

# Our Trip to Barcelona

## Leaving HK

Tang Shiu Cheung (6C)



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 2010, we went to Hong Kong International Airport. I was excited and nervous. We took flight KL 890 to Amsterdam Schipol Airport and the flight time was about 12 hours. However, our destination was not Amsterdam; we were heading to Barcelona for a 6-day study tour.

We exchanged goodbye kisses with our parents, then we went into the departure area.



During the flight, we got Spaghetti and a salad for dinner. After dinner I went to sleep. I was woken up by a nice smell, guess what? It was Cup Noodles! Everyone got one except for the ones who were asleep! I was watching G-Force at the moment while I was eating the Cup Noodles. As the time passed, I got more excited and nervous.



Finally, after 12 hours flight, we arrived at Amsterdam Schipol Airport. We headed to the immigration of the E.U. (European Union). It was extremely crowded and we had no idea where to go as nobody was lining up! While we waiting in 'line', Khethile said that she had lost her passport! Luckily, an airport staff found it on the plane and returned it to her! We all thought that we would miss our flight. Luckily, the flight was delayed due to fuel problems.

We arrived at Barcelona Airport and met Teacher Frank, a teacher from Escola Projecte.

## Arriving at Escola Projecte

Wang Yu Ran (5P)

The airplane arrived at Barcelona airport at about 9:00am (Spanish time) on April 10th 2010. Frank, the teacher went there to pick us up. We were all very nervous on the bus because we didn't know which host family we were going to stay with and if they were nice or not.



When we arrived at the school where our host families were waiting for us, there were a lot a students at the entrance. We were still quite nervous while we tried to find our families. After all of the Hong Kong students were paired up, we went into their school hall. I don't think they had many school assemblies because the hall was rather small. The host families handed badges with their guest's names on it. Then Frank introduced us to all the teachers who were going to teach us in the three days. After that, everyone started talking to one another. Teacher Jennifer talked to each of our host families and told them that we might be tired from the long plane flight. The host families asked us a lot of questions like what's our favorite food and do we like animals. After that, we left the school to go to our host family's homes.



## What we did on Sunday Lau Hiu Yi Joey (6P)

I felt sad on Sunday morning until I met my friends at school.

We had an outing and we visited some of Barcelona's famous sights, such as the Sagrada Familia (a magnificent church!). We took a bus there. I made friends with Catalan students on the bus.

It was a good day, we felt very hot while we were walking. I took some pictures of amazing buildings. The tour guide explained the history of those buildings to us and told us why they were designed that way.



When it was about lunch time, we got hungry and we had a picnic with our host families. This was my first picnic experience. I was very happy. We gathered around to talk and eat.

Our host family brought Emily, Zoe and me to the Aquarium. There were many sea creatures, like sharks and fish. The most special sea creatures in the Aquarium were penguins. They were really cute. There was also an enormous piece of ice that we could hug and touch. It was freezing cold! We bought 3D post cards but I think they are quite expensive.





Then we went to a souvenir shop to buy souvenirs; we bought postcards. I really like to buy postcards for my postcard collection. Emily bought about 39 postcards!

I really want to go back to Barcelona and buy more postcards for my collection. I miss Barcelona now!

### Events on Monday Khethile Mhlongo (6P)

Monday was the first day of school. We went to Escola Projecte School. School starts at 9:00 a.m. every morning for the primary students, but it ended late too, 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon!

Our teacher is Frank (in some schools in Spain you just call teachers by their names) and he is really nice. First Frank gave us pieces of paper with certain words: some in Catalan, English and Chinese. Then we, with our Catalan friends, had to translate the words and write them out. Then we learnt how to introduce ourselves in Catalan (speaking Catalan is a lot harder than it sounds)!



Then we learnt how to say certain things in the forest in Catalan. After our vocabulary lesson we started to prepare for our trip on the next day. Some of us prepared the data collectors, others typed on the KF platform. Before we knew it, it was time for lunch! For lunch we had Spanish omelet, vanilla pudding and orange soda! After lunch there was art class. Group 3 drew a big poster about the forest, group 2 made a model of a forest, and group 1 drew a poster for the Barcelona-Hong Kong tomorrow's innovators.

