

## Travel report ESTIEM Activity Week Istanbul 25.-29.5.2010

My attendance in the Istanbul Activity Week began as I was talking with an old Turkish friend of mine, Bahar. We had met during a Vision week in Lappeenranta, Finland. I was making travel plans for the coming few weeks, and it just happened to be, that Bahar was organizing a weeks worth of gorgeous city of Istanbul. The last attendance day had already passed, but Bahar said that she could add me to the event anyways. So I booked, a cheap, one week's trip with Turkish Airlines.

I arrived a day before the actual event, but Bahar and her good friend Mutlu were more than willing to make my time enjoyable, so we spent the first evening in Taksim, getting to know the local beer cousin and the beautiful campus area. The next morning the first German ESTIEMers started arriving. We spent the morning getting to know each other, while the Turkish responsables made us breakfast. The day was very hectic with all the new people arriving to the campus area, so we mostly played "getting to know" games and sang ESTIEM songs in the beautiful park area of the Bogazici University. The evening was relaxing, with almost everybody arrived. The majority of the attendants were Turkish or German, me being the only Finn, or a Northern ESTIEMer for that matter.



Our second official day of the activity week was planned out great! First we went to a Turkish bath or Hamam, to get rid of your hangovers. From there on we traveled to the South Campus of Bogazici University, where we spend the day tangled up with the Real Adventure Play. For the evening we went to Turkish "Nargile" cafe to try out the plentiful flavors of a Turkish waterpipe. With our heads full of life, we went to enjoy a plentiful diner in the North Campus area. To prepare for the long night, we supplied our selves with Efes, Mariachi Black and Wine to meet with the demands of an allnighther on the Kilyos Beach, the Northern part of Istanbul.

With particularly no sleep at all we started our new day with a hangover breakfast, again. Our plan was simple, spend the day on the sunny Kilyos beach on the shores of the Black sea. The day consisted of four things: Swimming, Volley ball, Drinking and Sunbathing. With us glowing burning red, we started your preparations for an evening party in Taksim, the touristic centrum of Istanbul! So in other words the night was spent clubbing and then clubbing some more ;)



On our last official day we had a city tour, and some sightseeing. We visited a great miniature city, with all of the famous sights of Turkey, in a miniature size.



Next thing i know, we were on a cruise tour on the Bosphorus (the sea between the European and Asian sides of Istanbul). Our final act was the Gala diner, where me along a hand full of Germans and Turkish held up a small Finnish sitsi, which of course mean that we all drank without end! So the last night, again consisted of partying and enjoying the warm and friendly group spirit that we had become during the long and plentiful Activity week.

In the next morning we woke up early convinced that no-one would ever drink again. So followed by last goodbyes, the tired ESTIEMrs slowly left with their own ways home to wait for the next "big thing" in the world of ESTIEM. I personally stayed another night in the beautiful town of Istanbul, with my head full of new contacts and a hangover, of course ;P

Peter C. Bebek  
LG Lappeenranta

