

Hi everyone,

I am Yente, an exchange student in Slovenia and I come from Belgium. I would like to tell you about my experience here in Slovenia. I lived 3 months with my lovely host family Dulmin. And I was going to school in Gymnasium Kocevje. But let's start by the beginning.

Before I wanted to go on exchange I had to choose 3 countries, the organisation would choose one of them. There was some information about every country, so I start reading. Then I had to make my choice... It took hours, no Yente not that one and I change it for I think 20 times... But Slovenia never changed out of my list. After a couple of months I got a mail, I could go to Slovenia... The country where I was sure of from the beginning. That's when it all started.

And now I already have to leave this beautiful country, my lovely host family and my amazing Slovenian friends. Maybe for someone else it is weird that I say that I don't like it that I have to go back, back to Belgium to my own family back to my Belgian friends... But I just know that this was just once in a lifetime, I know that this were the 3 best months of my life... I know... It never will be the same again! Ofcourse I will come back, but not for that long anymore, and that's what make saying goodbye so difficult, that's why I don't like it for going back to my "normal" life.

Slovenia was for me the biggest adventure ever! Alone in a city that I didn't know, in a family I didn't know. I had so much questions, how is it going to be in school, would they be nice for me? What are the differences? How is it to live in another family? And so much more was going on in my head when my exchange started. I didn't know what to expect. But after this 3 beautiful months, my exchange changed me, I met so nice people all over the world, I came more independent and I learned a new culture!

Going on exchange was for me learning about myself, about the difference in culture. Like school in Belgium we don't have malica but we bring our own sandwich, we don't have the slippers and the lockers, we don't have the same grades as here In Slovenia, we have a totally different school system, we start at 8.30 and finish at 15.45 and that's not everything! Going on exchange is nice because you have a different life then in your own country, you meet people from all over the world and that's make going to another country so interesting and so nice! Now the last day of my exchange is near and I have to say goodbye with pain in my heart to people who are so important to me and I didn't even know them 3 months ago. Going on exchange made from me a different person. And if they would ask me if I would do it again, I don't even have to think about that!

I would also like to thank AFS Slovenia, my Slovenian and Belgian family, gymnasium Kocevje and everyone else who made my exchange so perfect!

Hvala lepa!
Yente

