

GLS Destination - Koblenz



120.000 inhabitants

Why we like Koblenz: the Moseltal bridge, the German Corner, the Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, the Forum Confluentes, the Electoral Palace

GLS Coordinator: Mrs. Mercedes Janßen

Our local coordinator Mercedes cares for the GLS students in Bremen. In this interview she tells us about herself and her city.

Could you introduce yourself?



My name is Mercedes, and you can find me in the middle of the picture together with my exchange students in Koblenz. I am a 35 years old, lively mother that is always up for any kind of fun and activity! Together with my family I live in Koblenz directly where the rivers Rhein and Mosel meet.

One of my biggest passions are children! I just love to give pleasure to them and to organize any type of events, celebrations or trips – for example to France (Disneyland), Holland or Luxemburg. For me it is important that every student makes great memories and their best out of their stay!

What can you tell us about the city of Koblenz?



Koblenz is located in the western part of Germany and belongs to one of the most popular University cities of the country. Koblenz offers a wide variety of free-time activities and events especially for young people. You can go to fitness studios, indoor swimming pools and other attractions for a special student price and also have the possibility to visit a ski slope during winter. Also the cart center, bowling center, ice skating park, climbing park and the big shopping mall are worth a visit. So as you can imagine there is not much room for boredom!

Koblenz does not only count to one of the oldest cities of Germany – it also provides many cultural places and sights, like churches, castles, historical monuments and winding popular alleys. Koblenz is also not far apart from the common cities Frankfurt, Köln (Cologne), Wiesbaden, Düsseldorf and Trier. There is always the possibility to commence a sight seeing trip and getting to know different areas in Germany better.

Another popular place is the “German Corner”. At this point the rivers Rhein and Mosel flow together and you have the possibility to watch that beautiful spectacle of nature from a wagon of the cableway. From there you can also visit the Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein and enjoy the wonderful view of the valley.

When you come to Koblenz you will recognize that the people have a huge passion for Carneval! People there call it the fifth season and are crazy about dressing up as famous figures and people like me and my son as Mickey and Minnie Mouse on the photo beneath.



You can also join many events that take place during the year – for instance the „Farbrausch festival“, the „World Club Dome“ or the music festival „Rock am Ring“. At the popular “Rhein in Flammen” Festival you can enjoy many beautiful fireworks in the sky as you can see in the picture beneath.



How do the students arrive in Koblenz?



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

This is a very happy and exciting moment for everyone, as we finally get to meet each other! Usually we all talk a lot and everybody is curious to find out more about each other. From the beginning on I keep in touch with all of my exchange students and make sure they feel free to contact me whenever they wish!

How do you find great host families in Koblenz?



I am a very open minded person who loves to meet new people. Therefore I try my very best to find families that share my passion to become a host family. For me it is very important to meet and to visit their home. Those visits are essentially for me to evaluate their suitability as a host family. We clarify any open questions and I get to know the family and surroundings better. You can make sure that I examine your host families precisely and only choose people who I would let my own son stay with.

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?



Koblenz has many high schools (Gymnasien) that provide best care for foreign exchange students. I stay in good contact with the schools and favor the professional cooperation. The schools differ in their focus areas, for example some schools have a linguistic specialization whereas others may focus on the natural sciences, humanistic sciences, music or sports. When a student plays a musical instrument, for instance, then we would choose a musical Gymnasium. When the student studies Old Greek or Latin in their home country, then we would pick a humanistic Gymnasium. And if the student loves sports, then of course we choose a Gymnasium with a focus on sports.

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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 I also offer many activities and group travels so you do not have to worry about boredom!

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

I will support you and your host family in regard of any problems and tasks whenever it is needed. For me communication is a very important fact and I will do my best to settle you in well! Because we commence a lot of group activities you can always speak to other foreign exchange students that are in the same boat as you and cheer yourself up! But there is one thing I can guarantee you: nobody has ever cancelled their stay here in Koblenz per se! On contrary: in the end it always feels hard to say goodbye. Often students come back after a couple of time to visit their host families, friends or me.

GLS wishes you a warm welcome to Koblenz!