

GLS Destination – Hamburg



1.9 million inhabitants

Why we like Hamburg: Hamburger Hafen, Alster, Elbe, Elbphilharmonie, Landungsbrücken, Fischmarkt

Hamburg is a Hanseatic city and as city state also a state of Germany. It is the second biggest German city, only topped by the capital Berlin. If you want to live by the sea, experience the diversity of a big city and would like to enjoy the proper Nordic German kitchen, then Hamburg is the perfect spot for you.

GLS Coordinator: Phillip Rosen

Our local coordinator Phillip is taking care of the GLS students in Hamburg. 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 Hamburg?

Hamburg is a big and open-minded city. The famous harbor is already a century old. The city has a lot of beautiful parks and even a small beach at the Elbe shore to offer. As part of the Hanseatic tradition Hamburg has a lot of theatres and museums and is famous for different musicals just as "The Lion King", "Phantom of the Opera" etc. You can enjoy all sport and free time activities and enjoy the ocean breeze of the North and the Baltic Sea. People also call Hamburg "Gateway to the world" because you can enter several European countries like Great Britain, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Poland. A lot of companies were founded in Hamburg and have their headquarters still in the city like Nivea, Tesa, Tchibo and OTTO. The surroundings of Hamburg have a lot to offer: fields and forests and the Hanseatic city Lübeck with all its traditions which even belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage.



How do the students arrive in Hamburg?

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 Hamburg?

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!