

GLS Destination - Minden



80.000 inhabitants

Why we like Minden: wonderful nature, characteristic framehouses, the Wasserstraßenkreuz, the Dome, Potts Park, Schiffsmühle

GLS Coordinator: Jessica and André Gottschalk

Our local coordinator Jessica and André care for the GLS students in Minden. In this interview they tell us about themselves and the city.

Could you introduce yourself?



We are Jessica and André and we are looking forward to welcome you in the city of Minden. We live directly in the center of Minden. Our city has about 80.000 inhabitants and is located in the state of Nordrhein Westfalen by the river Weser. There are bigger cities like Hannover and Cologne in about one to two hour distance, which are perfect for day trips. There are many shopping opportunities, little bars and restaurants in Minden, and in the summer we have a lovely beach with a beach bar by the river.

What can you tell us about the city of Minden? And which kind of free time activities does it offer?



Minden is located in the north-western part of Germany. If you are into sports, then you can join one of the various sports clubs. If you are more interested in culture, then you may attend cultural events and concerts or watch plays at the town theater. There are also cinemas, a bowling center, a minigolf center and a golf club. You can also find swimming halls, and outdoor pool in the summer, as well as lakes for nature visits. Every three to four months GLS plans a bigger activity together with all students and host families - this could be an excursion to Hannover or a bowling evening, for example.

How do students arrive in Minden and how do they meet their host families?



All GLS students first attend orientation days in Berlin and then travel to Minden by bus or train. We are always at the station to pick up the students, together with the host families. Together we make our way to the new homes. It takes a few days to settle in the new home, and then school usually begins. After about a week we schedule a meeting together again, to share the experiences of the first time.

Can you tell us about the host families and schools in Minden?



We often find our host families through the local schools, as it is nice to stay with a family whose children also visit the same school. For the host students it is nice to go to school together with their host siblings.



The schools in Minden have about 1000 students each, and they offer a lot of great subjects and extracurricular activities. For us it is important to choose schools that are open-minded toward international students, have experience with hosting international students, and that teachers and staff truly care.

During their time in Germany students will also have school holidays, for example for Christmas and Easter. What do students do during the holidays?



A lot of students use the holiday time to travel with their host families and explore Germany together. Some students also choose to travel to their home countries for the holidays. Those who stay in Minden, may take part in day trips to nearby cities.

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



The best solution is to keep busy! If you get homesick, we will gladly help you to discover new activities and things to do, so that you keep your mind occupied, make more friends, and integrate better in the city life. Homesickness is usually just a phase and passes after a while, and then you will certainly enjoy your time here!

GLS wishes you a warm welcome to Minden!