

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2015

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| Herkunftsland: | Slowenien |
| Heimathochschule: | Universität Ljubljana |
| Studiengang: | Faculty of Mechanical engineering, constructions |
| Sprachkurs in Bayern: | von 02.08. bis 28.08.2015 |
| Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses: | Sommersprachkurs an der LMU München |
| Kursort in Bayern: | München |
| Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses: | A2.2 |

Before I begin I should state that the »Sommerschule in Bavaria« was one of the best experiences I have ever had. That is also the reason why I would like to express my thoughts and feelings by using English language instead of Deutsch, because my level of German language knowledge is not high enough and I feel I should make an appropriate description which will help the BAYHOST organization and each next generation of students who will attend the upcoming courses.

As a Slovenian I had absolutely no problems finding a **transport to Munich**. The easiest way, which I suggest, is taking a bus which goes from Belgrade – Zagreb – Ljubljana – Munich. It costs 25€ for one way or 40€ including the return ticket. The drive takes from four and a half to six hours, depending on traffic and the time of the day. In my opinion that is the cheapest and best way to reach Munich. You get off at ZOB (Hackerbrücke) – main bus station – and from there you can easily take any S-Bahn literally to any place you want. Just be careful when buying tickets as in case of breaking the law, you get fined up to 60€! Anyway, it was my first time using such an incredible transportation system. Germans really know how to put everything “in Ordnung”. Because we were accommodated in “Studentenstadt”, the next step was to reach Marienplatz, from where you can take different U-Bahns to different parts of the city.

Arrival at “Studentenstadt”? Well, I must say that I had no problems with finding a “Welcome spot” since directions were clearly given by signs and posters. From the station to the student dorms it is just 5 minutes of really slow walking. When I got there, I was amazed by the cheerful staff and size of “Studentenstadt”. Right at the reception, one was able to buy a

monthly transportation pass. For a fee of 70€ to all over the inner part of the city for a month. So, I have bought a pass, received keys and went straight to my dorm. After I have settled down, hunger began to strike in. Well, six hours of bus and no breakfast? Not a good idea, so my suggestion, eat before departure. Anyway, there is a small but to all members of "Studentenstadt" well known bar/restaurant, the Tribühne. I went there for a first meal on Sunday evening and prices, surprisingly, were not that high.

The **welcome meeting** at the LMU (Ludwig Maximilian University) was right in the next day, Monday morning. At first I was sure I entered the wrong room because there were at least 200 students, from all over the world, more than 25 countries if I am not mistaken. In that particular moment I have realized that the summer school event is being held on much larger scale than the one I have imagined. I felt small among so many foreigners but great for sharing same passion with them. At that very moment I knew I have made a right decision.

We started **classes** right at the next day, 9:30 to be exact. I fell in love with our teacher right away. She was charismatic, always cheerful and ready to help. The first week was more of a "getting to know each other" type of course. Of course, in German language. We struggled but managed to get to know each other. Each consecutive day was better. We were like a team progressing through the course content. Oh, the content? I really liked the approach of our teacher because she gave us main guidelines, but it was up to us to choose the topic. We had grammar and vocabulary "days". Sometimes both combined, so we could practice one with another. We were mostly communicating with each other about a topic, trying to improve our speaking skills and to lose the fear to talk in German.

As well, we did a lot of group activities such as dialogues, plays and - most important - interview. That is right! We had to make an interview in Germany with Germans by using everything we have learned during classes. Inside the class, we formed groups based on common/shared activities and interests. After topics have been selected and interview questions structured, we had to do an interview and present the outcome to the entire class afterwards. All in German of course! Among the others, this was surely one of the best ideas our teacher came up with. She was "secretly" preparing us for a task like this, through the entire course. And the result? We all enjoyed it! And what is the most important? We were prompted to use German and the outcome was incredible. At the presentation, speaking was spontaneous with a bit of clogging - but hey, we were A2.2 class!

I have mentioned that we got to know each other in the class. But the real magic happened when we started meeting the rest of language course groups. I have met wonderful people and soon we formed an inseparable company. **After the classes** we used to discover the city on our own every day. Either we just went for a walk to any famous "Gelateria" with tens of different ice creams or we visited a museum. I do recommend doing that! Munich offers a huge range of possibilities, from technology to architecture, history and pure art.

We were often just chilling in the famous English Garden, soaking the last of sunshine and "swimming" in the river crossing the park. Why quotation marks? You do not need to swim actually. The river flow is so strong, it literally carries you through the park. What you should do is entering the English Garden at U6 station "Universität" and then just walk beside the river, up stream. When the night began slowly covering the sky it was time to go back to Studentenstadt and have a meal in either Tribühne or we have prepared our own dishes.

But we enjoyed most when instead of going back home we visited one of the “Biergarten”. A place of beer and meat we said. After a long day, having a proper piece of delicious “Schweineschnitzel” or “Bratwurst” with yummy bread was a way to go. Some also tried beer, after all, we were in Munich. One of the biggest and neatest places is a garden near China tower, in the English Garden. For a daytime visit, please go to the “Viktualienmarkt”. It is like an international point of interest. You can meet people from all over the world there!

If I consider **expenses**, it actually really depends on what you want to do and how much you want to spend. You can have fun by spending 10€ a day or die of boredom with 30€ a day. It is up to you. In my case we did a lot of evening meals by ourselves and instead of “enjoying” expensive coffee in one of the fancy café shops, we made our own and just sat in the garden while discussing and enjoying the moment. When you go to a “Biergarten” food and drinks are quite expensive. You can easily pay up to 8-10€ for a meal, so visits like that should not be an everyday routine. Also, the Sunday fee for a visit of a museum is only 1€!

The **staff** from BAYHOST and the rest of course organizers were always there to help us. I did not need any help but for those who did, the staff was always by their side. It was easily seen how much effort and time everyone put into making the summer school reaching a level of perfection. If someone asks me about pros and cons about the summer school and organization, I would just answer “Nur Vorteile!” I did not have a feeling that something was missing. Instructions were always clear, staff always available.

I can say that my level of knowledge has increased dramatically during the stay in Munich. A huge chunk of credits goes to our teacher who has “sacrificed” a lot of her personal time, just to make us being comfortable and motivated. I believe that the knowledge which I have gained during the 4 weeks in Munich will contribute to building my own stairs to success. Long story short, I am happy that I met such wonderful people with whom I shared this experience every day. And all thanks goes to BAYHOST. Thank you for everything!