

## Trip to Spain with Comenius- Excursions with the whole Comenius group

Besides the individual trips with our host-families, we made two excursions with the whole Comenius group: Firstly, we went to Toledo (Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013) with a following visit of Consuegra. Secondly, we did “sight-seeing” in Madrid (Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013). The Spanish history teacher came along with us to tell us something about the different sights. The visitation of Madrid heralded the end of our trip to Spain because we stayed in hotels in the evening. The next morning, we directly went to the airport and back to Germany.

But let's start with our excursion to Toledo, the former capital of Spain. The city is 70 kilometers to the east of Madrid and famous for the really delicious marzipan. When we arrived, we all had the feeling of being in the old days: Old buildings, narrow streets, but still really charming. Only when cars came along, the situation became a bit problematic because there was not much space. We started our tour with the visiting of a mosque that was built in 999 AD. It is separated into a square Muslim and a semi-circular Christian part. Afterwards, we made our way through the mazelike streets to the cathedral of Toledo. You could spend hours inside without having seen everything. It belongs to the Spanish cultural heritage and by going in, one is directly overwhelmed by the magnificence. I personally was especially impressed by the great gilded and painted altar and the chapter house: On the upper part of the wall, there are oils, showing scenes of the life of virgin Marie and of the life of suffering of Jesus. Underneath, one can see portraits of former bishops and in the center of the room, there is the throne of the archbishop. After having talked about the Muslim and Christian religion, the visiting of a synagogue was the next point of the agenda. Afterwards, we got some time to take a closer look at the town on our own and buy some marzipan.



On our way back to Villarubia, we stopped in Consuegra to visit an old castle and a windmill. Castilla La Mancha, the region, where we have been, became famous because of Don Quijote. That's why, the story about his fight against the windmill was told us.

On Friday, we went to Madrid where we spent a wonderful day. Greeted by splendidous sunshine, we started our tour (again guided by the Spanish history teacher) in front of the palace of King Juan Carlos I and his wife Sofia. Then, we visited a lot: a market hall, the “Plaza Mayor” and the town’s landmark, the bear nibbling of a strawberry tree. One can find his monument on the “Puerta de Sol”. In the Middle Ages, the land in and around Madrid was divided between the clergy and the nobles; since then the tree symbolizes the clergy and the bear the nobles. After having arrived in front of the palace again, we had to realize that we have been a bit too late. Consequently our reservation for a guided tour through the palace was not available anymore. So, we had a lot of time to go through Madrid on our own. After some hours, we went all together to the art museum “Museo del Prado”

where we could take a look at famous works of art, for example of Durer and Rubens. After the visiting, the bus picked us up and we were brought to our hotels. Because they were all really close together (excepted by the one where the Poles stayed), we could meet in the evening to eat some pizza together.



All in all, I really enjoyed the trip to Spain; the program was diversified on the one and interesting on the other hand. We stayed in host-families, thus I could gain insight into the life of a Spanish family. That is something, I do not want to miss. In the beginning, I thought that it would become difficult to stay in a family whose language I do not understand. But I made the experience that we could communicate quite well. The impressions I gained during the presentations and by talking to the other Comenius-partners are important to me. Due to the project, I came in contact with people, I would not have met normally.