

## Teşekkürler Turkey

My journey to the gates of Asia began on July 24th with my heart in my throat and with great expectations that during my stay have always remained so. Seeing from above the country that would host me was the thought that kept me company throughout the long journey and when I began to fly over it I saw an expanse of many houses with brown roofs and I could not see the end of this great expanse. As I looked at the city I began to realize that I was in another country far from home and with a different culture from mine so I was



overwhelmed by a sense of inquietudine disappeared as soon as I met the family.

Arriving at Istanbul airport I was welcomed by my host-family, who hosted me in their house, an apartment located on the 11th floor of a building in the Ataşehir region of the Asian part of Istanbul.



The reception was maximum, immediately I felt like one of a family to be called "abla" or older sister. The host-family consists of parents, a sister, grandmother and a kitten; in each of them I have recognized characteristics common to my family but mainly I have felt loved by everyone even by the kitten.

The first 10 days were spent in the name of knowledge of Turkish customs and traditions and between a swim in the pool, a walk in a shopping center, picnics on the beach and games with the cat the week flew by. During the weekend, there was a visit to the most popular tourist attractions of Istanbul such as: the Galata Tower, Dolmabahçe Palace, the Taksim district and many other



places difficult to remember in their names. What I will carry in my heart and in my memory are the long chiacchierate in the evening with parents about our past, our future and comparisons regarding Italian and Turkish culture, which unlike what you may believe, in my opinion not very different from each other. During the stay in the family I also met a Finnish girl who I would then meet again at the camp. The

greeting with the family was not a farewell but an arseeing each other, in fact, I count and hope to return to Turkey in thefuture.

My camp was "Istanbul Fashion & Culture" where I shared my second 10 days with 32 guys from all over the world with whom I immediatly managed to establish a relationship of friendship especially with other Italians, with my Spanish roommate and the two Finnish girls and with two Mexican girls with whom I still share my youths born through snaps. The camp staff consisted of 2 girls and 3 boys with whom I have never had problems and they showed themselfstoyou always available in all respects.



The camp's coordinator was also able to keep the camp's expectations high and always accompanied us in any activity we carried out.

The program of the camp was unknown until the last day because the staff preferred that we had a surprise effect day after day and therefore only every morning we could find out what we were offered to do in the day. The activities were mainly playful such as: a relaxing and fun boat trip, sailing, rowing, white party which, however, were accompanied by activities more thandascaliche such as the lesson of history and Turkish language, tourist walks, visits to the main historical places in Turkey.

These second 10 days flew even faster than the first, the last day was tragic because everyone was crying but I realized the end of this experience when I saw my teammates moving further and further away fromthe car. I thank once again the Lionsfor this opportunity they have

given me and I will always carry my esperienza and the Turchia in my heart.

