

## A Day in Marburg

One day we went with our exchange group from Italy and Spain to Marburg. We started with a visit to the flea market. After a short while we all decided to leave it because nobody of the group found anything he liked or wanted to buy. Then Mr.Hirt, a German teacher who lives in Marburg, led us through a residential district where we had a nice view on the church and the castle. After we had completed a circle around some quarters, we reached the Church of St.Elizabeth. It was built between 1235 and 1283 over the site of the grave of St.Elizabeth. This church is the earliest purely Gothic church in Germany.

The Hungarian Princess Elisabeth, born 1207, married Count Ludwig IV of Thuringia when she was 14. After the Count died on a crusade in 1227, Elisabeth came to live in Marburg. She spent the rest of her life caring for the needy, She died in 1231 (she was only 24 years old) and was canonised in 1235. She is buried in the church which was one of the most important Pilgrimage centres in Europe during the Middle Age. Today it is a Protestant parish church.



When we entered the great hall everybody got quiet and looked around. We sat down and enjoyed the silence and peace. (And also many took the chance to let their feet rest!) With new strength we went on. After our walk through the old town we began our ascent to the castle, when we had half of our way behind us, we rested. (There are just too many steps for somebody who is not used to it.) Some took the chance and made again a lot of group pictures, because we reached already a point where you could overlook the whole city.

I was really surprised to see how tireless the Italian and Spanish students were, while most of the Germans were just sitting and staring around.

When we went on, two of the girls from Spain were even running upstairs to the castle!!! But when they got around the corner and saw there were more steps before them they gave up. When everybody (some sooner, some later) reached the top we met before the castle.\*

It was quite an impressive view to see the whole town to our feet. But after a while we realized how tired and hungry we were and so we split into smaller groups and went down again.



After eating in a pizzeria, we went shopping in a shopping centre.

The sleepy feeling after the pizza was gone at once when we entered it. (Well here I can only speak for myself and the Italian and Spanish girls, because the boys did not look very enthusiastic) While the others were still rummaging through the different shops, the Germans sat down in a restaurant to rest and talk about the day. Finally we got on our bus back to Gladenbach (which was

20 min. too late) and I was thinking about our journey. And although it was exhausting sometimes, it was an interesting day.

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