

REPORT SUMMERCAMP HAMBURG/BERLIN

Week 2: Hamburg

The first week flew by and the students did not only advance in their language skills but they have also grown to know and love the city of Hamburg. The second week here was equally full of great activities and also opportunities to share aspects of the students' home culture. On Monday, the students returned to their German lessons with renewed energy and continued their intensive study, already showing great improvements across the board. The teachers started the lesson off with interactive singing and dancing, which the students had already come to know from the first week. After lunch, the programme included a visit to one of the museums that Hamburg is quite famous for – the Miniaturwunderland. Located in one of the historic buildings in the Speicherstadt, it is a massive collection of miniature models representing places, historical scenarios and fictional figures from all over the world. The students were very fascinated by the detail of such small-sized figures and took many pictures with the tiny pieces! Of course, a break at the museum café for a small snack was also part of the



excursion and the group jumped at the opportunity to have pommes frites (they were thankfully not as tiny as everything else). All too soon, we had to return to the hostel for dinner and the students used the evening to prepare for the Cultural Evening that was planned for Thursday. They put together ideas for a little show with music and show acts, making plans for delicious Taiwanese dishes and how to decorate the event location at the aubiko office.





Tuesday was another day full of intensive language learning and another workshop of cultural preparation for the exchange students. They are only a few days away from moving in with their host families so they are eagerly absorbing all the information they can about life in Germany. The non-exchange students also used the time wisely to do their homework and some chores, since it was hot enough that they did not want to go into the city earlier than everybody else. By late afternoon

though, everyone was ready to visit the Hamburg Dom, a large amusement park that takes place three times a year and is beloved by everyone in the city for its food and various rides. Especially the boys were brave enough to try the largest rollercoasters, even those that give most people a complete fright! During that time, some of the students joined the aubiko supervisors on a different project and used those two hours to go shopping in the local Asian supermarkets. We needed to collect the necessary ingredients for the Cultural Evening and the students simply knew best what they wanted to cook. They were very excited to see the familiar food in the shops and came up with many different recipes on the spot but sadly, we couldn't buy everything. Still, we met the group back at the Dom with full bags and even had time to grab some food from the many stalls before returning to the hostel.





The middle of the week rolled around very quickly and after the German lesson, the day held a particular adventure for everybody. The temperatures had risen quite high and summer was starting to settle over the city again, so we took the group on a canoe trip along the waterways of Hamburg to enjoy the sunshine and cool off on the water. We even formed several teams to compete in who could paddle the fastest along the river. However, many other people had the same idea to spend the day on the canals so it became a challenge to manoeuvre around the people who were rowing, paddle boarding or kayaking alongside us. At the same time, the students were interested to see how the Germans spend their leisure time with those kinds of activities. The takeoff was a bit tricky because nobody was quite used to coordinating the movements as a group and paddling at the same time but they were all extremely motivated the whole time. They had a lot of fun trying to overtake each other on the way, which didn't always work out so well. One group got slightly lost along the canal as well, but we all made it back in one piece and headed home for relaxation time in the hostel. After dinner, the evening was ideal for preparation of the next day's event and it ended up a bit harder than usual to get the students into bed while they were busy practicing their performances or playing sports on the hostel facilities.



Thursday was the big day for the group so, as an exception from the usual schedule, there was no afternoon programme following their German class. Instead, we separated the student teams that were responsible for cooking, beverages, decoration, entertainment and hosting in order to work on their parts separately. As an extra bonus, aubiko had procured matching T-shirts for the students, both as a souvenir from their time here at the intensive course and so that they could wear them especially for the event.



The cooking group headed to the office right after lunch and spent three hours making all the fantastic dishes for the evening buffet. Those responsible for the drinks also left earlier to purchase different beverages and make signs indicating which options they had on offer. Later on, the other groups that had stayed to prepare in the hostel followed and were all in time for the grand opening of the Cultural Evening. Many different external guests joined in, including a few host families that came to see their exchange students ahead of time and it was lovely to see them interact and get to know each other.



The entire event was a massive success, all the guests loved the food as well as the entertainment programme – from magic tricks, violin and flute music to a Chinese yoyo show and live spoken poetry – nothing was left out and the students truly earned themselves the big round of applause that they received. They were diligent enough to help clean everything up afterwards and returned to the hostel quite tired but very happy and proud of themselves.





The end of the week was dedicated to letting the students pack their luggage and enjoy some free time for themselves on their final day in Hamburg. The usual language lesson was followed by another cultural preparation workshop, in which the exchange students were once again tested on their knowledge of German culture and behaviour. They have learnt a lot but there are still many areas to cover before they are entirely ready for their stay here. Although there was no additional programme planned for the afternoon, naturally, we would never let the students continue to Berlin without a special way of saying goodbye to the two wonderful weeks they have had so far. So for the last evening they spent here, they enjoyed a collective dinner in form of a big barbeque at the hostel with all the traditional food that comes with it – sausages, steaks, potato salad and baguette bread. With some music and games to complete the evening, it is safe to say that everyone was ready for bed by the time 22:00 came around, so they could be rested for their travels the next day. The students have truly had a great time in Hamburg and most of them have discarded their initial hesitation and really gotten involved in the programme and built friendships with the other students as well as becoming more open and friendly with the teachers and supervisors. Their German language skills are improving steadily and we are certain that their final week in the capital will be just as full of rewarding experiences for them both inside and outside of class.

