

Taiwan Vorbereitungskurs 14.08.-02.09.2017 Hamburg-Berlin

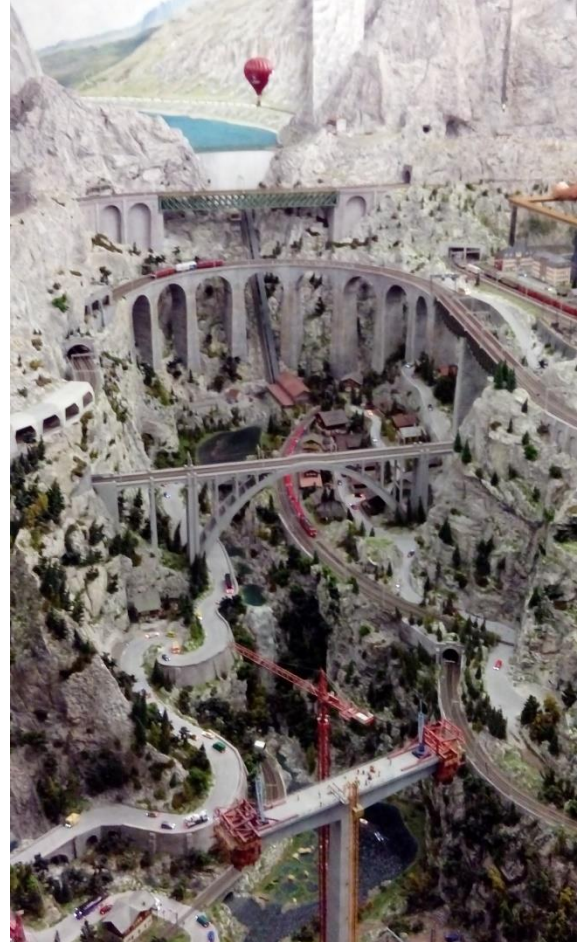
Day 8 21.08.2017: Visit of the Miniature Wonderland

As the second week starts, so does German class in the morning as usual. Although the students have only spent 7 days in Germany so far, their German skills improve every day and most of them lost their retention to speak German.

After lunch, we all met in front of the hostel and proceeded to the Miniature Wonderland by taking the subway. We alighted at the river Elbe again and took a short walk through the historic warehouse district to the Museum. The Miniature Wonderland is a great place to visit; it is located on several floors of a former warehouse where Hamburg, Germany and other European countries are exhibited on a small scale.

The students were free to explore the museum on their own and everybody took time to inspect the scenes and places that are displayed with lovable attention to detail. We saw Hamburg, Scandinavia, Switzerland and other countries, with moving cars and trains, an airport where trains were taking off and in Italy, a volcano would sometimes spy smoke and flames. Eventually the light would turn off and the lights on the cars, trains, street lamps and houses would turn on, immersing the place in a new light.





After spending enough time in the museum, we all gathered in front and took a short walk to the new Hafen City which is located right next to the warehouse district. Bert came and brought us dinner, a fish bun, apples and chocolate, and we sat on the steps close to the water and enjoyed the meal. Bert and the teacher Gosia took their time to talk to each student individually, about progress and behaviour in class and information and advice for the life in the host family.

The others were enjoying the rest of the sunny day and when the sunset and temperature dropped, we went back to the hostel. On our way, we passed a fisher who was lucky to catch a fish and everybody watched him get the fish out of the water and applauded.

Back at the hostel Elke and Bert continued the talks with the students and the others gathered to do their homework.





Day 9 22.08.2017: Visit of Northern Business School (NBS)

After the hearty breakfast, we went to the classrooms for another set of German lessons. At lunch we were again satisfied with delicious food and after a short stop at the hostel we took the public transport to the NBS Hamburg.

