



CHRIST
JUNIOR COLLEGE
BENGALURU - 29



Berauschend

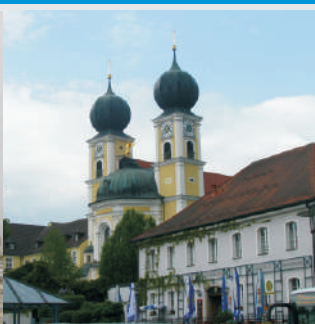
a moment of exhilaration and a lifetime of experience

Indo – German Student Exchange Programme 2015 - 2016



I headed towards my German family feeling a little shy and slightly nervous since this was the first I was away from my family for such a long time, but the minute I stepped into my new home I felt welcomed and at ease. Soon I got my German family. The two weeks I spent there have been the most amazing time of my life from visiting the zugspitze to just going on long walks, as time passed Ina's family soon became my family. I have had loads of fun from going to the May fest, to going on long shopping sprees and just having loads of fun. Miles away from home I learnt that it just takes love and care for strangers to become family. Even though this exchange program has come to an end I will always cherish these memories forever. I will miss my German sister who I have come to love and care for I am glad that I had this amazing experience

Disha Dharmaraj (II HESP - M)



Life in Deutschland!

I remember, shyly walking into my new home with a pinch of fear and a mind full of thoughts. Wondering what life has in store for me for the next two weeks. My host mother, Mrs. Stefani treated me like I was her own daughter. My host sister, Eva is larger than life and was very helpful when I first arrived. My partner, Anna is a special friend indeed. Visiting Austria and Czech Republic along with Anna's father Mr. Thomas was an incredible go through. I also had a gala time learning the piano. The long talks on the dining table and learning some German slang is unforgettable. They all made me feel like home. "I never feel completely at home again, because a part of my heart is always elsewhere. That's the price you pay for the magnificence of loving and knowing people in more than one place." Maya, the black cat always wandered around the house. The three rabbits, Lucy, Mummel and Josie were so cuddly and endearing. Flora, the majestic horse lived a few kilometers away from home. I visited the stable twice, horseback riding was one of the best things. Hugging the neighborhood granny and listening to her talk about her experiences in German was gratifying and I learnt that communication can be done through emotions and not just language.

All of us attended classes at the St. Michael's Gymnasium. It is a very beautiful school which encourages humanistic and technological study. It was a wonderful experience, with amicable students and kind faculty. We had a fantastic experience of the school life and teaching dynamics in the Deutsch way. The main objective of classroom discussions was to learn about their lifestyle. We also attended the Greek class, which was fascinating and fun. The Greek teacher was very outgoing and extroverted. He spoke about his love for rock music and also taught Greek in a fun way. The student-teacher relationship is very casual but they also hold high regards for them. I was strongly captivated by the beautiful infrastructure and the history of this brilliant school. Our last day in Metten was followed by a cultural event, where we portrayed our Indian culture in the feat of dance and music. Both the German and Indian students were clad in our ethnic wear and had a barbeque night.

Some of my favourite moments include, learning some German slang, climbing trees, the zugspitze, BMW factory, Frühlings fest, savoring different flavours of ice cream, wandering on the streets and laughing at things I never completely understood, like Rohan says "Just go with the flow!" Dwelling away from home, on the other part of the world has impacted me in ways that will cling with me for life. Living and experiencing a different culture, a different lifestyle and a different language has broadened my perception. Getting out of your comfort zone is a tricky thing, but it is just an opportunity to try new things. Travelling has always given me a sense of wanderlust, but this program was more than just a journey. It was magical and enchanting!

Dhwani (II HEPP- N)





The little sister of Oktoberfest - Frühlingsfest

A two week long stay has left me with a million memories. But the events that were etched in my memory were the visit to the concentration camp at Dachau and the Frühlingsfest. The visit to the concentration camp at Dachau was something one couldn't forget. As the clouds above us were heavy with rain, we reached the camp and found out that it was the day of Commemoration for the liberation from the camp. The camp on that day was visited by Angela Merkel along with other international delegates. I seized the opportunity and was able to see the chancellor of Germany in person. The concentration camp itself was huge in size. And it took the whole of the afternoon to visit every corner of the camp. The camp which was one of the first camps to be built by the Nazis had originally been torn down but later a few barracks were reconstructed by the United Nations in memory. With every part of the camp well explained in both English and German, I could learn about the lives of the prisoners and the history of the camp. The barracks itself was not there, as it was destroyed after liberation but the reconstructed barrack gave me an idea of where the prisoners stayed, and how they were punished. The most surprising section of the while camp visit was to see the churches in there. Within the premises of the camp was at 5 churches, varying from church of reconciliation by Protestants to the Russian Orthodox Church. These churches although small, had a great meaning behind them, all of them were built for peace of the souls and the forgiveness towards the wrong. As we left the camp we went into the gift shop which contained Jewish jewellery and other religious artifacts. Including books on the Second World War and relating topics. The concentration camp was a beautiful visit, which contrasted the joy and entertainment of other events which occurred during the trip.

