

## Taiwan Vorbereitungskurs 14.08.-02.09.2017 Hamburg-Berlin

### Day 1 14.08.2017: Arrival

After long weeks of preparation, 27 teenagers from Taiwan arrive at Hamburg. Christian went to pick the group up at the airport in Frankfurt and accompanied them on the train to Hamburg. Despite some minor problems regarding the delay of the train in Frankfurt, the group arrived in Hamburg, better late than never, at the main station where most of the aubiko staff was waiting for them at the platform. After a quick rush to the hostel to drop the enormous amount of luggage that was meant to last for one year, we proceeded to the DB-canteen for a late, but well-earned lunch. Even though everybody was tired from the long journey, the kids chatted lively and were happy and excited to get to know the city and details on what would expect them in the weeks to come.

After lunch, we took a walk to the seminar rooms at A&O Hostel for the first introduction round. In the seminar room, the attending aubiko staff members were introduced and first rules and instructions were given to the students. Subsequently, we all played a funny name memory game to get to know each other and went back to Generator hostel.

Over there, the rooms were distributed and first things unpacked from the suitcases. Since the time always goes by very quick on the first day, the students had only a short time to settle in before we had dinner together at the hostel. No further activities were planned for the evening since everybody was tired and looking forward to a good sleep in order to be fit for the following days.

### Day 2 15.08.2017: Class and Sightseeing



Student group in front of the Hostel

This morning started with a nice German breakfast buffet at the Hostel where the group had to get acquainted with buns, cold cuts, cheese and all kinds of marmalade. Strengthened by the food, we all started our journey to the classroom again, where everybody started out with a small placing test.

While the teachers were sorting the students into three levels and groups, Bert held his first cultural preparation class. He taught useful information on food, table manners and first phrases to get along at the dining table.

Then the first round of German class was held by Elke and Gosia and the group got to know the beautiful song 'Hamburg meine Perle' – a traditional song from Hamburg. For lunch, everybody walked back to the main station, followed by another two hours of German class. Finally, the afternoon began and the students made their first steps on Hamburg's famous shopping street 'Mönckebergstraße'. Included was a visit of a bookshop and many used the opportunity to grab a copy of either a German-English or German-Chinese dictionary.

During the walk on Mönckebergstraße, Bert talked about the history, the people and the language of Hamburg. We passed the eldest cathedral St.Peter and the town hall, which is an impressive building.

The sightseeing tour ended at the Jungfernstieg, where another group picture was taken and the students were free to walk about the city centre and find their way back to the hostel. It was obvious to see that everyone got a great first impression of the city with the many beautiful ancient buildings and water places.

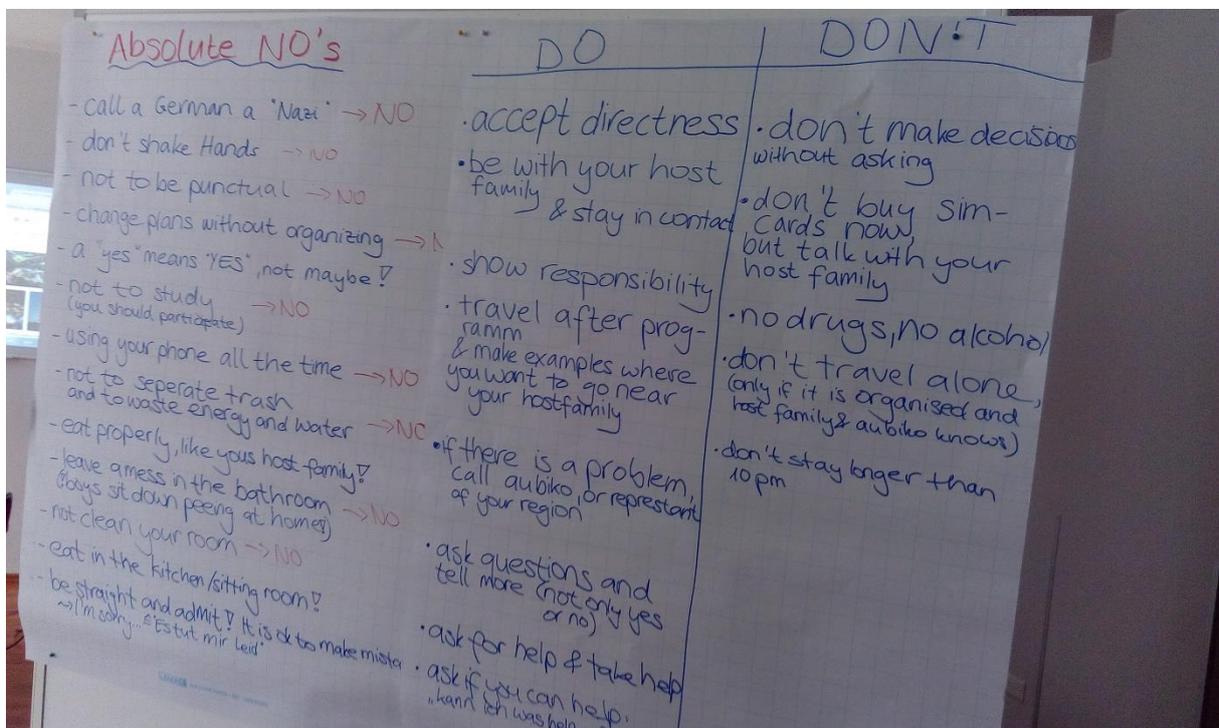


Group at Jungfernstieg

### Day 3 16.08.2017: Expanding our radius

The day began, again, with the hearty breakfast at the accommodation, followed by a round of German class, where the students learned a lot about Hamburg and its attractions. During lunch, Bert was watching everybody closely and reminded the students to use fork and knife, and not to rest the elbows on the table. Once again, everybody noticed how fascinating cultural differences could be and that there is a lot to learn and discover if you plan on living in a foreign country.

