

Barcelona meets Luckenwalde – my personal impressions

While having planned the visit of our Spanish exchange partners in Luckenwalde, their arrival seemed so far away. But the weeks were running and suddenly it was the Friday of their advent. My parents and me, we were completely nervous because we had never taken part in such an exchange before.

However, after we met Alex the first time, the nervousness was like blown away and we were just looking forward to the next week.

The primarily dreaded problems with understanding each other or finding the right vocabulary, didn't prove true. I got along with Alex right away. It was very interesting to converse with him about the most different themes. Therefore we were mostly talking, when we didn't undertake something.

The most time, however, we spent with the whole group of the exchange.

In the mornings and afternoons we undertook things, organised with the help of the teachers. So we made, for example, a guided tour through Luckenwalde, sightseeing tours to Berlin and Potsdam, prepared an afternoon with sports and barbecue and made a German-Spanish lesson.

We had already noticed in the first evening, that being together, we had the most fun. By this way we spontaneously planned activities for nearly every evening. I liked going to the Italian restaurant, to the bowling alley or to different bars with them all.

In my opinion it seemed that the Spanish teachers and students liked all our activities, a fact that makes me really happy. I believe that we conveyed them a lot of impressions of the life in German. I hope they think so, too. Moreover I am bright that everything we organised, worked that well.

Having been really excited to get to know the Spanish mindset, I noticed that it is quite different than our one. The Spanish were very open minded and careless. Furthermore they were nearly the whole time in a good temper and just wanted to have fun. Sometimes, however, when we were with the whole group it was hard to deal with that mentality. When we met us in Luckenwalde, for example, we often attracted a lot of attention. That was mostly caused by the behaviour of the Spanish students, by reason that they often did not act like it is typical for a German small town. Thereby funny and on the other hand awkward situations were developing. All in all, nevertheless, in some cases the German should copy something of the Spanish attitude towards life. That, anyway, is my opinion.

Indeed it was a bit pity that we didn't really get to know the exchange partners of our classmates, because the Spanish and German often remained in divided groups. On the other hand it was a good chance to get to know a little bit more about the own classmates. I'm glad not having missed that chance.

A fact that was very surprising for me was my development depending on the English language. I often noticed me to deliberate about something in English. Moreover it oftener happened that I started to speak English while talking to a German. The week showed me that I know more about that tongue than I usually would have thought. Believing to have lost some of my fears about speaking English, I think that this week helped me a lot to improve my English skills. I hope that this effect will continue in Barcelona, too.

So I am definitely looking forward to our visit there.

Remembering the first week of the exchange, my parents and me, we are glad to take part in that exchange because it is a great and maybe singular experience.

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German and Spanish students in front of the seat of the German parliament



Alex and me



In front of the new palais



Sports on Sunday afternoon



The Spanish teachers



Breakfast in the last morning

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Mandy Ziedrich