

Taiwan Preparation Course
13th August – 1st September 2018
in Hamburg & Berlin

Week 3

Saturday, 25th August

The second weekend of the summer camp started and with it, our next excursion came up. After we all enjoyed our breakfast, it was time to set up for our trip to beautiful Bremen. When we arrived there around noon, aubiko staff Isabel was already waiting for us. She would be our guide for the day as she knows the city well. Even though it was a quite cold and rainy day, Bremen still presented itself with all its beauty. On our way through the city, Isabel led us to the old windmill, the marketplace with the town hall and the statue of the "Bremer Stadtmusikanten", showed us the famous chimes and a very old part of the city with the narrowest street of Bremen. After the tour, the students had some free time to go shopping, but they also had to do a little task where they should ask Germans some questions and practice their language skills. During the free time, we could also watch the Christopher Street Day Parade which took place just that day. All of us thought it was a great parade and some of the students even got some little presents. Then, it was already time to leave Bremen again. After a short stop in Hamburg, where everyone could have dinner on their own, we made our way back to Bad Oldesloe.



Sunday, 26th August

Sunday, the end of our second week of the course arrived fast. Everyone had already packed their stuff together because today we would go to Berlin. We had our last breakfast in Bad Oldesloe before the students cleaned up their rooms and brought out their luggage. At 10 o'clock our bus arrived and we got ready to leave for Berlin. It took us around 4 hours until we arrived at our new accommodation. First, all the students got the keys to their rooms and had some time to unpack their stuff, then we left to go and explore Berlin. Our first stop was the surrounding of the "Zoologischer Garten". Here, the students had some time to grab a snack before we visited the memorial church and Bert gave them a taste of typical German roasted almonds. Then we visited the East Side Gallery where we could see beautiful paintings on the last parts of the wall that once divided Germany. Our last stop was the Alexanderplatz where everyone could get something for dinner. At last, we returned to our accommodation and still had some free time for games, chats and sports.



Monday, 27th August

The first complete day in Berlin started as usual with a decent breakfast and German class. During the class, our teachers spoke about Bremen again and together the students watched a short clip about the



story of the "Bremer Stadtmusikanten". After our bellies were filled with some delicious food for lunch, we were ready to make our way to the German Bundestag where we could visit the roof terrace and the dome on top of the building. Having an excellent view over the city of Berlin, our students took a lot of pictures and of course also selfies. Following,

we went to the nearby Brandenburg Gate and had some free time to explore the place before we went down to the river Spree and hopped on a boat for a boat trip through the city. A guide told us about the government district, the new built main station, the museum isle, the cathedral of Berlin, the university and many other interesting places along the river Spree. Everyone enjoyed the trip and some people at the bank even waved at us. We ended our afternoon in the city center with dinner at the Alexanderplatz.



Tuesday, 28th August

Tuesday was a nice and sunny day, just the right weather for the plans we had for this day. First of all, we started with our normal routine with a great breakfast and German classes in the morning. Today,



the students repeated their knowledge about Berlin which they learned the days before and of course also learned some new interesting facts. Then, after our lunch, we left the accommodation and made our way to the nearby city of Potsdam. This afternoon was all about "spazieren gehen" - going for a walk - which is one of the most popular free time activities in Germany and which our students also

liked very much. We started our walk at the train station with our first destination being park Sanssouci. Here, we could see the old buildings of the university and one of the castles which are currently under renovation. Bert gave us a small history lesson and told us about the Prussian kingdom with their kings who built those marvelous castles all over park Sanssouci. Next, the students had some time to explore the whole park with all of its castles, statues and different places, before we all met in front of the castle Sanssouci. Of course, we had to take a group picture so we will always remember this great afternoon. We



spent the rest of our time in the center of Potsdam where we had some free time for shopping, relaxing and having dinner. Back at the accommodation, we had time for playing games, sports and chatting.

Wednesday, 29th August

Wednesday was the last day of our normal daily routine which had built up over the last two and a half weeks. After we enjoyed a delicious breakfast, the students had their last regular German classes which they could use to prepare for their final test. Therefore, the students split up into smaller groups and created beautiful posters which summed up everything they learned over the past weeks. They for sure used their time well and ended the morning prepared for the test the next day. During the lunch break, everyone was chatting and enjoyed the time together. Afterwards, our last cultural preparation had also come. Again, the students were split into two groups. One group attended class while the other group had time to do their homework and learn for the final test. The last topic for cultural preparation was a topic which many students wanted to talk about - it was discrimination. We started with a group work about what discrimination means and what kinds of discrimination exist. Furthermore, we thought about why discrimination happens, so the students could understand what is going on in the people's minds. At last, we talked about the base of discrimination: Stereotypes. To end our last class, we asked our students to create pictures which show Taiwanese and German stereotypes in pairs. For dinner, we took all of our students to the "zoologischer Garten" where they had enough time to look around and find a nice place to eat.



Thursday, 30th August

Thursday was almost our last day. Everyone came for breakfast early and had a large helping to fill up their bellies. Concentrated and well prepared, the first group entered the room to write their final test. The other group spent their time with some games like Hangman and a lot of fun. Soon, the groups changed and the last tests were written. Now that everything was done, the students could relax and enjoy their lunch. In the afternoon, we went to the Kurfürstendamm where our eagerly awaited shopping day would take place. Until the evening everyone had time to shop as much as wanted, stroll around the streets and have something for dinner. Happy and satisfied our students returned after almost 5 hours with filled shopping bags and were ready to return to the accommodation to show their latest purchases. But returning also meant to start packing and we slowly started to realize that our time will soon run out.

Friday, 31st August

Friday had arrived and with it our last day of the summer camp. After we enjoyed breakfast together with the Columbian students who arrived the day before, all the Taiwanese students had the last



conversation with one of their teachers and with a chairman of aubiko to talk about their achievements and the camp in general. While the conversations were going on, the rest of the students should split into groups and then think about an activity which they would offer to the other students for our farewell party in the evening. Everyone came up with great ideas until lunch break and we were sure, that the party would be a success. In the afternoon, all students could decide whether they would like to go sightseeing, shopping or to stay in the accommodation until the party would start. At 6 o'clock our chefs

were lighting up the grill and the rest prepared the barbecue for our dinner. We enjoyed typical German bratwurst, steak and all kinds of salad while some music played in the background. Everyone was chatting, taking pictures and laughing. Later on, the first seven groups presented the stations and activities they prepared in the morning while the rest of the students were taking part in their activities. The offers ranged from guessing Chinese characters and guessing songs to playing basketball and using chopsticks. After an hour, the stations changed and now, the Columbian students presented their activities. They were dancing, playing chess, practicing tongue twisters and solving a Rubik's Cube. All of us had a lot of fun, it was a great evening which we won't forget any time soon. Everyone was laughing and every student participated in every activity. In the end, Columbians and Taiwanese danced together until it was time to go to bed.



Saturday, 1st September

The time had come for all of our students to leave Berlin and travel to their host families. We all met for one last time to have breakfast before we would leave the accommodation between 9 and 11 o'clock. Some last photos were taken and then we were leaving for bus and train stations to bring everyone to their train or bus and send them on their journey to their home for the next year. We stayed in contact with all our host families and in the end, all of our students arrived safely and well at their host families.

The three weeks preparation course was a great time that all of us will never forget!