

# **EVS** a totally new experience

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**Volunteers:**

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## Daily activities

- Cafe Down
- Turkish Lessons
- Erasmus office
- Saray Center

## Events

- Theatre day
- Univerisity day
- Intercultural evening
- Youthpass party



"Ceai", yes, **Cafe down** most of als means "ceai." Why? Because there we were workers and guests in the same time.

First time when we arrived there was totally strenghe. Most of all workers are from Saray center, people with disabilities. They meet us with tea, after they showed us how to work. We were prepared tea, cleaned the dishes, but most of all we discussed with workers.

ven they couldn't speak english at all, and we turkish also no, tey were always with google translate next to us, mking fun, joking, getting to know us better. It was a family atmosphere, more than work atmosphere.

## ACTIVITIES WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**Saray center**, we went there twice per week, and we will never forget the hapiness what we saw in people's eyes. They were always waiting us, with such a light in their eyes. Always waiting for a hug, always waiting for attention.

We had two tipe of activities, sport activities and workshops, but this is less important. What we want to mention, is what we learned there: Hapinness is not the same for everybody, and kidness really matters for some of people.



# TURKISH LESSONS

Merhaba! We can't say we learnt turkish during a month, you know, turkish is such a difficult language for us romanians, who are latins. But some words we memorized and we used it sometimes, at least for being polite with locals and to show our interest for turkish. Also, it wasn't so much about learning, like at school, it was about discovering, about introducing us in turkish culture. Every lesson was something new about Turkey. We had a volunteer teacher Ayshe, who was so friendly, and who created a connexion between us and turkish culture.

## CONCLUSION

" You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart always will be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place." At every place where we have been during this month, to every people who we meet, we left a piece of our heart.

## ERASMUS OFFICE

Our second home. We laughed there, we drank tea there, we got to know each other better there. We learnt, we wrote articles, we discussed about our trips in Turkey. We felt like in family. There was always someone waiting for us, and always ready to help us, our mentor, Aleksandra.



# Theater Day



Of course we understood nothing, but to see those actors, to see their traditional outfits, to see how spectators are delightful about theater was a great pleasure. That reminded us about importance of art, and that elderly love and enjoy art, they see in it so much importance and beauty, what we, new generation, forgot about.

## PLACE

DEVLET  
TIYATROLARI 75.  
YIL SAHNESI

## TASK

To Assist Elderly



# OUR TRIPS

Kapadokya  
Pamukkale  
Kyseri

Ephesus  
Izmir






# CAFE DOWN

So here I am, at the end of my project. We had many different activities, some we did regularly, some were just an one-shot. But there's this one thing that felt in our hearts the deepest.

Café Down is little café located in Kızılay, Ankara. For the first sight it doesn't look like anything special; simple room with simple tables, no fancy interior. The Café belongs to Saray Centre, the centre for disabled people, the one of a kind centre in Turkey. The staff of Café are living in this centre, most of them have Down syndrome.

We were visiting this place a lot, helping the staff was one of our main activity in the whole project. Our task were simple; helping cleaning the dishes, making tea and other beverages. There weren't many other possibilities due to language barrier. We know just survival words in Turkish, staff doesn't know any word in English, the same goes with visitors. We were aware of this problem from the very beginning. I remember asking my sending organization before my departure to Turkey multiple times how it would be possible for me to help anyone without knowing the language. They said not to worry but still it was unbelievable for me.





The first day is said to be the worst. It was indeed. We were so scared and unable to communicate with anyone we went back to the office for someone who speaks Turkish. After some help with translation we were more or less ready to work. How was it? Of course we were constantly facing problems with language but thanks to that we learned valuable lesson.

