

## My trip to Greece by Rachel

I absolutely loved Greece and I will definitely recommend Thessaloniki to anyone. The houses, people, places and food were all beautiful.

I really enjoyed living with a host family (in fact, I was lucky to have two!), it gives you a much more 'real' experience of the country you are staying in. The Grozoudis family were friendly and kind, I felt very comfortable and happy living with them. Iro and Fay, the girls were funny and welcoming. They were interested in me, my life and my hobbies. Iro's English was most impressive and it was hilarious the way Fay chatted away to me in speedy Greek!

The Apostolatos family were also very hospitable, Catherine and Konstantina were lovely girls and fun to be with. They were fabulous dancers and I really loved watching them practice. I so enjoyed being with these four girls, I hope we'll stay friends for life.

As well as meeting many fantastic Greeks, I also became good friends with one of the Italian students, Camilla. She was great to chat with and it was nice to be with someone who was totally new to Greece too!

I wish I could let you meet all the awesome people I did and I am very pleased to say that I am keeping in touch with many on them and I plan to for a long time.

We were incredibly lucky to have a fabulous Guide named Maria who has taught me so much in a really fun way. One of my favourite trips was to Mount Olympus, I was so amazed by its beauty. I loved the fresh air and nature around me and it was cool to think I was on a mountain where Greek Gods lived. I was so inspired that I really want to climb to the top one day!

The wildlife was very beautiful. On Saturday, our last day, we ate ice creams sitting on Leaf, Nikis Street on a pavement that dropped, with no wall or barrier, into the sea! I called it the 'dropping pavement'. We sat on the edge and watched fat sea urchins and sea slugs and admired the awesome neon electric stripes of some unfortunately dead jellyfish. I really enjoyed every time we walked along the 'dropping pavement'.

Finally, the food was brilliant! The fresh Greek salad and juicy souvlaki were delicious. We visited a nut factory which was fabulous and obviously the nuts were yummy too! I really enjoy food and trying different things so I always looked forward to every meal with our Greek hosts and the other visitors.

I could write a novel about how fabulously, brilliantly fantastic this trip was! It has been so interesting and exciting and I couldn't be more thankful to the amazing people I have met. Greece and Thessaloniki were beautiful, stunning and way exceeded my expectations. I feel privileged to have had this opportunity, I loved every second of it!