

GLS Destination – Lübeck



216.000 inhabitants

Why we like Lübeck: UNESCO world heritage, Culture, Marzipan, Lübecker Christmas market, Buddenbrooks, home of Thomas Mann

Lübeck is situated by the Baltic Sea and is the biggest city of the state Schleswig-Holstein. The Hanseatic town is regarded as the “Gate to the North” and is located in the North German plain. The Baltic bath Travemünde is only 20km away and offers beach with promenade and unique beach chairs. Here you can enjoy the summer next to the beach.

GLS Coordinator: Phillip Rosen

Our local coordinator Phillip is taking care of the GLS students in Lübeck. In this interview he tells us about himself and his city.

Phillip, could you please introduce yourself?



My name is Phillip Rosen, I was born in 1980 in Lima, Peru and I was raised in Lübeck. My father is German and my mother from Sweden. I have a Chinese wife and together with our two children we live in Hamburg. Before that I lived in Canada for two years and in China for seven years. In China in 2011 I started to work with students from abroad and I was in charge of looking for host families, organizing travels and Chinese language classes. Most of the participants stayed for an entire school year.

What can you tell us about the city of Lübeck?

Lübeck is a city in Schleswig-Holstein, northern Germany, and one of the major ports of Germany. On the river Trave, it was the leading city of the Hanseatic League, and because of its extensive Brick Gothic architecture, it is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The old part of Lübeck is on an island enclosed by the Trave. The Elbe–Lübeck Canal connects the Trave with the Elbe River. Another important river near the town centre is the Wakenitz. Autobahn 1 connects Lübeck with Hamburg and Denmark. Travemünde is a sea resort and ferry port on the coast of the Baltic Sea. Lübeck Hauptbahnhof links Lübeck to a number of railway lines, notably the line to Hamburg.



How do the students arrive in Lübeck?

Normally we try to meet the students personally when they arrive after the Starter Weekend in Berlin and bring them after a big “Hello” at the bus or train station to their host families. This Moment when you see your host family for the first time is very special and will be the start of a wonderful experience. We will help you to make your start easier and more comfortable.



How do you find great host families in Lübeck?

We find our host families through contacts among our friends or with the help of local schools we cooperate with. All of our host families are visited before and we are in contact with them constantly. A well-balanced and constant communication is key in order to offer you the best support during your stay in Germany.

Can you tell us about the schools in your city and how you choose a suitable school for the students?

Our High schools are open-minded, innovative and motivated. It is important to us that our schools are well located and provide modern and safe devices. We also want to have motivated local students and teachers showing an exceptional motivation, understanding and sympathy for our students from other cultures.

High school students have school holidays during their time in Germany, for example on Christmas or on Easter. What do the students do during their holidays?

Students can go on a trip with their host family, for example visit another city in Germany or even go on holidays to another country. In case this isn't possible or intended you can also arrange an individual travel with other GLS participants or friends, according to the GLS rules and with previous consultation with GLS headquarter in Berlin. We are flexible and try to create your whole experience interesting and according your wishes.

What if students have problems during their time in Germany, for example with homesickness?

If you are facing some kind of problem we recommend to contact us as soon as possible. My wife and I have a lot of experience with intercultural exchange participants in China so that we can help you to find a solution by giving you good advice or an appropriate suggestion. We are aware of the situation you are living and are sure that we can provide help and support as long as the communication between us is decent and trustful.

GLS wishes you a warm welcome to Hamburg!