The Frühlingsfest was by far the most unforgettable experiences. The word Frühling means Spring, hence the festival literally means spring festival. It is celebrated with the arrival of spring and is a week long event which contains loads of food stalls, game stalls, rides and two huge tents with live bands playing. The stalls and rides were the main attraction for families and children during the day, but as the sun set you could find most of the German youth from neighbouring towns and cities entering the tents to consume what Germany is most famous for - The beer, Weißbier. As the day turns to night everyone in the tents has only one use for the benches, to stand on it while dancing and singing along to the traditional German music with a few classic English songs. I was lucky enough to have a good crowd to be with at the festival as they explained all the important slogans etc. The food at the festival was from all over the globe, as there were burger stalls to Japanese fish stalls, neither of them being home to German traditional food.

Both, the visit to the camp and the evenings at the festival had their importance as I saw the extremes of Germany.

Raul (II PPES - O)





Believe me, it just got over too soon!

After completing the official procedures of the airports, we ultimately arrived at Deutschland with our baggage's being heavier than ourselves. It would certainly intrigue any layman as to how we'd have the calibre to blend to the atmosphere of Germany. But undoubtedly we adapted to their domain reasonably well. After accomplishing a flawlessly mini voyage in and around Metten (Germany) I'm tempted to tell you that it was "brilliant, exemplary, delightful and so on....." but I wouldn't share my experience in such a vague way, I'd rather get you the glimpse of the miniscule incidents that awe-struck me.

AT HOME:

As a part of formality and a token of intimacy I bought Theresa's (exchange partner) mom a saree and she was so thrilled to tie it from day one that she skyped my mom and asked her to teach her as to how to put it on and thanked her for the gift. As planned I made Upma but forgot to add salt! But for my fortune the family liked it so much that they preferred my Upma over barbeque. The people were fun-loving and jovial. In fact her granddad used to greet me as "Hi babe!" when we met. By the end of the trip I would have smiled more than what I did in two months in India as smiling was an incredible way of communicating when language was a barrier. They were startled by the Sanskrit and Kannada script and thought that it was a painting when I wrote their names in these languages. I was drowned in the pools of nature and taken away by its everlasting glory. Feeding those deer's in the neighbourhood was indeed gleeful. I still remember the time, when for a moment I forgot the entire world when I closely watched the colours of the duck's feathers that resided in the lake right behind the hospital in the midst of a tiny park. The most marvellous part of the whole trip was having to see the allure beauty of nature right through my room's window. Being an artist and an immensely deep nature admirer I sketched the Zugspitze (highest mountain of Germany) when I was on my way back home. The feeling of a celebrity is what you get when you walk into the class for the first time. 10-20 Germans shooting a thousand questions at you makes you eventually become the centre of attraction. Feels good though! Who doesn't crave for importance? Going to an entirely different cultured country will have numerous attractions waiting to please you. The ones that got me stunned was the upside down house, interiors of few of the tallest churches under the sun, endless types of beer, meticulously designed posh automobiles and the cleanliness of the place.

THE LAST DAY

Our talks never seem to meet the end and it was hard to let go of the family when I clinged on to them so well. Being a pianist her dad played 'Scientist' by Cold Play for me on the piano as I loved it so much. He also gifted me a BMW shaped computer mouse on my leaving. These tiny bits of happiness definitely do have a place in my heart. Overall it was a mind-blowing experience and I shall retain it in my neurons for a really long time.

N K Lishikkha Shri (II PCMB - D)





Some sights you never forget: BMW Welt and Museum

One of the places our itinerary included as a part of our German exchange was a visit to the BMW Welt and Museum at Munich. Due to an unexpected six day train employees strike, not all of us were able to make the trip. Fortunately, I was one of the few in our group who received the opportunity to visit the place. I was accompanied by two of my classmates as well as their partners and the father of one of my well acquainted German friends.

