Thanksgiving in Canada

Thanksgiving is one Canada´s special holidays. It is celebrated on the second Monday in October, unlike the American Thanksgiving that is in late November. The holiday celebrates the harvest of the year. Since it´s a holiday, people don't have to go to work or school on Monday, so it's a long weekend. Many locals use this weekend to travel outside the city and return to their hometown. Most of the students will take advantage of the long weekend to visit Ottawa or Montreal, but since the locals travel as well, is best to buy tickets in advance.

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to learn more about the Canadian culture and traditions. A friend invited me to spend the holiday with her family. She is also from my country, but her cousins were born in Canada. The tradition for this holiday is the Thanksgiving feast. Similar to the American Thanksgiving, in Canada they like to eat turkey as the main meal. In addition, they´ll cook mashed potatoes, green peas, cranberry jam, stuffing and for dessert pumpkin and apple pies. More than the feast, is the family gathering what it matters. Family and friends will gather and share this special holiday.

Even if you don´t a family or friend to spend the holiday, you can still enjoy a Thanksgiving feast. Many restaurants offer a special menu, activities and performances for the Thanksgiving weekend. Furthermore, some exchange students for the undergrad program organized a Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone was invited. So there are many options to celebrate this holiday.

Desserts are important in the feast. So, many farms sell special pumpkin pies for the season. You can visit farms for pumpkin or apple picking. This is a fun activity and if you are not interested in cooking, you can still buy any of the organic jams or homemade pies sold at the farm. Farms are not that far away from the city. I enjoyed taking a road trip, I was able to see a different scenery. Around that time the leaves were turning orange and red. The scenery is really beautiful.