We talked together before the lesson started. Catalan students taught us Catalan and we taught them Cantonese. We laughed a lot because Catalan students spoke Cantonese in a weird way. Although we spent much time in this activity, we have forgotten all the Catalan words that they have taught us.

After that, we ate our breakfast. I had jam and cheese sandwiches. But I think Emily and Zoe's breakfasts were better than mine because they had ham and cheese sandwiches. We had a long breakfast time. We played some games together. We went back to the classroom and worked on the computer after the recess ended.

Then we went to have recess again. We talked and played together. I remembered because all of us missed our parents so we tried not to talk about that. We had a great time and we were very hungry. We went to their hall and had lunch. Luckily, the food was okay for me.

We had art and crafts lessons too. We used materials like clay and cardboard to make a model about forests. It made me get dirty nails and hands.



## Events on Tuesday Chan Sum Him (6C)

On Tuesday, when we went to school again, everyone looked excited. I think they were excited because this was the first time for us to go to a real forest. But Hugo missed this chance, he was sick that day.

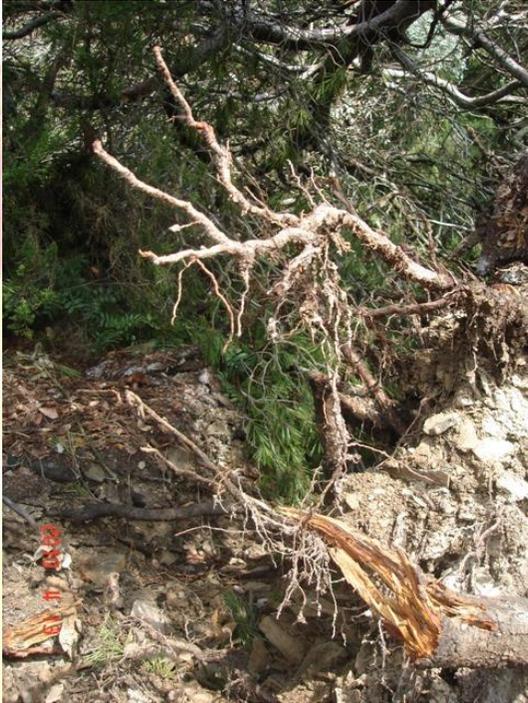
When everyone arrived, we began our excursion to the forest. We went there by underground. We went past a lot of stations and we finally arrived at the forest.

We could just see a long way to go, most of us wanted to stop and have breakfast. Luckily, after we walked for ten minutes, there was a good place for us to rest in the middle of the path; we ate and drank there. After we took a little rest, we started walking again. On the way to our destination we saw a lot of trees; some of them had fallen down. But we couldn't see any animals. Teacher Frank told us that the reason why some trees had fallen down is because there was a snowstorm earlier that month. But he was not sure about it. Also we saw Pine trees and Oak trees. They are the most popular trees in the forests in Barcelona. We saw some beautiful flowers on the way too.



Half an hour later, we arrived at the place for lunch. Most of us had sandwiches for lunch because it was convenient. After lunch, we played together. It was really fun!

We had no time to waste, teachers asked some students to get some water samples; some from a fountain and some from a river in the forest.



After we had finished our tasks it was time to go back to school! We went back by underground again.

When we got to school, everyone was too tired to work, so we had a special free time. We played Dodge Ball again. It was a really fun game!

The school day ended. We met our host families and went to visit places in Barcelona. Zoe, Joey, and I visited the Science Museum.



## Hugo getting sick Hugo Tsang (6P)



I had a fever while I was in Barcelona. I felt very hot and dizzy, I couldn't sleep. Luckily I had brought some medicine for fever, after taking it I felt better.'

When I woke up on Tuesday it was already 10:00 o'clock in the morning. I asked my host family why I was at home. The mother said because I had a fever and my temperature was too high (it was 39.9 degrees!). So, I went to sleep again on the sofa which is in the living room.

