

Me and my friend Elisa lived in a really nice family in Leiden for ten weeks. Eline, the Dutch girl who visited us in March, was in Rome during our exchange because she couldn't come back home because of the ash cloud. We only spent a few days with her. Luckily her family was very friendly and her sisters showed us many places: the center of Leiden, windmills, museums and night life. We saw government buildings and the Girl with the Pearl Earring of Johannes Vermeer in Den Haag, and with Eline we were in



Amsterdam; that really was an experience with The Red Light District and all the Coffee shops. Maybe the best thing in the whole visit was Madame Tussaud's waxworks in Amsterdam.

The school of Eline was quite big, about one thousand students. On the first day we got to know Eline's friends and they took us to their lessons. There was no warm supper at school, the students only had some bread and cookies with them. Because Elisa and I are used to eating lunch at school, we were pretty hungry when we got home but the family ate the first warm supper of the day at 6 or 7 pm. That was maybe the biggest difference between Finland and Holland.



The short but multifaceted exchange was really successful and we had great time.

Elina Haavisto