Essay: My favourite place

My favourite place is, by far, a clearing hidden deep in the dense conifer forests near Azuga, found in Valea Prahovei, Romania. I fell in love with this place the first time I went mountain hiking with my family 8 years ago. Revisiting that place became a family tradition, hiking there each holiday in Azuga.

The meadow is full of lush, raw green grass with dark shades, which comes in great contrast with the countless colourful flowers spotted all around. If you are lucky enough, you can see the small pine saplings, that just emerged from the pine cones scattered around. They will, someday, turn into great softwoods, hopefully taking the old trees’ place in this marvelous forest, as the life cycle perpetuates itself once again.

Everything in sight is surrounded by huge ancient firs and pines that appear as an impenetrable fortress, guarding the meadow inside. One can wonder what kinds of creatures wander that forest, where neither the sun, nor the people dare to enter. I’ve tried surrounding one of those trunks with my arms, but to no avail, they’re so big even three people would barely manage.

Going uphill, one can find a giant lake, full of blooming water lilies of all colours, ranging from immaculate white, to soft pink and even sky blue. This is my favourite part of the whole ensemble, as I enjoy fishing and listening to the profound sounds of nature.. and believe me, there is no place in the whole forest more noisy than the lake. There’s always a chorus of frogs leaping around and croaking loudly, a suite of exotic butterflies and dragonflies perpetually buzzing, countless birds of countless songs and, on very rare occasions, a deer who waters at the lakeside, which is truly a sight to see.

Last time I went there was this summer, and believe me when I tell you, it is the perfect place to unwind, lay down on the grass and put you head on the moss bed, read a book and fall asleep to the serene sounds of nature. Would deffinitely go again, for as many times as possible..