

Germany – the teacher's point of view

When I got up at 5:30am on Sunday morning, I was excited and full of expectations, however a little bit scared, too. We managed the way to Germany very well. When we finally arrived to Bitterfeld, it was raining and was really cold outside. The whole trip was organized by Mrs. Frauke Winkler, a teacher from the partner school, with whom I lived. She was very nice.

We met at school on Monday. Their school day begins at 7:45am – what would you say, will you be ok with that? Then we went to explore the city of Bitterfeld. Students from the partner school prepared brief information in English language. They were a little bit nervous but they did it very well. We found out that the city of Bitterfeld has completely changed. Due to the chemical industry and coal mining, Bitterfeld was heavily polluted.

The project for renewing the city after the closing of all mines was announced on EXPO 2000. The winning project suggested flooding former mines. Thus arose GOITZSCHE lake which is now a place for relax. It is surrounded by 24 km long road and a lot of picturesque houses and hotels which do not affect a beautiful landscape. You can find there beaches, northern style houses, piers, boats waiting in small harbours, peninsula which artists transformed into the piece of art by planting various trees and bushes. It is possible to sail around the lake by boats even by a pirate ship. There is also a high tower with more than 100 stairs. At night, it is enlightened by a lot of neon colours. From its top, it is possible to see the arch – Bogen – which is the city attraction, like Eiffel Tower in Paris. The whole project was financially supported by European Union.



The city was flooded in 2002 and then also in 2004. The flood aftermath can still be seen in the city. Memories remain and also there is a blue bench near the lake with names of people who helped to remove the effects of flooding.



Then we went back to school for lunch and tour around school. It was impressive. I was interested by the wall with names of best graduates since 1991 – each year they add the name of the best student.



Finally we went back to the city of Bitterfeld accompanied by students from the partner school to explore the historical part of the city. At the end of the day we moved to the pier where we played bowling. We all got soaked – it was real fun.

On Tuesday, we took the train to Halle. There is the Händl monument on the main square. We visited the Beatles museum. Only few people know that the Beatles recorded many songs in German. Then we had time to do the shopping. We ate lunch, I ordered Klose with green

balls. It tasted good until they told me that those balls are unblossomed flower buds. They were really sour.



On Wednesday, we had a CC day in gym, where we



met with German and Serbian students. I had so much fun there and I laughed all the time. I met many new and wonderful people. After that we went to cruise on the lake Goitzsche.



On Thursday we travelled back to Slovakia and we got home around midnight. I was really happy to be back home, even though I felt a little bit sad. I was so worried what is waiting there for me, but I have to say it was an exciting experience.

Our students, who I am really proud of, adapted and integrated very well into the new environment of German students. They represented school very well. They were praised by the teacher of English language from the partner school, especially their communication skills. I had a chance to use German language and practice English language.

We said goodbye and we all hope that we will meet each other again – this time in our home country and city – in Martin. We keep our fingers crossed.

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