

VESURTE Report

5.º meeting, Portugal 21st to 24th August, 2013

The mobility to Portugal held during the month of August aimed at framing the program the municipal celebrations in honor of St. Bartholomew. It is a religious, cultural and ethnographic demonstration with enough impact to the local community and visitors back to Baião enough.

With reference to tourism and sustainable development, it is intended to note sustainability of the pilgrimage while discovering the potential that the Baião region offers.

Description of activities:

August 21st

Welcome lunch in a local restaurant "Fonte Nova"

By the River

During the afternoon activities were streamlined in the Douro River in sustainable perspective. The canoeing was the privileged mode, as part of the educational program of our school through the vocational course sport.

Swimming and cycle ride along the banks of the river were other sponsored activities.

In the late afternoon, was served a buffet dinner in esplanade on the river and with stunning scenery - "Emidio's Café" .The menu was typical compost by Portuguese snacks with the sunset in the background.

At night, we watched a summer concert of a pop singer in the Portuguese village of Baião (outdoor show) centre within the parties in honor of St. Bartholomew.

August 22nd

Day completely dedicated to Nature. A walk of 17 km from the village of Baião, through the Ovil river valley up to the highest point of the Matos mountain provided permanent contact with the mountain and the forest. The oak forest in Reixela, one of the last of this native species of the Iberian Peninsula was one of the highlights of the walk, equally rich in geological, cultural and ethnographic terms. Hikers made contact with old water mills, irrigation courses, granaries and megalithic monuments...

Entire route and points of interest maintain the original design and its commercial exploitation in tourist terms is void.

The route was accompanied by students of vocational Tourism course in and local habitants. The first had as its main function the translation into English, while the habitants enriched all partners with stories about past practices and

customs that flanked paths and locals.

At lunchtime a picnic was organized in an old bullfight arena in full mountain that served to realize old still bullfights and where is held an annual cattle animal fair.

At night, we watched an outdoor concert sponsored by a local ethnographic group - "Os Andarilhos" - followed by "Noite Morta/Dead Night".

This is a night with a lot of tradition in Baião and that takes place every year on 22 August. Tonight all the inhabitants are in the street until dawn. Most of these people belong to groups, called "pilgrims" who play instruments and/or sing songs all night. These street performances that spread throughout the village attracts thousands of visitors from all over the country and even abroad.

August 23rd

Day of the annual fair of St. Bartholomew. At this fair can buy or sell a bit of everything, especially the handmade products.

The Fair program is also part of a competition for livestock, where the proprietaries of animals present their best exemplars properly ornamented. A parade where animals are presented to a jury responsible for awarding of prizes is organized.

Lunch was served in a traditional Portuguese tavern - "Tasca Dino" - and the menu was part of a wide range of traditional Portuguese snacks. Didn't forget the famous green wine!

The afternoon was again dedicated to space Nature and outdoors with a visit to Mafómedes an unspoilt village situated in the foothills of Marão, where a sustainable tourism project of Nature which is the recovery of a disabled primary school is on the march a construction of a mountain hostel. The permanent contact with nature (Marão mountain, Teixeira river and Mafómedes village) is the main aspect of the project.

At the end of the day, we can watch a Portuguese race of bulls, with imposing brave bulls accrued worse and handles the post of 3 groups of amateurs forced to Portugal.

August 24th

Work meeting in installation of Baião school.

The balance of the project was done, set future actions and presented the conclusions of mobility.

Then followed the ceremony of diplomas that preceded the final lunch in a local restaurant - "O Alpendre".