We were welcomed by Prof. Rüdiger and Ines Marx who gave us a presentation on the NBS and the German university system in general. NBS is a small private university located in Hamburg, founded and supported by institutions and companies of Hamburg for Hamburg. They offer a range of studies in business administration and management and will celebrate their 10-year anniversary in October this year. After the introduction of NBS Prof. Rüdiger explained the German University System to us, the differences of private and communal universities as well as technical and artistic colleges.

In class this morning the students prepared questions to ask but since everything was already said nobody would raise their arm. Then Christoph discussed with the students the differences between German and Taiwanese school system and universities. That time the students were able to take part in the conversation and shared their knowledge on their school system at home and personal questions on the grading as well as the learning systems in Germany.

Afterwards, we went back to the Hostel and still had lots of time till the evening. A group formed and went to the park to happily play Basketball or Volleyball. The rest used the time for another round of shopping.

Day 10 23.08.2017: Cultural preparation and the Dom or Musical

Today's class lasted until 4pm because Bert came to give another lesson of cultural preparation. When all heads were filled with information, the group split up because some of the students wanted to visit the musical Aladdin. Therefore, 10 of them followed Katalin to the Musical when the rest had an exciting destiny as well. They went to the famous Hamburger Dom, a big fare next to the Stadium filled with food stands, rollercoasters, water rides and other fun experiences. Four of them even dared to ride on the 80-meter high freefall tower.

The students were free to walk around and when we all met at the entrance again they all had stories to tell. Back at the hostel, we met the group that went to the musical. They were all enchanted by their experience although most of them told me that it was hard for them to understand since everything was in German. However the costumes, music and dancing was marvellous!



Day 11 24.08.2017: Taiwanese evening

This morning everybody is excited and some nervous, because this evening we are supposed to give a presentation at the Taiwanese evening at the aubiko office.

In the students went into groups, some preparing songs to sing, painting menus, preparing a power point presentation with pictures of Hamburg, shot by one of the students and another group was writing the moderation of the programme.

There was a group also preparing to sell hot dogs and drinks at the party and learned with Daina all the useful expressions they might need.

After lunch the first group left early, dedicated to do the grocery shopping and the cooking of Taiwanese specialities. The rest used their time at the hostel for piano and violin rehearsal.

When we arrived at the office the staff was already busy decorating and the students immediately lend a hand in hanging all the beautiful posters we prepared, setting up chairs, buying drinks or blowing up air balloons. Although everybody was in a good mood one could sense the anxiety and tension on the approaching performance.

At 6 pm the first guests arrived, some host families who live close to Hamburg were eager to meet their new family members and first contacts were made while drinks were served. The cooking group finished their preparations right in time and everybody enjoyed the delicious Taiwanese dishes and the good service at the hot dog stand. During the first hours more guests and the press arrived to make interviews. During dinner the students had the pleasure to show the German teachers, that previously always teased them with eating with knife and fork correctly, how to manage chop sticks.

After the guests were satisfied the programme began. A great mixture of piano, songs, pictures, calligraphy and martial arts, accompanied and guided by a group of three students that led the audience through the programme with their well prepared moderation cards.

Everything went successful and afterwards everybody still sat together for talks and the students were relieved that their presentations all went so well. When the guests had left we helped clean up the place and returned to the hostel.

Day 12 25.08.2016: Canoe ride

Today was a long day of class again; the students had cultural preparation in the morning, where they talked with Bert about stereotypes of Germany and Taiwan. German class took place until the afternoon, including a test on the progress of the students.

After classes were over we travelled with light luggage to the 'Osterbekkanal' where we all boarded canoes. It took a while until everybody was able to handle their paddle but then we enjoyed the canals in the east of Hamburg and some were even up for a race. The weather was fantastic, sunny and not too warm and we passed ducks and swans, nice houses and many other people in boats or stand up paddling. We passed the 'Stadtspark' and made our way under bridges. Luckily, nobody fell into the water and everybody reached the starting point safely but tired.

After we returned to the Hostel, the evening was free to start packing or just relaxed after another exciting week.