After two trains and 3 short rides in the U-bahn, we finally reached the headquarters of the famous BMW Welt and Museum. The very sight of the building got us all excited and we hurried on towards the entrance. The place surpassed all my expectations. Everything about the museum (well, all of Germany I'd have to say) was so well organised and informative. The museum had cars of BMW and MINI depicting the advancement made through the years by the multi-billion dollar company. One thing which really amazed me there was the engine room. This room had several motors - vintage as well as new- of BMW cars and it was designed in such a way that if a person stood right in front of it, he/she could hear the sound of the engine when the respective car's ignition was turned on.

We ended the day after spending a good two hours in the Welt looking at brand new cars and even getting a glance at the Rolls Royce Phantom. All in all, it was one of the best days of my time in Germany.

Tania Ramesh (II CAME - L)

Germany – Witness Paradise here!

'Ich war ein Teil von etwas sehr Schönes und mindboggling; Das Studentenaustausch programm nach Deutschland.'

Christ Junior College has partnered with St.Michael's Gymnasium, Metten to conduct this Indo-German Student Exchange Programme and I'm glad I was a part of it.

I am sure that I spent the best days of my life in Germany. Making friends, visiting new places, sharing ideas, listening to entirely different opinions and above all getting the opportunity to stay in a German family, what else can one aspire for. The huge beautiful landscapes of Metten, the architectural wonders of the Neuschwanstein Castle, the scenic beauty seen from the top of Mt. Zugspitze, the time spent at the Frühlings Fest and who can forget the BMW Museum, all of them wouldn't have been fun if not for our German Partners. There are several differences one can easily notice between Indians and Germans. The main idea behind this Cultural Exchange was to make students aware of these prevailing differences. More importantly, it is the art of observing these changes and adopting them which really matters. Certainly there are things that we as Indians can learn from the Germans in order to lead an efficient, organised and a better life.

The thing that struck me the most was how the Germans manage their time. An English proverb says, "Time is Money" and all of us do know it very well but hardly any of us follow it. My German family too was very particular about this. Proving the fact right, railway stations there actually have trains arriving at 11:02 or 5:07 and they do come at the right time. Not a minute here and there. There is a scheduled plan for everything and anything they do. Punctuality defines a man's personality. Secondly, Underground Electricity; difficult to imagine, but in Germany it's just normal. Imagine a place without wires tangled and hanging from here to there. I still remember the moments I spent with my German family, after all one forgets the days but not the moments. There is a lot I have learnt from my experience and certainly made the best out of it. You might have the opportunity to visit Germany in your life, but to stay with a German Family is just so awesome and inexplicable. I will cherish every moment I spent in Germany and hope to visit the paradise again whenever an opportunity knocks at my doorstep.

Rakshith Chhajed (II CAME - L)



Where there is Food there is Hope....

At the very beginning German cuisine didn't fascinate me because all I ever heard from friends and family was that it was bland lacked rich flavor which our Indian cuisine abundantly has. So when we flew to Munich, let's say I was prepared for the worst. When all of us reached St. Michaels Gymnasium Metten all of our exchange partners were anxiously waiting and was keen to meet us all, I was welcomed by my host family with utmost hospitality but with tinge of perplexity at first. I was offered a snack when I entered and at that moment all the witless annotations made by my family and friends was erroneous. I was offered four types of breads, three types of cheese and butter accompanied with some Bratwurst (made with minced beef and pork). I was amazed with its flavour, the bread was nothing like I have ever tasted before. It had a smack of its own which is not found in India. The cheese was truly sublime and each one of them had their own character. From that day on I was ready to travel through the rich German culture and their prodigious food. My host family in the days that came took me to their youngest sons annual kindergarten meet. A kindergarten like none other situated on a small hillock in the middle of the Bavarian forest. Food trucks were lined all around serving remarkable Weiss beer (wheat beer brewed with large proportion of wheat relative to the amount of malted barley) which is every Germans favorite. The dish which struck me was the "Sauerbraten" which is a German pot roast which is prepared with various meats like venison, lamb but most often beef and is prepared by marinating the meat for several days in vinegar or wine, herbs and some spices which is finally grilled to perfection and is accompanied with Knodel (potato dumplings) and sour crout (pickled cabbage).

