

Biodiversity meets music

Monopoli - biodiversity in the context of history, culture, music and dance



At Monopoli (Puglia), the fifth exchange brought together students and teachers who already knew each other, but also new faces. Through the various activities we got a detailed insight into the way of life, customs and traditions of the locals. We learned a lot about the history of the region, the biological and ecological characteristics and the musical roots.

Group activities

- 1 Warm welcome by the students of the Erasmus group, the coordinator, and some teachers.
- 2 Welcome by the headmistress and the mayor at the town hall.
- 3 Guided tour in mixed groups through the old town of Monopoli - moderated by Italian students.
- 4 Excursion to Belvedere Lama: guided plant identification in mixed small groups with accompanying biology teachers.
- 5 Joint picnic in the countryside and walk back to school, tour of the school.
- 6 Pizzica workshop and Choir rehearsal.
- 7 Shared meals, getting to know local and regional specialities (pizzeria, trattoria, masseria).
- 8 Guided walk along the coast from the Castle of S. Stefano to Monopoli, plant identification and collections for a herbarium.
- 9 Workshop on the identification of the collected plants, creation of a herbarium from collected plants from plants brought from home, carried out by biology teachers of the school.
- 10 Quiz prepared by the Erasmus group from Italy on the sights and history of Monopoli.
- 11 Presentation of the activities of the partner schools from Germany and Spain (bee project, project apples of the orchards).
- 12 Excursion to Alberobello (the World Heritage Site of the Trulli, guided tour on history).
- 13 Joint concert of the group together with the school orchestra and the individual music groups of the music school (Ode to joy, You need a flower, The sky is always more blue).
- 14 Excursion to Polignano a Mare, tour of the town.
- 15 Excursion to Martina Franca (Masseria Galeone, Riserva Naturale Orientata Murge Orientali), visit to the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Biodiversity and Parks, being responsible for the protection of biodiversity in the 130 state nature reserves and the national parks as well as for the enforcement of CITES registrations, visit to the MuMur (Museum of the Murge Horse), the stables of the Carabinieri Equestrian Centre, walk through the nature park.
- 16 Guided tour of the historic centre of Bari (with Roberto, teacher of the school), visit to the fort.
- 17 Orecchiette workshop to prepare traditional Apulian dishes (taralli, orecchiette and frittelle).
- 18 Farewell party with a local folk group, joint dance (Pizzica).