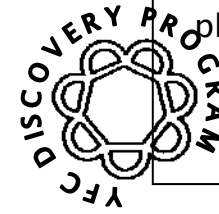




YFA TRAVEL DOCUMENT

Seeing the world with the YFC Discovery Programme

NAME: Tom Hill
CLUB: Ridware YFC
DESTINATION: Germany
TYPE OF TRIP: Homestay
DURATION: 4 weeks
DATES OF TRAVEL: July 2006



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DESCRIPTION OF TRIP:

My trip began on 16th July 2006 when I arrived at Hanover Airport and was met by my first hosts with a big sign saying "Welcome to Tom Hill". It was a bit daunting but everyone was so friendly that I was soon put at ease. I was concerned that my limited German would be a problem but nearly everyone spoke very good English so communication was not a problem. We went out that evening and met up with some friends of my host family.

The following day was spent sightseeing around Bremen Cathedral. As my hosts knew I was interested in Agriculture and dairy farming in particular they organised for me to visit some dairy farms and a pig unit which was followed by the first of many BBQs. The next day saw me back at school, which was a bit of a shock as I thought I had left school behind but this was followed by swimming in the lake, and another BBQ. My hosts also arranged for me to visit a Bull Stud, which was very interesting although security was quite tight. We then went cycling around Ostfriesland with my host family.

Then it was time to visit the LaMufe which is a large Land and Musical festival held in Ostfriesland. It was a long coach journey across breathtaking countryside. When we got there I found it was a mix of parties, meetings and workshops. We camped out in large tents for the whole weekend and the weather was extremely hot - hence the copious amounts of cold beer drunk! The Germans certainly know how to party! It was a great experience and everyone really enjoyed it. However all too soon the LaMufe was over and it was time to pack up the tents.

I then met my next host family who lived on a farm so I was roped in to help with the harvesting. We also went stock car racing and played golf. During this time I visited a cheese making factory. Before I knew it my two weeks were over and it was time to head back to the UK.

I would definitely recommend travelling with Young Farmers on a Discovery Trip. It is a great way to see a country and make many new friends.



Tom Hill