

# Geocaching in Stresa

Last week on 30<sup>th</sup> March I went to Stresa, a city located near Lake Maggiore with my 21 schoolmates and our teacher, all belonging to the 'Erasmus + italian team'.



We went to Stresa by train leaving at 8.00, then we had breakfast looking at the lake.

In the morning we did a lot of "geocaching" that is a sort of treasure hunt that exploits the gps technology. This is a funny way to explore places and to find some hidden treasures with an app that is called "GEOCACHING.COM".

When you use the app on your cell phone it marks some spots where "caches" have been hidden. You get directions on how to reach the spot and what you have to look for when you arrive there.



A "cache" is a small box inside which you can find a piece of paper; you have to sign it to prove that you've found the cache.

Everyone can do geocaching: you can simply hide something, you can look for something or you can hide and look for something. You will have fun!

We went to Stresa because we have a partnership with the Association that every summer organizes the "Settimane Musicali di Stresa" (= Stresa Music Weeks), a set of concerts held in different locations in Stresa with orchestras from all over the world.



The concerts usually attract a wide audience but young generations do not know much about them, so the idea was to try to involve them through some nice and challenging geocaching in the area. If you will find a certain number of caches, you will win free tickets to the concerts.

So on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March we were in Stresa to test the caches that have already been placed, and see which relevant spots we can identify. Once there we split in 5 teams and competed to find as many caches as possible. The hardest one to find was a cache hidden in a very small lock.

It took us something like 1 hour to find it!

At the end of the day we had found 12 caches altogether. Not bad!

After visiting the town center and walking along the lake promenade, in the afternoon we took a boat tour of the lake to reach the "Isola Bella".

Isola Bella is an island where you can admire the Borromeo Palace and the Gardens. We took a guided tour to discover the 25 rooms of the Palace that are open to the public, then we had some free time to stroll on the island.



Before leaving we had time for an ice-cream and some other quick geocaching adventures. Eventually we returned to Novara by train and we got there at 18.30.

It was a rewarding day!