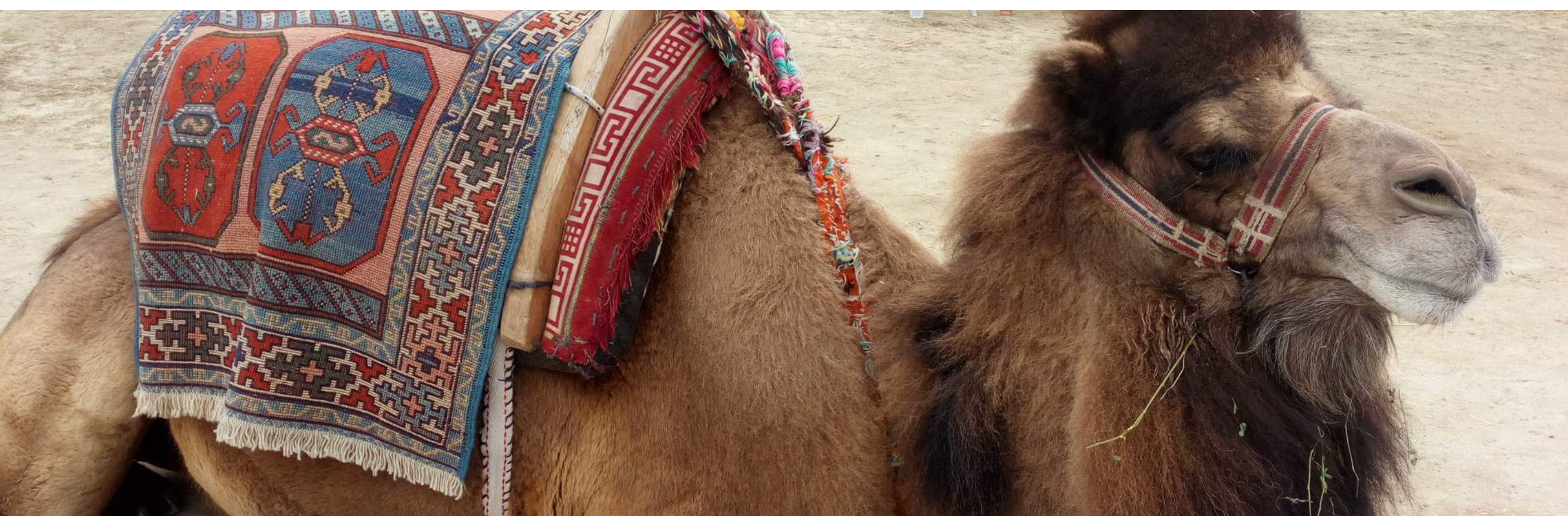
Staff were amazed just by the fact we were working with them. They obviously tried to talk with us but there was no use in it, we didn't understand a word. It didn't matter unless we were there, that was everything. The time we sacrifice to work with them was the easiest and greatest gift we could give them. How little they need to be happy. I really wish to grow up to this philosophy one day.





YOUTH TELEGRAPH

# *My trip in Cappadocia*





There are places that remain in your heart more than others. One of these is Cappadocia, a region of central Anatolia in Turkey that made me live a daydream! The term "Cappadocia" is thought to derive from "Katpadukya" whose meaning would be "land of beautiful horses", a term that seems to date back to when the horses living in this region were offered as a gift to King Assiro Sardanapalo, Dario and Xerxes sovereigns of Persia. Cappadocia, together with the Göreme National Park, was included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites in 1985. This region, which I wanted to visit for a lifetime, has a disarming beauty. It is a unique geological mosaic in the world and represents an incredible architectural and landscape heritage. Still today it maintains its attraction by being one of the most important turistic places of Turkey characterized. This Anatolian territory offers a unique spectacle in the world: millions of years ago the eruption of the five surrounding volcanoes filled magma with the depressions that had formed in the area creating, with the passing of time, a single plateau, full of canyons and pinnacles. The shape of the place has pushed man to allow the man to transform the pinnacles into rock castles, towers and the famous "Fairy Chimneys", geological formations in the form of chimneys with hoods, in beautiful rock churches and chapels decorated with frescoes dating back to the Byzantine period.



It is a unique place, when you can touch the  
perseverance of man..

Cappadocia is one of the most surreal examples of adaptation of man to the nature that surrounds it. The Goreme Open Air Museum (UNESCO World Heritage Site) resembles a vast monastic complex made up of its own fantastic church. Things to do and visit are varied. If you do not have a car, I advise you to stay in Goreme and visit Cappadocia with tours that start every day and that will allow you to explore beautiful valleys otherwise difficult to reach, the underground cities with narrow tunnels that sink up to seven floors underground , Avanos, the small town where they produce wonderful earthenware using the clay of the river that crosses it, the Love Valley and the sunset point from which you can enjoy the beautiful view of the Red and Rose valley.