After lunch, the students met in the classroom for cultural preparation. Today the topic was on dos and don'ts in the host family. The students collected a long list and Katalin, who assisted Bert today, noted them down.



Dos and don'ts in Germany

After the work was done, we expanded our radius and took the subway to the old harbour area and the river Elbe. Over there, one finds an old tunnel, which led us under the river to the other side; from there we had a marvellous view over the city. Of course, this was the perfect place for our next group picture and many others.



Time for pictures and smiling faces



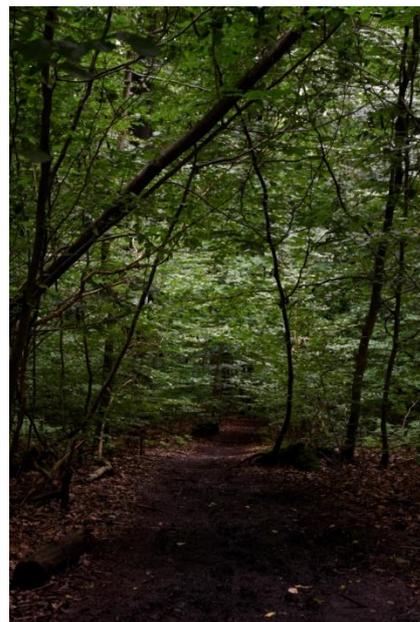
Descending to the 'Elbtunnel'

Just like the day before, Bert shared a lot of information on the city, especially the harbour, warehouse district and the newly finished 'Elbphilharmonie' which already got the nickname 'Elphi'.



#### Day 4 17.08.2017: Expedition to the forrest

The morning started with business as usual and a breakfast, followed by German classes in the classrooms. Today the overall topic was the German forest since the afternoon excursion took us to a forest that is located close to the city. Here, Bert shared information on flora and fauna and the students once again were walking a lot, talking pictures and making new experiences with nettles, mushrooms and thistles.



Back in the centre, we still had time to visit the city centre for another round of shopping and exploration. At 8 pm, everybody reported to Lea at the hostel on time and since it was raining outside, the students used the rest of the evening to meet at the rooms to do homework or watch a movie.

### Day 5 18.08.2017: City Hall and St.Michael

Today, after breakfast, German class involved the topic 'City Hall' since we were going to visit it in the afternoon. After lunch, we made our way over to the City Hall. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and it has been raining throughout the day. However, since this is a quite normal situation, especially in Hamburg, the rain could not stop us from exploring the city once again and having a great time.

The city hall is a beautiful and big building right in the centre of town. The entrance hall is fine to look at, but while we were waiting there for our tour guide we could not imagine the beauty and astonishing rooms we were about to explore.



Waiting in the entrance hall



View on the patio

After some time, Mr Ovens picked us up and started a tour through the marvellous rooms of the city hall. Each room has a different style and purpose. Mr. Ovens explained the different rooms to us, mentioned powerful emperors like Wilhelm II and Bismarck who visited the city hall and he always had a funny anecdote to tell.

During our tour, we had the exceptional honour to have a look at the parliament's room and even sit on the president's chair.



Group in Parliament



After the tour we sat down with Mr Ovens and were allowed to ask questions about the city hall, the parliament and senate and Mr Ovens profession as senator.



Then a new task was waiting for the students, they were supposed to find their way from the city hall to St. Michaels church, one of the most famous sites of Hamburg. Unfortunately, many of the people the students asked for directions on the streets were tourists themselves and could not help out, eventually, they were lucky and everybody made their way to the church.

Here we all climbed the many stairs by ringing bells and beautiful view over the city. Some of the students took the stairs too fast so that they were breathing heavily when they reached the top. From there we had a magnificent view over the city of Hamburg and the harbour.



Since it was raining the whole day, by afternoon everybody was clammy and cold, so we took a break at the hostel to warm up and went for dinner together. This evening we were taking the students to try a famous German dish: Döner. The sandwich originally derives from a Turkish dish and now is typically eaten as a kebab with many vegetables and sauce.

The chef of the restaurant served everybody well and it looked like everybody enjoyed the meal.



### Day 6 19.08.2017: Trip to Lüneburg

Today is Saturday, which means that there is no class in the morning but a day trip to the beautiful city of Lüneburg. Katalin picked us up at the hostel and we took a train to the city that is located close to Hamburg.

Again, there was a tower to climb at the water tower of Lüneburg but luckily there was a lift available.



After a lunchbreak, the students were sent out to explore the city by themselves in groups along with a sheet of paper that would ask questions on and about the city. Consequently, the groups went around and tried to answer all the questions by asking people on the streets and reading information boards.

For dinner, everybody had pizza and on the train ride back home most of the group was peacefully sleeping after this long and adventurous day.

**Day 7 20.08.2017: Trip to Lübeck**

After breakfast we met in front of the hostel. Again, we were taking the train and arrived at the city of Lübeck. Here, Christian was in charge of a detailed sightseeing tour and a visit of the Marzipan Museum.



Due to the unpredictability of the weather the trip to the beach of Lübeck was cancelled and we returned to Hamburg early. For dinner, we all went out to an afghan restaurant where the students could try food from a different nation again. Here they learned that German people love international food and that each city in Germany offers quite an amount of Indian, Asian, Afghan, Turkish, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and many more restaurants of different nationalities.

The Sunday evening then was dedicated to homework and laundry.