

World Tourism Day 2014 at HTSI

We are a group of national and international students at HTSI (Spain) from The Netherlands, Norway, the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, France and the Czech Republic. We study the Bachelor Degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management Management at the School of Tourism & Hospitality Management Sant Ignasi (Barcelona, Spain).

Today in our 'Managing the Tourism Experience' class, we celebrated the World Tourism Day 2014. We explored the UNWTO website, watched the WTD video and discussed about why tourism is important for community development. In Barcelona there are many tourists and sometimes, especially this summer, some of the city's neighborhoods were in the news because of the problems caused by tourists. We had a very interesting discussion with the local and international students about tourist behavior in general, why do people travel and what do they actually want to do during their holidays, how come they sometimes behave badly? And how could this all be managed in order to avoid problems for the locals and to facilitate a positive experience for all people involved? It is a real challenge to manage the tourism experience! Through classroom discussions we have found how tourism directly impacts the local communities and how tourism can help these communities to grow and thrive. When tourists and locals come together as one it makes the community prosper and becomes a more welcoming place.

We all come from different countries and we study with local students from Barcelona. We discussed why we all love Barcelona:

- It is very international
- The beach and the mountains
- The beautiful weather
- The interesting attractions
- The culture
- The food and wine
- The friendly people
- The lifestyle
- The city's atmosphere
- It is easy to get lost

I, Renske, came to Barcelona to gain personal and educational experiences and broaden my horizon. After a few weeks I have learned to love the 'mañana, mañana' lifestyle.

For me, Aniek, Barcelona is great because it's a very international city with a lot of opportunities to mix with the local people as well.

I, Lara, like Barcelona a lot because it's a city with many different sides, such as the beach, the old neighborhoods and the new part Eixample.

In my opinion, María, Barcelona is one of the best non capital cities known worldwide where its cosmopolacity in, gives you a unique sense of freedom and cultural knowledge (no matter if you are a foreigner or a local resident) by just spending there a couple of hours.

For me, Joan, Barcelona is my home.

I, Veronika, love Barcelona because it is a place where your dreams come true and also what happens in Barcelona stays in Barcelona.

For me, Berta, it is a pleasure to welcome Erasmus students in my hometown, Barcelona.

For me, Bibi, Barcelona is the place to be.

Barcelona is for everyone! For any age, gender and taste! When you come here you become Barcelona-addicted for the rest of your life! (Alyona)

I, Iselin, love Barcelona because of the warm weather and the fact that there is always something happening.

For me, Edu, Barcelona is an impressing and cosmopolitan city.

For me, Audrey, Barcelona is all this. We create Barcelona together!!

Happy World Tourism Day to you all! Love from HTSI, Barcelona!!