Then I dreamed. The dream was about Hong Kong and my family in Hong Kong. I dreamed that I went to eat Chinese noodles with curry fish-balls, the taste was great. Then I played computer games ... This all made me missed Hong Kong very much.

Suddenly my Catalan mother woke me up, she said, "Drink this. This is orange juice; it can replenish the vitamin C." While I was drinking the orange juice my host family asked me what food I want to eat for lunch.

For lunch we ate some special pasta, the pasta looked like some sand. The host family said they always eat this pasta with sea food soup or corn soup. It was delicious! Then I drank orange juice again.'

When I finished my lunch I called home. I missed my home so much. I wanted to cry but I didn't cry. When I finished calling home I went to sleep again.

At 3 o'clock, I felt a lot better. I didn't want to waste my time so I did some homework. When I wrote in Chinese my Catalan mother was so excited. She said she wanted to learn Chinese also, but she did not have any time to take Chinese classes. Then I taught her some simple Cantonese and she taught me some simple Spanish. We both enjoyed the time and I felt that this was a HAPPY HOUR!

At night, I felt well and I could play and work. Let me tell you a secret: I drank 7-8 cups of orange juice that day!



ORANGE JUICE



### **Events on Wednesday** Khethile Mhlongo (6P)

On Wednesday, it was the last day we stayed in the Spanish school and we had a cultural exchange time. We taught Spanish students how to cook sweet dumplings, a Chinese dessert. Our Catalan friends taught us how to make a Catalan breakfast. Take a slice of bread, half a tomato and ham. First take the bread and squeeze the tomato juice all over the piece of bread. Then, sprinkle the bread with a pinch or two of salt. Add some olive oil. After that, put some ham on top and enjoy! Delicious!

After the cultural exchange we did some analyzing on the data we collected. By the time we were done it was time for sports. In sports class we learnt how to play dodge ball and

pitchi, a Catalan game like baseball. At the end of class the pitchi coach took a picture of us! Out of every thing I did in Spain I liked pitchi best.

### **Leaving BCN** Chan Cheuk Lam (6C)

I felt sad when I was leaving Barcelona because I missed Barcelona and my host family very much.

However, when I arrived at Hong Kong, I missed my parents, my home and the food in Hong Kong very much too! My feelings really changed a lot at different times and places. I felt really sorry for not showing enough passion in the beginning because I felt very strange living with someone I did not know. I did not know they really care about me. However, I finally know they are really kind because they could have just ignored me, but they did not do that!



I think Barcelona is a great city in Spain and it is totally different from Hong Kong! The environment there is fantastic and the air is very fresh, you can see beautiful birds and blue, blue sky all the time. The buildings in Barcelona are much shorter than in Hong Kong and there is less traffic on the roads; maybe that's why the air is not polluted. Also, the Spanish people are friendly too; even a small kid will care about your feelings. That is why I like Barcelona very much!

When I was at the Barcelona international airport, I didn't want to go back to Hong Kong (I think that staying for two more days is a good idea!). I really wanted time to stop when I was playing with the Spanish children in the playground. Although I am back in Hong Kong for a week already, I still always think about my host family and I miss them very much. I think they are also part of my family and we will still keep in contact with each other through e-mail.

When I was on the plane, many different scenes came to my mind. The scenes about what I did and what I was thinking in Barcelona. Such as the time when I played with the Spanish children, having dinner with my host family, going on a city tour, having an excursion in the forest and so on.

When I saw my parents at the Hong Kong airport, I really wanted to cry because I love them very much. It was the first time that I left my parents for almost a week. I suddenly know how important my parents are and how much I love them. However, I know that it is a great experience for me to learn how to be independent and to know more about different cultures around the world.

When I got home, I felt that my house had changed a lot but I did not know why I thought so (actually, it did not change at all!). Home is always the best no matter what!

I hope there will soon be another chance for a KBIP programme and for sure I will grab the chance to go!!!

**Barcelona, we**



**you!**