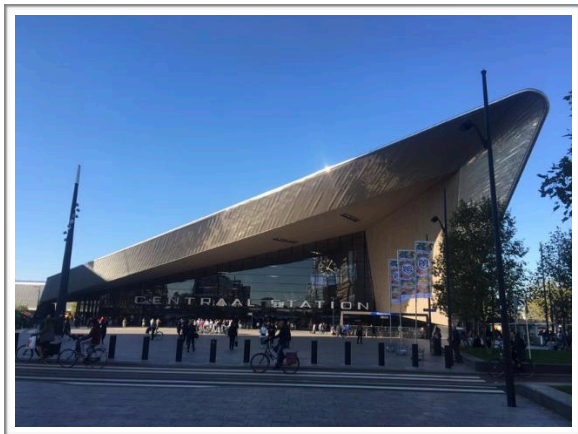
Eventually, we made it back to the hostel and went to sleep immediately since Thursday was going to be tough on us!

Thursday

The early bird gets the worm!

Or rather: the early students got the flibus once again.

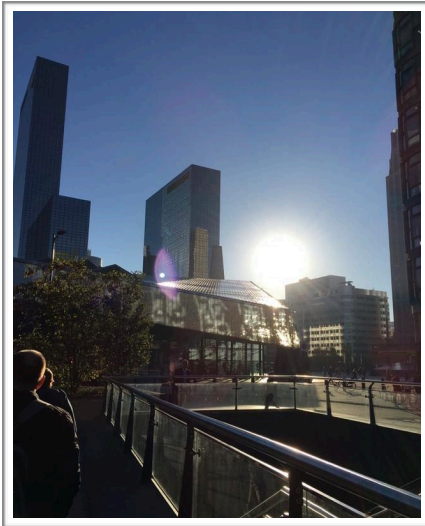
Since some students caught a cold the day before, today's group had to visit Rotterdam with less people.



Arriving at the main station, we came to realized how clean everything was! Moreover, the material of the building was a noble kind of steel which left an amazing impression on us.

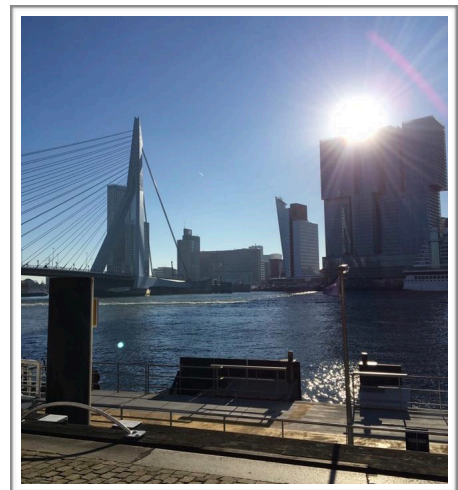
We took the train to arrive at the harbor since one cannot leave Rotterdam without taking part in a tour. But it was more or less a disappointment because you couldn't see a lot of the so called "biggest European harbor".



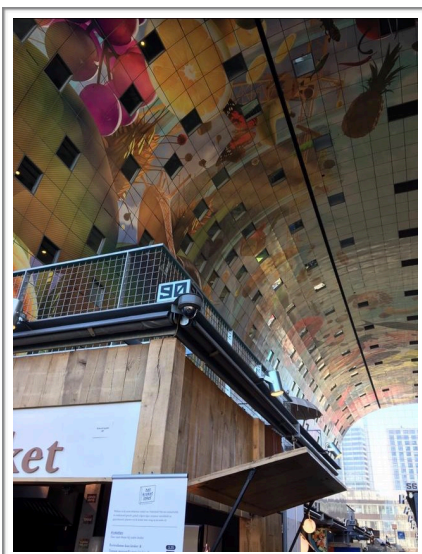


As we walked through the city afterwards, we came across modern buildings. We were all able to agree on the fact that the architecture fascinated all of us: huge glass shields, high-risen buildings, stone facades!

We moved on and decided to sit down and grab lunch in a historical harbor which had a very comfortable atmosphere.



As we started to continue our walk, we went straight to the market hall that had not promised too much. It had a well-groomed, modern, beautiful appearance and a very high ceiling!



As you can see, the last day was filled with many memories and a wonderful impression of Rotterdam.

Friday

Goodbye, Amsterdam!

Everyone was kind of sad to leave since we just got used to this country and its traditions and culture but it was time to return back home. The way back was less stressful since everyone was very talkative and wanted to recall the best memories that were made during the week. In addition to that, the class of Mrs Maser took the same trains as we did, so everyone had a lot to talk about!

We arrived by 6pm and our ways parted for the autumn holidays.



Our study trip was definitely one to remember and I'm sure I can speak in the name of the entire class when I say that we would definitely do it again if we had the chance to.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Mr Rosenmaier for making such a journey possible!

