

2024



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ERASMUS+ YOUTH EXCHANGE

THE SPIRITS OF RELIGIONS



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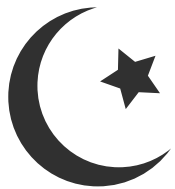
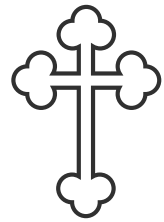
20. - 27. April 2024
St. Kanzian | Škocjan



ZAVOD SV. FRANČIŠKA SALEŠKEGA
Gimnazija Želimlje

Religions we got to know during this youth exchange

Orthodox Christianity is a branch of Christianity that emphasizes the traditions and teachings of the early Church, including the belief in one God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It values sacraments, the veneration of icons, and the intercession of saints. It has a hierarchical structure, a highly ritualistic liturgy, and a rich history and culture.



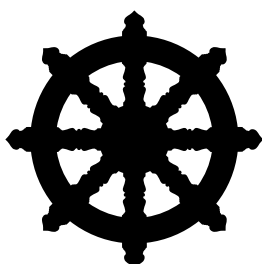
Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. It emphasizes the belief in one God, submission to God's will, and the accountability for one's actions. The Five Pillars of Islam are central to its practice. Islam has a rich history and culture and is the second-largest religion in the world with over 1.8 billion followers.

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that was founded in the 15th century in the Punjab region of India by Guru Nanak and nine successive Sikh Gurus. It emphasizes the belief in one God, with the holy book being the Guru Granth Sahib, which is considered the living Guru. Sikhism places great importance on spiritual equality, social justice, and selfless service, and the Five Ks are important symbols of Sikh identity. The ultimate goal of Sikhism is to achieve union with God through meditation and ethical living.



Judaism is a monotheistic religion that originated in the Middle East over 3,000 years ago. It is based on the belief in one God who revealed himself to Abraham, Moses, and the prophets of Israel. The Torah is the central text of Judaism. Judaism emphasizes the importance of observing the commandments, or mitzvot, which include the Sabbath, prayer, charity, and ethical behavior.

Roman Catholicism is a branch of Christianity led by the Pope. It believes in one God and the holy trinity, and holds the Bible and Church traditions as authoritative. Sacraments, the veneration of Mary and saints, and a hierarchical structure are central. Its liturgy is highly ritualistic and ceremonial, and it has a rich history and culture.



Buddhism, founded by Siddhartha Gautama, teaches that life is characterized by suffering caused by craving and ignorance. It offers the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path as a way to end suffering and achieve enlightenment (Nirvana). There are two main branches: Theravada, focusing on individual liberation, and Mahayana, emphasizing compassion for all beings. Buddhism's core practices include meditation, ethical living, and mindfulness.



19. 04.



The youth exchange “The Spirits of Religions” is the camp organized by InicativAngola. In this year’s international religious camp we were together from Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Hungary, and Austria.

By the faith we are Catholic and Orthodox Christians, Muslims and Atheists. To get to know other religions we invited guests to represent the religions, for example Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism and Protestantism.





20. 04.



This was our first morning all together. After a quick run that the Slovenian group prepared for the energizer, everyone stayed outside to hear the big introduction to this camp.

We were split into international groups that will be kept until the end of this camp, all the tasks shall be departed by international groups. We got some time to think about a group name and show our creativity with a poster. The names of our international groups are Bears, Archers, Bass Team, 10 balls, Minions and Kings. Next, we played some games to get to know each other better and after exploring the area and spending some time by the lake, we had lunch together.

Following to that, we climbed a nearby mountain together from where we had a stunning view of the surrounding area and lakes. After a short break, we started to make our way back to the hotel. On the way back, many interesting and inspiring conversations started. Discussions were held and experiences about our homecountry, scholar and political systems were exchanged.

From the first day on, the house was already filled with music, guitar playing and singing. In the evening, after an exhausting day, we enjoyed a very tasty dinner (special notice and thanks to our two cooks at this point) and visit of the concert Rock4Angola, and all fell exhausted into bed.



At the concert Rock4Angola in Bleiburg/Pliberk, four bands were playing for a good cause.

The first gig started at 19:00 and the concert lasted until 23:30.

The bands playing were from all over the region and the songs were in many languages. They had many brakes, and snacks were offered at all times.

Later the bands went out to sign autographs on people's arms and shirts.

Shirts were also being sold and the band took pictures with the fans.

21. 04.



