

Volunteer Trip Report: By Olga Olya

Bacau 2008



The CAST trip to Bacau, Romania (2nd - 10th August) was very different to the usual trips abroad I make over the summer holidays. And in this case, change was definitely for the best! Not only was I visiting a beautiful sunny country, but I was able to really partake in the culture of that country and to help out the children living in difficult conditions there.

My anxieties over meeting new people were very quickly eased as the team I was part of, coming from very different parts of the UK, were all extremely friendly and we were all able to work really well together to run a summer school camp for the children in a village a couple hours drive away from Bacau.

It was a very rewarding experience and a great deal of fun to set up dance, music, English, art and sport clubs for the local children to participate in, and evening activities such as 'movie night' and 'bonfire night' were unforgettable highlights! No one came across any serious issues but it was always good to know that we had the support of our wonderful team leader, Alex Daly, as well as the local Romanian FSC leaders and that of our own team members.

Back in the city of Bacau, we were able to enjoy each other's company as a team as we all went out for lunch and dinner together, whilst meeting other people our age involved in charity work from Romania as well as the UK. Particular highlights were the two evening concerts of 'Romania Top Hits' that we were all lucky enough to see during our trip!

I have absolutely no regrets about my decision to volunteer with CAST as everything about the experience was genuinely worthwhile! Our team members still keep in touch and we all look over each other's photos and videos from the trip with very fond memories! I look forward to reliving the experience next year already!