Day 1.

It is sad but true. My summer holidays are going to be finished soon. Nothing can do with that fact. Just one week left. Then school again. What more there is nothing interesting to do in this little city where do I live in. I have already read all the books from local library and watching television doesn’t make me happy at all. All of mine friend went to interesting places for holidays. They are calling me every day just to tell me how fun it is to sunbath on the beach or climb in mountains. I am a bit jealous about that. I go to sleep.

Day 2.

It was 7 am when my mobile phone started to ring. I got angry about that. I was sure that mine friends are calling me to tell me about their plans like swimming in the sea or something like that. But I was wrong. It was my cousin Krzysztof from Warszawa. He works in a big international company selling steel to Asia. He is ten years older than me. I was shocked! He is a serious man, so why was he calling me so early in the morning? I was afraid that something bad has happened there, but his voice was soft and nice. No fear. Everything is okay. He just wanted to come to Warszawa today! Crazy idea, but this is what holiday are made for! So here I am! Writing this words into my diary I am in a train to Warszawa. It will take about three hours to get there so I have quite a lot time to think about my future. It is my last year at this school, then I should go for studies. But where? Which university should I choose? Who knows?

Day 3.

Sun shining through a big window forced me to open my eyes. It was already 9 am. My cell phone went out of battery and alarm clock didn’t ring to wake me up. It is always the same! I was asked for help and I was close to overslept. Metro is very crowded at this time, so not comfortable to write a diary. I will write more later.

Day 3. Part two.

I am at the airport now. I am waiting for a fly from Korea. Plane should arrive in about an hour so I have plenty of time to explain why I am here… Krzysztof asked me for help. Company he works for cooperates with a company from South Korea. It is very important business partner for them. Every year this company sends one of their workers for a month to Poland to meet with polish partners. This year it is Soukyoung Jung, 25 years old woman. I do not know how does she look like, so I have a large piece of paper with her name on it to find her in the crowd. My duty is to help her during her first days in Poland. It should be very easy, but who knows?

Day 4.

I am so stupid. It won’t be easy at all! Oh my God! Now I see that Asian culture is so much different than European. She is quite a nice person. She speaks English very well so we can talk easily, but she is drinking only tea and eating rice with every meal! Haven’t ever even think that this is possible.
What can I say about Soukjoung? Well, I think she is typical Asian woman. Very short, black straight hair and little eyes. Very polite person, speaking so quiet that sometimes I cannot hear her clearly. She has never been to Poland before, it is even her first time in Europe. She works as a manager in Deagu – big city in the north of Korea. But now she is sleeping, to load her batteries after flight. It was such a long fly, over 17 hours in a plane with middle landing in Germany.

Day 5

Another thing I didn’t know about Asia is that people there wake up so early. God! It was 5:30 am! For me it is the middle of the night. But not for Soukjoung. She has prepared morning tea and fried eggs for breakfast. It was first time when I was eating fried eggs with rice, but need to say it was quite tasty. I guess that rice was prepared different way than my mother used to do. Need to ask her about that. After eating we have gone to the city center. Shopping together is the best way to get know each other! What I know now it that in Korea are the same fashion brands that here in Poland. But unfortunately sizes are completely different! Even xs size was much too big for her. I think it was because her height. She is less than 160 in my opinion. But she seems to doesn’t care about that most of her friends are such short people. It is evening now, so we are going to prepare supper together. I am going to learn how to prepare some Asian dishes.

Day 6.

Asian kitchen is very simple! Rice, chicken or fish and vegetables. Delicious! Today is a polish day in the kitchen. I have prepared żurek for breakfast. She said it was quite okay and tasty. I hope she is serious. Now we are going to visit Old Town and have polish dinner there. Maybe pierogi?

Day 6 later.

Pierogi seem to be a bridge between polish and Korean kitchen. They have there similar dish, but it of course contain rice. But never mind it is something we both like. But most things are completely different. Especially history. They do not know there castles like we know from the middle ages or knights like Zawisza Czarny or sir Lancelot. As she told me at the same time there used to be shoguns. What is similar in our nations history is that both Korea and Poland were invaded by bigger neighbors in the past. Poland by Germany and Russia and Korea by Japan.
We are sitting in a flat that company has rented for us and watching cartoons. Telling the true my stomach is still full after dinner, so drinking tea, I need to say I started to like drinking tea.

Day 7.

It was another morning with rice for breakfast. But today I was not surprised with that fact at all. It started to be normal for me. We have decided that Soukyoung should see something different in Poland. She has already seen polish city, shops tried polish kitchen now it is time for nature. We are going to forest for a walk. Kampinos is quite close from Warszawa. Large forest with many monuments dedicated for polish army soldiers that were fighting there during the world war two. Our bus is in 45 minutes, so I need to prepare for a trip.

Day 7 later

We were close to miss the bus, but thank God we managed to catch it at the last moment. In an hour we will arrive to Kampinos. Cool!

Day 7, late evening.

I am so tired! We have spent all day hanging through the forest and visiting local villages. It was quite a nice time. She was so impressed with polish nature. As I understood her even forest here are different than in Korea. We have many kinds of trees and birds she has never seen before. And of course polish national sport – collecting mushrooms. She has never tried that! Mushrooms are very popular in South Korea, but people buy them at shops or at local markets but never go to forest to find them on their own.
Tomorrow is my last day here, I need to go back home. I hope I was helpful for her and that she understands polish habits a bit more and that living here will be easier for her.

Day 8.

Today Krzysztof is going to join us for supper, so we are going to prepare special supper for evening. It will be a mix of polish and Korean dishes. But first we need to buy products that we need. I have no time now. I will write more later.

Day 8 later.

It was great evening. We were sitting and talking till midnight. I have made a decision that during my studies I would like to visit Korea and maybe even study there. Soukyoung told that it is possible, because in her country they have very good scholarships for foreign students and of course she would help me there, as I did to her. I just hope I won’t be the tallest person at university there!

Day 9

I am already at the train to home. It is funny cause few day ago I was not expecting my holidays to be so cool. Who knows, maybe this friendship I have made will change my life and I will live in Korea one day? This country seems to be so interesting, and their food is brilliant! But for next few days – no rice at all!