

An Amazing Trip to Germany

By Erik Scandola (3G)

Sunday, 18th September 2011, 6:15am

It was time to leave for the airport, for another week of the Comenius Project. It was the fifth meeting and I had been waiting for that moment for four months, since my teacher told me that I was going to Germany.

Finally, at about 7 o'clock in the morning I was at the airport, with my parents and I was the first to get there, so we went to have breakfast in a bar, and half an hour later we were all in front of our check-in desk.

At a quarter to nine we were already on the airplane, waiting for the take-off; we had priority boarding and so we could choose our seats: we were on the back of the airplane, and I was near the window with Marcello.

I was very excited to set out on this trip. It was a new experience for me, and I was eager to meet Jannic, who was going to host me for about a week. We had already talked to each other on the Twinspace and by email, and I was looking forward to meeting him.

As soon as we arrived, we had to take the train from Lübeck to Flensburg, where our host families were waiting for us. We went to the first class compartment, where there were some tables, so that we could play cards (we played games like *briscola*, *scopa*, *scopone*, *machiavelli*). About one hour later we arrived in Kiel, where we had 20 minutes to eat and take the other train. We went to McDonald's.

After about 5-6 hours of travelling, we finally arrived at the station in Flensburg. There were maybe 20-30 people waiting for us, and when we got off the train, everyone immediately saw their family, except Marino and myself. Three or four minutes later we finally met them, and we all went to our own houses.

The first thing I noticed was that the landscape (the houses, the streets, the countryside and trees). It immediately reminded me of the Netherlands and my grandparents' village: Noorden. I stayed in Gorhoff, a small village, with about 5 thousand inhabitants, about 20 minutes from Flensburg by car. When I arrived home, Jannic showed me all the rooms, and my bedroom; then we ate some chocolate cake, made by his mother: it was delicious.

In my same village, there was Alessia and in the afternoon, before eating, she came to our house since our hosts, Jannic and Catherina, knew each other. In the evening, after dinner he and his father took me to the beach to see Denmark.

Monday, 19th September 2011

On Monday morning we took a bus to go to school. It was the first time for me. When we arrived, there was a welcome party and a young band, I think the school one, played some songs for us foreigners. Next we had to present our art works and the Italian group was the first to start. I thought it would be difficult and embarrassing, but fortunately it wasn't. During the break we went outside and we played American ping pong with the other boys; it was fun because we didn't know the rules, and we were immediately eliminated.





In the afternoon we went sightseeing in Flensburg, and they gave us some free time to go shopping. I usually buy a magnet everywhere I go, but I couldn't find one in Flensburg. In the evening we went back to school for a "party" with all the people involved in the project. After dinner the German guys organized some races, which consisted in taking your host or guest on



your back, and running for 20-30 meters; for me it was very difficult, because I'm not so strong, but it was a lot of fun and I had a great time.

When we arrived home we played Wizard, a card game where you have to think a lot (and because of this I lost) till about 10 and when we went to bed I immediately fell asleep. I was very tired, even though the day had been wonderful.

Tuesday, 20th September 2011

On Tuesday morning we went to the computer room, where Dietmar Wagner explained to us what we were going to do with the podcast on Thursday, and after break, we went to the old border between Germany and Denmark, marked by an old wall, a UNESCO heritage site, and we also visited a replica of an old Viking village, with houses and games, where you could try to be a real Viking.



Since there wasn't enough time to visit the Cathedral SL in Danwerk, we directly went to the High-Ropes (honestly I don't remember the name of the place). Even though Enrique, our guide from Angola, explained to us the rules and how to climb, I couldn't do a part of the 4th level. I had been hanging down from a rope and I couldn't go on because I kept on laughing. However, 5 minutes later I got it. After this very exciting course, we decided to do the 6th and the 7th levels and we wanted to do the eighth as well, but there was no time left, so we had to go back to the bus.

In the evening, Jannic, Alessia and Catherina, Paoline (a classmate and a friend of theirs) and I had a Guitar Hero Party, a play station game. It was probably the second time that I had played it, but I was quite good, I think, even though the champion was Alessia.

Wednesday, 21st September 2011

On Wednesday, our third day in Flensburg, we visited Lübeck, the biggest and most important city close to us. In the morning we went sightseeing in the historical centre of the city, while in the afternoon we had some free time, and we went to McDonald's for the umpteenth time, but there I was so lucky that I won a blue and grey jacket that I've already given to my youngest brother.

When we came back home, we had a very fast dinner, because, one hour later we were already in the car to go to a German girl's house, where the Italian group, together with some Romanian people, had a Wii party, instead of the play station, and I have to say that even



this time, I had a lot of fun.

Thursday, 22nd September 2011

Unfortunately on Thursday our trip was almost over, but I tried to make the most of this experience and enjoy myself until the very end. Our day began, like all the others, taking the bus to go to school. In the morning we did the podcast in groups. It was an interview about the “High-ropes activity” we had done on Tuesday. It was strange to listen to my recorded voice, but fun, because I was wrong about a sentence, and I didn’t know what to say. Unfortunately, our podcast is going to be uploaded on the Internet, where everyone can listen to it.

In the afternoon we had to go sailing, but the weather wasn’t very good, it was very windy, so we had some free time, and we could decide what to do; someone went back home, someone went shopping, while Marino, Alessia, Giorgia, Elena and I went to the swimming pool in Flensburg. It was very big, with three different springboards, from 1, 3 and 5 meters high; The highest was amazing, and while I was falling, I thought “How long does it take to get into water?”; it seemed not to have an end. There was also a sauna and some bath spas, three outside and two inside. It’s a very nice swimming pool, with a slide too.

The evening, like all the other evenings during the week, was busy. As a matter of fact, we had our third party in three days; this time we went to Paoline’s house, where there were a lot of people, about 30 or 40. Even that night I had a lot of fun, because I met new people that I hadn’t met before. I’m sorry about that, because, by the time you had met and started to get to know someone, the week was over, and you had to go back. However, we played cards, some Italian games that we had tried to teach them, some German ones that they had tried to teach us, and a group game, which was very nice and amusing. As soon as we arrived home, I immediately went to bed, because it had been a long day.



I really have to say that I’ve never enjoyed myself so much on a trip as in this one. I never got bored, and I am happy to have taken part in this project.

Friday, 23rd September 2011

Unfortunately, our visit to German came to an end, and everyone had to go back to their own country. In the morning, since we didn’t have to go to school, we could sleep one hour later, and so we woke up at 7.15, instead of 6.15, and at 8.30 we were all ready to take the trains. We took pictures and said goodbye to one another till about nine, when we had to leave. This day was very long, too because we arrived at the airport at nine in the evening, and as soon as I came back home I went to bed and immediately fell asleep.

I’m very happy I had this extraordinary experience because I had a lot of fun with everybody, and I hope to see them again one day.