



HIGH SCHOOL YEAR IN GERMANY

Facts:

- Age of students: between 15 and 17 years
- Duration: 3-10 (September-December)
- Welcome Course in Frankfurt/Main (3 days)
- Weekend trip to Hamburg in October (3 days)
- Xmas trip to Berlin (3 days)

Service:

- Placement in a host family*, full board
- Placement in a German school
- airport pickup from Frankfurt
- Welcome Course in Frankfurt
- Mentoring and individual support 24/7
- Each student gets a personal contact person not far from, where they are placed and a phone number they can call to 24h a day
- medical insurance, liability insurance and accident insurance.

*more information about our families find on page 2-4

WELCOME COURSE IN FRANKFURT

Service:

- 3 days
- Orientation courses and intercultural trainings
- Accommodation and full board
- Public transport
- Entrance fees
- 24h supervision by qualified personnel
- city rallies
- Fact-sheets, hand-outs & materials
- Welcome Party
- ticket to host family and detailed information how to get there. Students will not need to change the train without our help.

TRIP TO HAMBURG AND BERLIN



- 3 days
- Orientation courses and intercultural trainings
- Accommodation and full board
- Public transport
- Entrance fees
- 24h supervision by qualified personnel
- city rallies
- Fact-sheets, hand-outs & materials
- Welcome Party
- ticket to host family and detailed information how to get there. Students will not need to change the train without our help.

Hamburg - also called the „gate to the world“ –The city is the second biggest in Germany and has a lot to offer: impressive sights, a harbour mood and a multicultural atmosphere, an exciting history and interesting stories and so much more. What was the *Hamburg Firestorm*? What does *Hansestadt* mean? Where do people relax in Hamburg? What is their favourite food? What is a *Fischkopp*? These and many more questions we will answer together. We will see the city center, the town hall, the Speicherstadt, Hafencity, the old Elbtunnel, go on a boat trip on the river Elbe and

Berlin is a very special metropolis and appeals because of its unique charm. An unbelievable number of sights can be seen, reflecting the mind-set and Zeitgeist of the city and at the same time the rich history and drama of the 20th century. From Friday evening until Sunday afternoon we will try to experience as much as possible of the unique atmosphere. Amongst other sites, we will visit the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie and see what remains of the Berlin Wall. On a Berlin-rally you will explore the city`s sights by yourself and also have some free time to do your Xmas-shopping on one of the beautiful Christmas markets. Depending on weather and the interests of the group we will go to one of the great Museums Berlin is famous for, explore Berlin by boat or go on a tour through the Berlin graffiti art scene, for which the city is famous.

MORE ABOUT OUR PLACEMENTS

Sending your own child abroad can be a big step. In order to assure the natural parents that their child is in good hands with us, we pay special attention to the following points:

1. Careful selection and counselling of the host family

We pay a personal visit to our host families and advise them on the student exchange in a two- to three-hour conversation. During this visit, we take a look at their home, the surrounding neighbourhood and the local school. In the course of the conversation, we do not solely explain the exchange programme to the host family but we also gather impressions on whether the family is prepared to host an exchange

student. Experience has shown that in addition to hospitality and willingness, openness and flexibility are indispensable. If, for example, expectations of the exchange student are too high or we notice there are family difficulties, then we do not consider these families suitable hosts. It is also very important to us that the families trust us, so they contact us if difficulties arise.

2. Care of the host family and exchange student

Two to three weeks after the arrival of the exchange student, we pay another visit to the family and get in contact with his supervising teacher. During the visit we have a joint conversation and afterwards talk to the student and the family individually. In case we detect any misunderstandings or problems, we help to find a solution. One example could be, that the family needs to set up clearer rules or they need to encourage their student to express his wishes. We will talk about expectations, perceptions and cultural aspects. In the end, it is these conversations and reflections that allow both parties to develop their intercultural skills.

In the course of one semester we arrange three telephone appointments. This constant contact serves to show the student, that we're there for him. He should contact us at any time if he has any problems so that we can put him in touch with a member of staff that is familiar to him. If it is necessary, we will pay another visit to the family at any time to make sure that a solution to the problem is found. We can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Everyone is given the telephone number of our office as well as our mobile phone numbers.

3. It doesn't always have to work out

Mostly, things are running smoothly and both parties benefit from the exchange. However, it can happen that despite a wonderful family and a highly motivated and open-minded student, one of the two of them is unhappy with the arrangement. Of course, we are trying to understand both parties and work together with them on finding a solution. But if, for example, the mutual trust has been violated or "the chemistry is just not right, it is best to change host families. Naturally, we want the students to know that a host family is no hotel room that can be cancelled or easily exchanged. On the other hand, we don't want to enforce an unhappy stay and we are open to necessary changes of host families. Sometimes, the student only needs a second chance to show himself from his best side. And this chance should be given to him.

4. Regular reports from the beginning on

Once we have found a family for the student, he will get a detailed placement letter. In this letter we will introduce the host family, the region and the school the student will visit. We want the student and the natural parents to know as exactly as possible where the journey is heading and to get an idea of the new environment.

After the arrival of the student, we will visit the host family again. This visit will be documented in writing. Another detailed report will follow after the first half of the programme is over and at any time problems arise that could be of relevance to the natural parents.

5. Worries, problems and questions

Worries, problems and questions are taken very seriously by us - no matter whether they come from students, natural parents of host families. We will use our years of expertise to counsel and advise as best we can. However, the most important thing is to listen to all parties. No one knows his child as well as its natural parents. Only the exchange student himself can let others know how he feels. The host family is best able to estimate how they perceive the child in the new surroundings. The same situation can be described very differently. We know there is no such thing as "a right estimation" and therefore try to take all sides and information into account when trying to find a solution. In order for this to work, good cooperation of all parties involved is necessary.

* In favour of a more comfortable reading flow, we have only used the masculine.