

THERE, WHERE THE DATES GROW

Oman? Where is it? – if I made a ranking of questions that I was asked the most frequently last year, for sure it would be the first one! Every time I had to explain patiently that it is situated on the Arabian Peninsula, and it borders with Saudi Arabia, Yemen and UAE. The next question was usually: Are you crazy? Why are you going there? Actually I have no idea what made me choose this country for the place of my exchange with SCOPE. But now, after spending one amazing month there, I can surely say that it was one of the best decisions that I have ever made!

Everything started when I got off the plane and felt the hot and humid air around me. My first impression was that I chose the wrong flight and instead of getting to Muscat, the capital of Oman, I got to the biggest sauna in the world. But as soon as I met other people from the exchange and the Omani students, I stopped worrying about the weather. We had a great time together – Omanis organized plenty of activities for us: they took us by their cars to the most beautiful places in their country, as well as they showed us their lifestyle and made us better understand their customs, culture and religion. We used to make barbecue on the beach and in the mountains and then slept under the starlit, Omani sky. We saw turtles laying eggs on the beach in the middle of the night, swam in the sea with the dolphins and discovered some beautiful valleys in the Green Mountains. We ate kilos of fresh dates and mangos, tones of delicious Omani food (prepared for us by our friends and their families of course) and we drank liters of fresh fruits juices. We spent countless hours on sitting together, singing, playing cards and werewolves.

But the exchange is not only sightseeing and having fun and rest – we can't forget about the medical aspect of it! Every day I had to go to the hospital, where I had classes at the General Surgery Department. I learnt a lot of new things – the doctors communicated with each other in English, so I didn't have any problems with understanding them. Moreover, they were really eager to answer all my questions and resolve all the doubts I had. I was allowed to do a lot of practical stuff – sewing wounds, removing cysts, assisting in the operations and even intubating the patients.

Oman is a beautiful and safe country, full of friendly and helpful people. Before coming there, I was sure that I would spend a nice time on my exchange. But it was even much more fantastic that I had ever thought it might be! All the people I met there (my friends from the exchange and the Omanis who took care of us), made my holidays with SCOPE an unforgettable experience, that I'd love to live again!

Commented [T1]: Stitching