

Group 8

Across Europe in Seven Days



Sophia, only 17 years old, believed that her future depended on that trip. Luca, 18 years old, was always next to her with a big smile. Zara, also 18 years old, knew that this trip was an experience of a lifetime especially because Julian was going to be there. David, 19 years old, was over the moon about the trip. Julian, 19 years old, was keeping a very big secret and Max, who was secretly in love with Zara, couldn't wait for the trip to start!

The idea sounded impossible.

Seven teenagers.

Seven countries.

Seven days.

One old van that looked like it could fall apart at any moment.

Sophia stood in the middle of the parking lot outside Luca's house, holding a map of Europe while the warm July wind moved her brown hair across her face. "This is either the best idea we've ever had," Sophia laughed, "or the worst."

Luca laughed and threw his backpack into the van.

"Either way, we're going," he said.

Norah closed the trunk and looked at all of them. "I still can't believe we planned this in like... three days."

“That’s what makes it fun,” Zara replied with a smile.

Max opened the van door dramatically. “Welcome to the worst decision of our lives.”

“The best decision,” Sophia corrected him immediately.

Everyone laughed and slowly got inside the van while music played from Luca’s phone. The energy was loud and exciting like exactly how summer was supposed to feel.

The trip started. They travelled from Luca’s house, which was in the Netherlands, to the first country. That was Germany. It was an 8-hour ride. When they were one hour away from their starting point, the van suddenly stopped. In the middle of the highway. “OMG GUYS WHAT HAPPENED” screamed Norah. Zara started crying. “I’m so sc- sc- scared” she said. Max gave her a hug. You could feel the jealousy of Julian when he looked at them. Did Julian like Zara? Was that the secret he did not tell anyone.

Julian quickly looked away and pretended to search for something in his backpack. “Nobody panic,” Luca said while trying to restart the van. The engine made a horrible coughing sound and then died again.

“That does not sound healthy,” David muttered.

Sophia stepped out of the van onto the side of the highway, the warm air rushing past as cars sped by. “This cannot be happening already. We’ve been on the road for two and a half hour!”

Norah crossed her arms dramatically. “At this rate we’ll visit seven countries in seven years.”

Despite the situation, everyone laughed nervously.

They had been there on the highway for more than an hour trying to fix the problem with the car engine when a car pulled over and a young man stepped out of the car. He realised they had a problem and offered to help them. It was a great relief for everyone. He was a car mechanic, so it was a piece of cake to fix the damage. They all thanked him and set off to Germany which was their destination.

The journey was fantastic. The weather was warm and sunny. And they were all feeling happy again. Nothing could go wrong. They all appreciated the wonderful countryside. After a few hours’ trip they finally arrived in Berlin. They would spend the night at a youth hostel.

The next morning, they woke up very early in the youth hostel in Berlin. Everyone was tired, but also excited because the trip had only just started. They ate breakfast, took some pictures and then got back in the van.

On the second day, they travelled to Prague in the Czech Republic. The city was very beautiful and full of old buildings. They walked around, ate street food and sat near the river. Zara wanted to talk to Julian, but she was too nervous. Julian also looked nervous, but for a different reason.

On the third day, they went to Austria. The mountains were amazing and they stopped many times to take photos. Max spent a lot of time with Zara and tried to make her laugh. Zara started to understand that Max was always kind to her.

On the fourth day, they arrived in Italy. They ate pizza, pasta and ice cream. In Venice, they got lost in the small streets. Sophia started to panic, but Luca held her hand and said, "Relax, we will find the way." Sophia smiled because she knew he was right.

On the fifth day, they went to France. In Paris, they saw the Eiffel Tower at night, and it was magical. That night, Julian finally decided to tell the truth. He asked Max to talk alone.

Julian looked down and said, "I must tell you something. I don't like Zara. I like you."

Max was quiet for a moment. Julian was very scared, but then Max said, "Thank you for telling me. I am glad you trusted me." Julian felt much better because his secret was not heavy anymore.

The next day, Max talked to Zara. He told her that he liked her. Zara blushed and said that she had started liking him too, because he was always sweet and helped her during the trip. Max was so happy that he couldn't stop smiling.

On the last day, they travelled to Belgium and then back to the Netherlands. They were exhausted. The van was dirty, their bags were a mess, and they had almost no money left. But they were all happy.

When they arrived back home, they stood next to the old van and laughed. In only seven days, they had visited seven countries. They had problems, they got lost and they were scared sometimes, but they also made amazing memories.

Sophia looked at her friends and smiled. "So, was this the best idea or the worst?"

"The best!" they all shouted.

And maybe this trip really changed them. Not because of the countries they visited, but because they learned more about friendship, love and being honest with each other.

Students: Ioanna, Ioanna, Spyros

