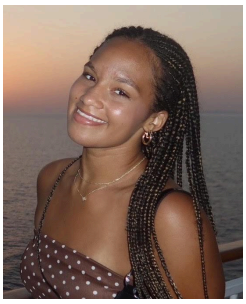
Sydnee Norwood



My Travel Log #2, Florence, Italy

Friday, July 24th

Friday morning, I woke up in our hotel in Bologna, and it was time to drive to Florence. The city of Florence is more inland than Venice, so we had about a two-hour drive ahead of us. My aunt and grandma decided to split up our drive by stopping at an outlet mall on the way. When we arrived at the mall, it was deathly hot and miserable. As we walked around the outdoor mall, we hovered over any water mister we could find. We searched for American-brand stores that we liked, but we couldn't find anything familiar besides Levi's and Adidas. My sister Jordyn and I were so hot and dehydrated that we entered a pita sandwich restaurant to buy bottled water. It was difficult to order because the restaurant was packed with people, and you were only able to order on a kiosk in Italian. Eventually, we ordered two bottles of water and fries, but the wait to receive them was over 45 min long. At least we were in air conditioning! We continued through the mall and found a stand titled "Fruit Smoothies". My sister ordered a raspberry smoothie, and I ordered a mixed lemon and raspberry smoothie. Only it wasn't a typical smoothie; it was what we call an "Icee" or "slushie" in America. After we finished our slushies, we met up with my aunt and grandma and got back on the road to Florence. As we entered the city of Florence, we went over a large bridge over a river. The surrounding buildings were packed close together and demonstrated Gothic-style architecture. When we found a parking spot, Jordyn and I were starving. We walked the streets looking for open restaurants, which is difficult to find in Italy since restaurants tend to only be open for dinner. We found an open restaurant around 4:00 pm and all ordered pizzas. The pizzas were giant and had a thick, doughy crust. The waiters handed us scissors to cut our huge, round pizzas, and we devoured them. My family and I continued through Florence to the shopping area. My grandma and aunt love to shop, so they let Jordyn and me go to the shops we liked. Jordyn and I bought clothes at Brandy Melville that said "Firenze" as a souvenir. On our walk back to the car, we saw a horse with people riding in a carriage and artists doing chalk art of famous paintings. This day in Florence was exhausting because of the heat, my hunger, and jet lag catching up to me. I recommend having an itinerary planned for the places you want to see in Florence, as I personally didn't want to spend all day shopping. Because of this, Florence ended up being my least favorite destination during my trip to Europe.