The occasional visit to the ice cream parlor which was outside the school campus was phenomenal even when the temperature outside was around 5 degrees. There was this particular dish called the "Spaghetties" which stood out and is delicacy in Germany. It is German ice cream made to look like a plate of spaghetti topped with whipped cream and strawberry sauce. Like these there are plenteous dishes that the rich German culture can offer. where as in Munich cuisines from all around the world is present and a multilingual and multicultural haven. Night life is an area that the Germans have hit spot on. I was taken to a plethora of concerts and gigs with my exchange partner and her friends because of my obsession with music. Reggae, Jazz, Blues Rock and folk all of which I savored each and every moment but none of these would have been complete without a glass of Weiss beer and some good German finger food.

The insight I gained on this trip is that Food brings people together on many different levels. Its nourishment of the soul and body, it's truly love.

Rohan Alex (II HESP M)





BMW beyond my imagination- Inside BMW, the most admired car company in the world

Let me start by saying BMW has taken over Mini Cooper and Rolls Royce. We visited the BMW factory in Dingolfing. BMW is one of the most celebrated and popular brand of cars and one of my personal favorite. So I was very excited to see the process. One BMW car takes 1 min at the assembling unit. As soon as we reached we were taken to a hall and a presentation was made about the evolution of BMW and how the cars, markets, and, production has changed through these years. After the presentation we were given headphones and safety glasses which are precautions before we entered the different units of the factory.

The first place we visited was the compressing unit this was where the metal was compressed to make different parts of the car. There was not much to see in this unit. Later we moved on to the assembling unit where the machine was made and fixed. This was the most fascinating unit because of the robots. There were robots working here fixing and mending things, the way they were systematically working was a treat to the eyes. Also in this unit we saw the new Rolls Royce model which is yet to be released in the market. After this unit we went to the last unit that is the painting unit where the cars were being painted in different colours, after the cars were painted they were being tested. All the workers there were standing and working all day but it still didn't look like they were tired or fed up with their job, they were very happy with what they did and seemed to love their job. By the end of this trip I learnt a lot of things and this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to see my favorite brand of car getting manufactured.

Shikha Prasad (II PPES - O)





German exchange programme was one of the most overwhelming events Christ Junior College organized. Initially as a parent, I was concerned about the overall adjustments my daughter would make. Right from bidding her goodbye on the airport to welcoming her back to Bangalore, I had a pinch of worry and hesitation about her food being a vegetarian. Letting her out of her comfort zone and being independent enough to carry herself all the way to Germany was challenging. The first call I received from her made me feel proud to send her all the way. She expressed her comfort and the care taken by the host family. I was very glad that Mrs. Stefani took care of Dhvani like she was her own daughter and never made her feel home sick. Along with the family adjustments there were excellent learning experiences, exploring the place and understanding the German culture. I appreciate the lecturers who accompanied the team for their wonderful support and guidance. The entire programme was very well designed and student-friendly that I could see a transition in my daughter when she returned. This program has helped my daughter in terms of getting independent, understanding relationships, handling situations and coping with change. I thank the institution for giving my daughter an opportunity to be a part of this amazing program. I am eagerly waiting for Anna to come here and have some memorable moments filled with excitement, fun and learning!

Ms. Deepika Sonagara

Travel to a foreign country is always an exotic and enriching experience. Travelling alone, without family can be a daunting experience. For Pranav, the excitement of travelling alone, for the first time, without his family was a queer experience and he looked forward to it. The student exchange program provided a platform to not only travel alone without the company of his parents, but also gave him an opportunity to explore various aspects of culture, tradition, food habits and knowledge of a different country. This helped him gain an understanding of the responsibilities of being alone in a foreign land and following the customs of that land. The company of his colleagues and teachers helped get the confidence and this made it easy and memorable. Such exchange programs help immensely in all round development as an individual. This trip, so early in his life, proved to be a much better and wholesome experience than he had imagined. It's a big thumbs up!

Mr. Prakash Kamath

The Indo German exchange programme of which my son was a part off, was an excellent opportunity for students to experience a completely new culture by being a part of the very fabric of their society and living it. This exposure I must say has greatly enhanced my sons view of the world and greater understanding of the history of Germany, their Festivals , Society, Industry, landscape, Education, Cuisine, Music etc. It has also thrown a lot of insight into the differences between our society and theirs and to appreciate them. Am sure students who were part of this program will carry this experience as one of the eye opening events of their lives. A special thank you to the German families who hosted our children, their warm hospitality has won many a heart. We look forward to host the partner students in India. I also would like to extend my gratitude to the Management of Christ Junior College and Philu Ma'am and Deen Sir for running this program successfully.

Mrs. Sunitha Alex

