



For the last two weeks students of 20 different nationalities have made themselves a home in Switzerland. This home from home is Institute Monte Rosa, Territet Montreux. After the initial contacts with staff and fellow students, and the exploration of their new environment, the students settled down to their studies and of course their activities.



The language classes, French, English and German, take place throughout the morning. Taught by young enthusiastic teachers from university, full of ideas and with an awareness of the needs of young people today. The classes are varied and demanding, the students have to do independent work, projects and tests, but it is also fun, after all it is Summer School.



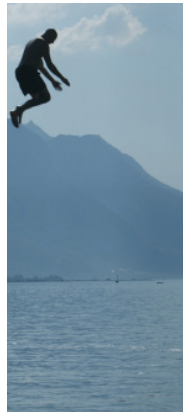
Even if the mornings are full we still have the energy for the afternoon and evening activities programme. Each day the sports team prepares a variety of activities and **WE GET TO CHOOSE** what we would like to do. There is a balance between sports activities, artistic activities and cultural visits; each day is different.

On arrival we visited the Chateau of Chillon and saw the dungeon where, between 1530 and 1536, Francois Bonivard was a prisoner and became the subject of a poem by Lord Byron "The Prisoner of Chillon". After a long walk up 174859 steps to the Bell Tower we were rewarded with a Panoramic view over the lake. Another time we went to the Photographic Museum in Vevey, it retraces the history of photography, it was hands on, we were able to take some digital photos of ourselves, but we weren't allowed to try out the old cameras, a pity !!! That could have been fun.

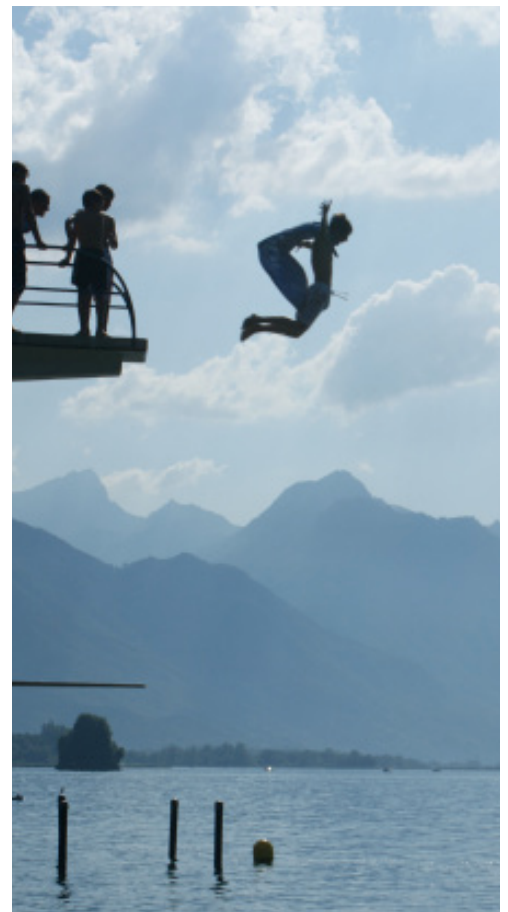
If you don't want culture then action it is. Our energy is challenged in many ways and none more demanding than at the Adventure Park. Thirty of us went this afternoon, after an initiation session we found ourselves hanging about in the trees!!! A new meaning for "hanging out", it was tough and scary, climbing (always with a safety harness, Phew), crawling over wooden bridges, up rope ladders, zooming down Tyrolean wires, what a feeling WOW! I didn't think I could do it, but I made it around, even the toughest course, not many of us on that one I can tell you. Exhausted I left with the feeling that I had achieved something special.

Lazy days on sunny afternoons, or time out, we are so lucky, the local swimming pool is down by the lake, we can lie on the grass and have a 360 degree panorama of the snow capped Alps. Sometimes I asked myself if I was dreaming and then out of the corner of my eye I would catch a glimpse of a delta flier or parachutist floating down to earth from Rochers de Naye, and think maybe we can do that too, but then there are so many things to do I don't know if I have enough time.

After dinner..... time to relax, you are joking of course, the MR sports team doesn't let us stop, we had the Olympics to compete in. Five Teams - Five Events - football, basketball, tennis, volleyball and table tennis.



First they told us about Baron Pierre De Courber-
tin, also Sitius, Altiud, Fortius.....who? you ask,
the founders of the Olympic Movement of course
, but more importantly it was explained that we
could compete but only if we accepted the idea of
"fair play", everyone gets a chance and we stick to
the rules, we play with honour as they did so long
ago. Want to know who won? Check the next edi-
tion.....but really we all won because it was a great
competition and great fun, I know that sounds corny,
but it is true.



So, this is a little bit about my days in Monte Rosa, there is much more to tell , I almost forgot Tuesday night dinner - always a different national meal with funny prizes, Montreux Jazz, shopping in the Forum, BBQ's at the Chalet , the Swiss Steam Train Museum, Big Banana rides, being Swiss Time on Time, getting my laundry done, finishing my project, finding my toothbrush for the Swiss Tour.....Snowball fights on the Top of Europe.....constant cameras and most importantly memories and experiences I will have for life.



the next William Tell



biking with friends



The worst part is leaving , Wednesday morning is not fun, it is strange how we become Monte Rosa stu-
dents and then we become friends, perhaps lifelong
friends....with a little help from FacebookI hope
so .

PS. Thanks to my teacher, who wishes to remain ano-
nymous, for helping me put this into good English,
although I think the first draft was ok. Another A+
(I also learnt that A+ in French means "till later" so
maybe we will meet again).

