**DAY BY DAY – A CRAZY TRIP AROUND ITALY**

8th July 2014

The holiday began one week ago and I’m still at home. I can’t stand it as it’s so hot in Poland and my parents haven’t made up their minds yet about where to go on holiday. One wants to go by the Polish sea, the other - to the mountains. I want to go somewhere hot without having to spend another week in this boiling place! So I go downstairs and shout : “Why don’t we go to Italy? There is the sea and some mountains there, too. Besides we have never been there and mum is fond of the Italian cuisine.” My parents remained speechless for a while, looked at each other and then – guess what?!!! – they accepted my offer! However – on one condition – that we will manage to pack our luggage on the same day and leave on the next one. Hurray! I’ve never expected to persuade my parents so easily to go there.

9th July 2014

Obviously, I couldn’t waste the evening packing T-shirts, shorts and trunks so I had searched the Net to find some nice places worth visiting the night before. I woke up this morning and had ten minutes to collect the most useful things and to run to the car waiting on the drive. As you may imagine, I could find neither trunks nor trainers in such a short time so I grabbed twenty T-shirts and one pair of shorts. Answering my mother’s questions I said: “Everything is under control” and two minutes later we were on the way to “Bel Paese”.

10th July 2014

It’s 11 p.m.. We are in Austria and my dad is extremely tired. We stop at the nearest lodging and my mum gets furious as I have to admit that I have no pyjamas. So I sleep in a T-shirt but the worst is yet to come… I have only T-shirts and shorts – shhhhhhhhh.

11th July 2014

We’ve just crossed the border and decided to try our first Italian dish. My parents order “pasta all’arrabbiata” just because they like its name and I take “lardo di Colonnata” thinking it’s a fish. When the first dishes arrive at the table they look good and my parents are starting to eat them. I can see that their faces blush and they order more and more water – they didn’t know the dish consist of a huge amount of chili peppers! Now arrives my dish – what a surprise - instead of a fish I can see the white aging lard, e.g. the fat with a huge amount of salt, black pepper and garlic placed in a marble tub. It’s yucky so I leave the restaurant even more starving!

At 11.30 p.m. we finally arrive in the harbour at Piombino to take a ferry to the island of Elba. Everybody is exhausted, so my dad wants to buy a ticket and board the ferry as quickly as possible. To his surprise, the message he gets at the information desk is that the last ferry leaves at 11.20 p.m…. But we are very resourceful, never give up and decide to sleep in the car and take the first ferry on the next morning… This time we will be aboard at 5 a.m.!!!

12th July 2014

As the English saying reads: “Every cloud has a silver lining” we are the first passengers to get on a ferry at 4.30 a.m. I am so proud of my family. The journey takes one hour and at 6 a.m. sharp we get off the ferry and see the outstanding island waking up for a new day. In order not to waste time we head for Lacona to the campsite. In the afternoon we have the first swim in the sea. The water is gorgeous and the views – unforgettable! Unfortunately – a surprise is awaiting for us in the cabin – no hot water! So after the fastest shower in our lives we go out and have a delicious Italian pizza. The first day of our holiday may be considered quite fruitful.

13th July 2014

After breakfast we have a swim in the sea and get suntanned. Our neighbours suggest we visit the Napoleon museum at Portoferraio. So we set off for a beautifully located capital of the island and after half an hour we manage to find a parking space. A short visit to the museum, then a nice lunch at a local tavern, and we find our car. Surprise, surprise! What we find under the windscreen – a fine, you mustn’t park in front of the hospital.

14th July 2014

My mum asks me to get changed and put on the trunks but I have no choice – I’ve packed only ten pairs of shorts, ten T-shirts, no trunks, no jeans, no hoodies. So she has an idea to go to the local market and get some. We find the stall with trunks and swimming costumes but they’ve run out of my size. I can choose the smaller or the bigger ones. I opt for the latter. We come back to the campsite and want to go sunbathing. The weather is nice and finally we have a good time on the beach.

15th July 2014

My dad decides to try sailing a boat. He rents it and we sail to the other side of the island. It’s boiling so we swim a lot and get suntanned on the boat. At the end of our trip everyone goes as red as a beetroot. The reason – we forgot to take the sun cream. Nobody can sleep at night so we are going to do the shopping tomorrow and make some dishes in the cabin.

16th July 2014

My mum puts loads of after sun lotion and we go to the supermarket to buy some food. She prepares delicious pasta and fresh salads. We stay in the shade all day and play some board games. Our skin gets better a bit so we decide to visit the local town by night. It’s noisy and crowded but at least we do not have to stay in cabin. We take a lot of photos, stopping at local cafés to refresh ourselves.

17th July 2014

My skin is burnt so I stay in the T-shirt on the beach. This place is really wonderful, I can see a lot of people snorkelling so I buy a snorkel and fins and practice this sport. The views are amazing and breathtaking. There is plenty of fish, I can even see a small octopus hiding behind a small rock.

18th July 2014

This is the last day at the seaside so we try to take advantage of it. We swim a lot, walk on the beach, try local dishes at restaurants and talk to tourists. In the evening we return to the beach to admire the splendid sunset. I find this island and would like to come back here in the future.

19th July 2014

We leave the campsite after breakfast at 10 a.m. and get on a ferry. After one hour we reach the shore, get into the car and say goodbye to Elba. When we leave we can see an endless queue of cars waiting to board the ferry. My father decides to change the route and wants to go to Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Slovakia. It’s a much longer route but I hope to see some tourist attractions on the way home.

20th July 2014

I wake up in the car and we are already in Hungary. We decide to have breakfast in a bar. Unfortunately we are in a very small village and it’s impossible to find someone who speaks English here. So we have to point to the items we want to eat or drink and it’s a bit embarrassing. Hungarian is not an Indo-European language so it’s hard to communicate with these sociable inhabitants. But in similar situations we may use the body language and smile a lot – it really helps.

21st July 2014

The journey is getting quite tiring but at 3 p.m. we are crossing the Polish border and stop to have a pork chop and pierogis. It’s rainy and I have no jumper so after the lunch we get into a car and proceed our trip. At 11 p.m. we get home, are extremely exhausted, have a quick shower and go to bed.

22nd July 2014

I don’t feel like getting up and I want to relax and catch up with my sleep. Besides the weather is quite bad- the sky is cloudy and it’s windy. I take my holiday photos out of my rucksack, and by looking at them I can say it has been a memorable holiday, full of adventures and unexpected twists. Do you agree with me?