Today was the second day of the youth exchange. After an excellent energizer prepared by the Serbian team, we had a hearty breakfast. Considering that today is Sunday, the day when the Holy Mass takes place, we visited a nearby church. There we had the opportunity to see Catholic customs in practice. In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to hear more about Sikhism and Catholicism in Uganda. Today we spent our daily MyTime by the lake, listening to the sounds of nature. But definitely, the favorite part of the day, for all of us, except the dinner, was the Bazaar of Cultures. Each group prepared the best of their country. After the presentation, we enjoyed traditional food, drinks, music and dancing. Most importantly, all together!!!!





22. 04.



Today was our 3rd day here. The weather was nice and sunny.

First, we heard about the Catholic religion from the Hungarian group. They made a small dialog between the group members, asking questions and answering them. It was very creative.

The second presentation was prepared by the Slovenian group. They showed us the wedding ceremony in the Catholic religion. We had a great time and learned many new things.

We are very happy to be here and to learn all about the different religions.





23. 04.



This morning, we had a presentation about Protestantism by the pastor Igor Vukić. We talked about the history of the religion and had some discussions about universal love, forgiveness and the individuality of one's faith.

This afternoon, we had presentations about Islam and Atheism. In the Islam session, we learned about its customs, festivities, and even experienced a glimpse into a typical Eid morning. In the Atheism talk, we got to understand the basics and principles behind Atheism. Both presentations encouraged questions and active participation, showing the dedication of the presenters.





24. 04.



It was day 5 of our Erasmus+ exchange. As usual, we started our day with an energizer which was followed by breakfast. After that, we had a presentation about the Orthodox religion that was prepared by Serbians. It was great and we all learned something new. When the introduction to the Orthodox religion was done, the Serbian group prepared a demonstration of their Christmas dinner. We found out that bread, plums and of course čestnica are all part of their traditional dinner. They also showed us some traditions and made this an unforgettable experience.



25. 04.



Today we learned a lot about Buddhism, how it is important to be a good person and how meditation can help us in our daily life. We also heard some life stories from one of the participants, Majid, on how his life has turned around, and his ups and downs along the road.

Going for a small walk around the lake is also what we did today to enjoy the view and get fresh air as we do our MyTime.

After that we had a talent show that enabled us to show some of our skills and talents to the others. We had many different shows from playing instruments and singing to showing some of our art.

All in all an amazing afternoon filled with lots of new things we learned and had a lot of fun too.





26. 04.



Today we had to wake up early in the morning, because we made a trip to Klagenfurt. Our first stop was the Slovene High School. There we practiced our flashmob in front of some students and had a short break. After that we went to the mosque "Flower of Srebrenica". The Imam gave us a short presentation of the mosque and answered all our questions. Then we went to the center of the city, to perform our Flashmob. At 12:15 we started with our Flashmob and it was a big success. A lot of people were watching us and the atmosphere was really good. After the Flashmob we had lunch and then we had the whole afternoon time to visit Klagenfurt. We also met the Catholic archbishop Hočevár and visited the Catholic and Orthodox church.

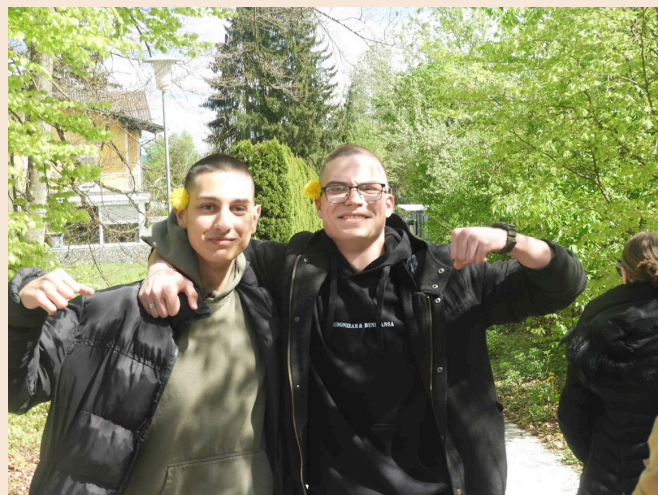




27. 04.



It was the last day of the youth exchange. We spent the morning cleaning our rooms and the whole accommodation. After that, we had the final points of the program: A final reflection where we were invited to give our feedback about the accommodation, the food, the program, etc., and finally, the ceremonial act of handing out the Youthpasses to the participants.



The evening was bittersweet. We enjoyed the last hours being together and celebrated our new friendships.

This youth exchange will stay in our memories for a long time.





IMPRESSUM:

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