

Living in Macedonia

Living in Macedonia has been very very different; it's been everything that I could never imagine it to be. It's been the opposite of Sweden, but it's been wonderful. I now have an I hate you, but I love you more relationship to this country, i hate a lot of things in this place but if i write them down on a list, i would end up having more things that i love.

Everything was so hard in the beginning, with food, the language, finding things, trying to understand what milk was and what yoghurt was. And since pretty much everything is written in Cyrillic it was double hard, we had to ask around for things, and most people didn't understand English, but a lot of them knew German, so that was what we worked whit. Lisa knows a bit i me to, so everywhere we worked things out, but it was so frustrated, to have to spend 30 min trying to bye a small slice of burek, instead of a big one. And now, we do it whiteouts problems, and laugh about how it uses to be.

And for me being a vegetarian in this place hasn't been too easy, a lot of people have been asking about it and they don't really understand it either. And a lot of them are often thinking that my choose is stupid, and that i can't make a difference, by choosing not to eat meat. But I just ignore it or say that we all have different opinions, which we all have, but here people have troubles whit someone being different. I met a lot of people whit prejudices here; a lot of people don't like gay people or romas, and black people. Its been very often that me and my college have ended up in arguments whit people, and in some of them the other ones have in the end of the argument, try to think different or totally been like, how could i think like i did before, and they have really got what we meant.

But the worst part have been when people have been when someone have commented on our working place, or asked why we want to work whit kids who are that dirty, and why don't you get discussed of them, and then its been horrible. They are just innocent kids, hoe can someone blame them, and on this planet there is something called soap!

The best thing I know whit this place is, the nature! It's just amazing, i love it, and I absolutely love going whit a car true Macedonia, which we have had the opportunity to do thru our work, when we have been picking up the charity boxes and going on trainings whit the colleges. But the weird part it that when i was googling Macedonia and Skopje before I came here, i couldn't find anything about it, and especially not about the beautiful nature.

The food, I will really really miss the cheese, in Sweden we do not at all have any cheese like they have here, and I will miss having cheese to everything!

It's been great living here and changing everything that I was use to, like that here people doesn't really care if you are late ten minutes, but what i am use to is to not at all be late, it's a shame. And if you are going to be late you have to inform about it

and apologize ten times, which I liked before, but now I think it's a bit ridiculous to take ten to fifteen minutes that series. People are late and it's okay, why waste time on being upset for a short time of lateness. So this lovely country that I hate, have changed me, and I think it's to a better person, I now more often share my things, since I see people going through the trash everyday after food, and I don't have to do that.

I will miss this so bad, I will miss how people are relaxed and only live for today. And I will miss how easy it is to get friends here, how people talk to you from nowhere and care about you like you were a princess when you are in their homes.

I love how people love here!

Prepared by: Susanne Olsson Dahl