



My Germany Exchange

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June 2018

School Life

- ❖ Liebigschule, Giessen
- ❖ Approx. 1550 Students (Grade 5-13)
- ❖ All of my classmates and students of Liebigshule spent free time in the Courtyard; a large outdoor area between the 3 school buildings.



Homestay Life

- ✿ Kotulla Family: Hanno, Inga, Pierre
- ✿ Lich, Hessen
- ✿ Vacations: Berlin, Hamburg, Italy, Frankfurt, Dortmund
- ✿ I had an amazing host family who were very supportive and welcoming. We enjoyed dinner together every night, and spent time together playing cards and board games.





Community Life

- ❖ Downtown Giessen: The main hangout area for Liebig students (as well as other schools around the area). The downtown was always lively and you could find everything you needed there.
- ❖ Schiffenburg: Here they would hold outdoor concerts for the public, and when the world championships for soccer began, they had public viewings for fans.
- ❖ Kino: The movie theatre down town Giessen. I never went here during my exchange but the grounds around the theatre were a common meeting point for Friday nights.
- ❖ Stadtcafe: Main cafe for Liebig students. I would go here for lunch very often with my friends.



Cultural and Historical Learnings/Experiences

- ❖ Churches and Castles: In the Hessen district there were many castles and fortresses, and I managed to go to almost all of them that were open to the public. In Italy, there were even more gorgeous monuments which I was lucky enough to visit.
- ❖ Berlin Wall: In Berlin my host family and I all went to multiple sections of the Berlin Wall. The most memorable in the East Side Gallery, which was the wall painted by famous artists that brings together the negative past, along with the beauty of the art.
- ❖ German Traditions & Celebrations: Wiessnfest was a festival similar to Oktoberfest, only in Spring. I went along with my friends and had an amazing time seeing the german culture in its fullest. Karnival is another tradition which is the “Halloween” of Germany where you dress up and parade through the streets giving out candy.





Travel

- ❖ Hamburg: We went to the famous market down by the Hamburg harbour and browsed the stands, ate traditional Hamburg food, and looked at the street art covering the bridges. Speicherstadt is a very old part of Hamburg which contains some of the oldest buildings in all of Germany. As well as the Elbphilharmonie which is a newer building that is all windows and has become a tourist destination for Hamburg.
- ❖ Berlin: The Eastside Gallery was an amazing experience and beautiful to see all the art. I also went to the Espionage Museum with my friends from Comox because my high school at home was in Berlin at the same time as I was. The Brandenburg Tur was a gorgeous piece of architecture that was somewhat like Time Square in the sense of it being full of people wanting to take pictures with workers dressed up in costumes and everyone trying to sell you something. Finally Alexanderplatz was a huge shopping area with high end stores such as Versace, Gucci, Louis Vuitton and many others.
- ❖ Italy: We first went to Arezzo where I got to see the places that were in La Vie et Belle which I had only seen a month or two prior. In Siena I visited many different landmarks and got to eat at some delicious restaurants. My favourite was in Florenz when I was able to explore the down town and go shopping and meet many new people at tourist attractions.



Recreational Pursuits

- ❖ Ice Skating : In Bad Nauheim there is a skating rink, and I would go with my friends to play around and learn how to skate. Eventually we all became pretty good at ice skating and its pretty fun telling people that I learned how to skate in Germany when I was 16!



