

**Day 13 26.08.2017: Trip to Bremen**

Today we could sleep a little longer and had breakfast at 8 am. After breakfast everybody started packing because tomorrow morning we would leave Hamburg and go to Berlin.

Around noon we gathered at the hostel entrance and proceeded to the main station to take our train to Bremen. Bremen is an old town close to Hamburg and we went sightseeing with Bert and afterwards the students were to form groups and take a tour through the ancient city centre and answer questions of a quiz.



In the afternoon the students had some free time for shopping and hiding themselves from the rain that poured down from time to time.

After dinner we returned late to the hostel and everybody went straight to bed after a whole day of walking.

### **Day 14 27.08.2017: Journey to Berlin**

This morning the group carried all of her luggage to the train station after breakfast. Since everybody had a lot of suitcases all were relieved to relax on the 3 hour train ride to Berlin.

In the early afternoon we arrived at our new accommodation in Berlin where rooms had to be moved in and surroundings had to be checked out. Here the students at many possibilities to engage in sport activities like basketball, football or table tennis.





**Day 15 28.08.2017: Sightseeing and visit of the Reichstag**

The morning started with breakfast at the accommodation and German classes again. But the morning passed by quickly and after lunch the students went with Bert to the German Reichstag building to have a look at Merkel's workplace and the roof terrace and dome of the building, which provides a magnificent view around the city.





Then we visited the Brandenburg Gate and after a little break took a nice boat tour on the river Spree, that is running throughout Berlin city and we were able to see a lot of the city from the water.





**Day 16 29.08.2017: Trip to Potsdam**

After German lessons and lunch the group took the train to the beautiful city of Potsdam that is located close to Berlin and has a fantastic castle and park.



**Day 17 30.08.2017: Visit of the FHM Berlin**

This morning the students did not have German class but started their trip right after breakfast to the campus of FHM Berlin.

The FHM is a private college that has several locations all over Germany and which offers divers study courses in media, economics, management and medicine.



**First “Education and Career Day“ for Taiwanese Highschool students at the FHM Berlin**

31.08.2017 On the 30th August 2017 the FHM Berlin (Fachhochschule des Mittelstandes) hosted the first “Education and Career Day” for 27 Taiwanese exchange students in cooperation with their partner Aubiko e.V.

Prof Dr Torsten Fischer, vice principal for international affairs and scientific head of the FHM Berlin welcomed the guests in the wide foyer of the college. The agenda for the day included a lecture on the global topic “Green Energy”, try-out German lessons by the FHM, a tour to the student dormitories and an exciting campus quiz taking the guests all over the campus of FHM Berlin.

The “Education and Career Day” presented to the soon-to-be high school graduates from Taiwan the possibility to study at FHM in Germany. In this context the exchange students were informed about the range of studies at the FHM with the upstream Pre-Studies Program (PSP) at the FHM-preparatory-college.

The PSP-Programme is a student preparation programme of the FHM that is designed for qualified international study applicants who want to start their bachelor studies in the field of engineering, economics or medicine at a university in Germany and who do not hold an appropriate university entrance qualification.

The prospective students will be prepared for the state assessment test within 12 months at the FHM. When the assessment test was successful, the students acquire a university entrance qualification for their studies in Germany.

### **Day 18 31.08.2017: Shopping and Sightseeing in Berlin**

The day started in the nice accommodation in Berlin with a divers, hearty breakfast followed by German class. Today was the last day of German class and everybody eagerly studied for the upcoming exams tomorrow.

After lunch the group headed, for the last time to the city centre of Berlin, Alexanderplatz respectively. Here the students had some free time to discover the various shops around the square. Around 4:30 everybody gathered at the world time clock and met Ina, one of aubiko’s partners and proceeded to the eastern part of the city to visit the East Side Gallery.





The East Side Gallery is a part of the Berlin wall, about 1,3 km in length that was designed by several artists from all around the world. Their numerous paintings serve as a reminder of the past, where Germany was separated into two parts and especially Berlin that suffered under the establishment of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Therefore, most of the paintings deal with the topics of peace, unification and diversity to remind the audience that segregation only leads to grief.



The students walked past the paintings, took time to have a look on each and took several pictures. Since the weather was not very friendly today and dark clouds were approaching we mounted the train back to the accommodation after we reached the end of the gallery. Back home the students had time to practice for their exams or engage in sport activities.







### **Day 19 01.09.2017: Exams and last day in Berlin**

This morning everybody was nervous about the upcoming exams which started right after breakfast. First all the students took a written exam about the cultural preparation course and German grammar and vocabulary. After the exam the students were asked to fill out an evaluation sheet to give their opinion on the course, teachers, assistants and activities of the last weeks.

Then the students had a short break before they all met for the last round of cultural preparation. Here they got together in small groups and wrote down Do's and Don'ts concerning the life in the host family, in class and with aubiko. After presenting their results to the class the students were asked to write down two questions they could ask at the dinner table of their host families tomorrow morning so that they would be able to start a conversation. Finally the teacher Jule and two assistants presented some role play scenarios where the students were one last time instructed about their behaviour in a German host family. Namely not to speak too quiet, or not to speak at all, how to eat properly and what to do if one comes home late and gets into a fight with the host family.

Class was over in a rush and then oral exams and feedback talks took place. For oral exams the group was divided into pairs and each pair took their oral exam with their teacher within 10 minutes. Afterwards they would meet Jule in another room and have feedback talks alone, with some personal advice what and how to improve for the life in a German school and host family and the opportunity to state their personal opinion on the course, teachers and organisation or to ask further questions. Here the students were also informed about their travel by train on the other day.

After all talks were over Bert and a group of Colombian students arrived and everybody helped out to decorate the dining room and set the grill for the evening barbecue. The students were relieved that their exams were over and before dinner each of them received a certificate a grade, everybody passed the exam. Then the party could begin with a lot of food and music. In the evening we a huge firework started at the nearby Olympia Stadium and we were lucky to see and hear almost everything of the show.



Students gathered at the best spots outside, wrapped in jackets and watched the colourful presentation that went on for hours. A beautiful last evening for everybody.



### **Day 20 02.09.2017: Trip to the host families**

The morning started very early for three of the students and one assistant because they had to leave the accommodation at 5 o'clock in the morning to proceed to Berlin airport. Those three student were not part of the exchange and had to leave for Taiwan again.

The rest was able to stay in bed a little longer and at 7:15 everybody dragged their luggage down in the entrance and handed their keys to Jule. Breakfast was a little earlier this morning since we had to leave the accommodation at 8:30 already to walk to the train station with all the luggage. It took 5 elevator rides but then we were all on the platform for the subway, after one change of trains and another five elevator rides we reached Berlin main station. Here we were separated into groups, each group for the respective train and within an hour of goodbyes and small groups and single persons leaving for the train, everybody was gone.