

GLS Destination – Dresden



550.000 inhabitants

Why we like Dresden: big terrace at the Elbe shore and the daily events in the summer months there, the old town of Dresden with many historical buildings like the “Frauenkirche”, “Semperoper”, “Zwinger” and of course the lively Neustadt quarter with many cafés, bars and restaurants

GLS Coordinators: Mrs. Kerstin Kraye and Mrs. Maja Dittrich

Our local coordinators Kerstin and Maja care for the GLS students in Dresden. In this interview they tell us about themselves and the city.



Kerstin



Maja

Kerstin and Maya live in Dresden since many years and feel very happy around here. In their freetime they like to spend time with their families and friends, reading and doing sports. Both are very lively persons that are always up for any kind of fun and activity. They look forward to welcome you in Dresden and to introduce you to its wonderful and unique atmosphere!

What can you tell us about the city of Dresden?



Dresden is located in the eastern part of Germany and belongs to one of the most popular University cities of the country. Dresden offers a wide variety of free-time activities and events especially for young people.

When the weather is nice many people meet at the terrace shore by the river Elbe to talk, relax, make music or to barbecue.

During the summer months Dresden offers many open air events at the Elbe, like concerts or movie nights ("Filmnächte am Elbufer"). People in Dresden like to meet there with their friends and enjoy the beautiful atmosphere there.

Dresden also offers many attractions for young people like a forest climbing park, a Go Kart track, lasertag, indoor swimming pools, many fitness studios, shopping malls, a big zoo, museums and galleries.



One of the most beloved quarters is the so called "Dresdner Neustadt" with many cafés, bars, restaurants and live music acts on the street. It is always fun to walk through the streets and to settle down on a comfortable spot to watch the bustle.

With public transportation, by bike or even by foot everything is reachable very fastly and easily.

How do the students arrive in Dresden?

All GLS high school students first take part in an orientation weekend in Berlin and travel to Dresden afterwards. They arrive in Dresden either by train or by bus. The coordinators and the students' host families welcome them when they arrive at the station.

This is a very happy and exciting moment for everyone, as they finally get to meet each other! From the beginning on our coordinators keep in touch with all exchange students and make sure they feel free to contact them whenever they wish!

How do you find great host families in Dresden?

Kerstin and Maja are very open minded persons who love to meet new people. They try their very best to find families that share the passion to become a host family. For them it is very important to meet and to visit their home. Those visits are essentially to evaluate their suitability as a host family. They clarify any open questions and get to know the family and surroundings better.

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?

To become a host family means integration and seeing the student as a part of the own family. Many students commence a lot with their host families during the holidays and become involved in their daily routines very well. Furthermore Kerstin and Maja also offer many activities and group travels so you do not have to worry about boredom!



During winter time they can especially recommend you to visit the famous and unique Christmas market called "Dresdner Striezelmarkt". The Old town is decorated very traditional and pretty and will definitely bring you into Christmas mood!



There is also much to do in the surroundings of Dresden, for example hiking through the beautiful "Sächsische Schweiz" or visiting the fairytale castle in Moritzburg.

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

Kerstin and Maja will support you and your host family in regard of any problems and tasks whenever it is needed. For them communication is a very important fact and they will do their best to settle you in well!

GLS wishes you a warm welcome to Dresden!