

Deutsch-Kanadischer Schüleraustausch Hessen - Alberta 2022/23

My exchange in Alberta, Canada

When I first found out I'd get to go to Canada I was so excited. It had always been my wish to take part in an exchange program, especially in Canada since my older sister went there too for her exchange. Nevertheless I was also very nervous as I'd never been that far away from my family before and I didn't know anyone there yet.

Luckily I met all the other German exchange students so I wasn't alone anymore.

When I first arrived at the airport my host family picked me up and we drove to their house about 45 minutes away from Edmonton.

Their property was very large like most of the ones in the countryside, which are a lot in Canada. They had a lot of animals, a dog, cats, chicken and birds which I loved since I don't have any pets myself.

My host family was very nice and included me in their family life and I felt very welcome. We spent a lot of time together after school in the living room and had dinner together, often in front of the fireplace.



School was very interesting since it was very different from German schools. I only had four classes and the same ones every day. I took Drama which is very social so I got to meet new people. I loved that class since we got to do a lot of creative projects and I'd talk to a lot of different people, who I still have contact with, even after flying back home.

My other classes (Math, Band, English) weren't too hard and I didn't really have a lot of problems with speaking English.

My advice is to just start speaking even if you make mistakes in the beginning you will make progress really fast.

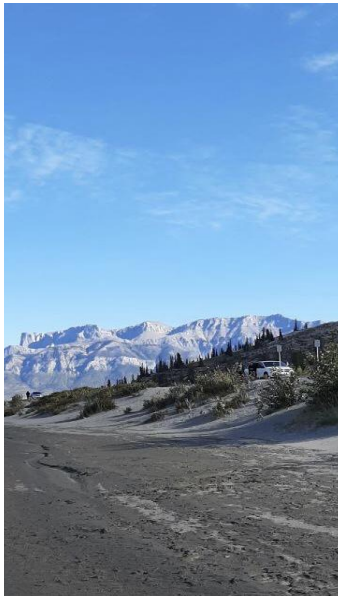
Sometimes my exchange student would drive us to school but we also often took the bus. I thought this was pretty cool since they looked exactly like the ones from the movies.

After school my friends and I would sometimes walk to a coffee shop near the school or if someone could drive us we would get take out or go to Walmart.

I also went to a lot of ice hockey games which are very popular in Canada and it was very fun since I'd never seen one live before.

One time we also went to an ice skating rink while it was already -20 degrees outside.

Sometimes my exchange student and I would take late night drives and just listen to music and get snacks at the nearest gas station. It was very convenient that she was already 16, which is the legal age in Canada to drive.



On my first weekend there my host family also took me to a national park and I saw a lot of animals, especially bison which were really interesting

My host family and another german and her exchange student also drove to Jasper for a weekend. This was one of my favorite experiences because I got to spend time with my friends and we went to the Rocky Mountains together. On this trip I was able to get to know my host family and my friends better.

We took a gondola up the mountain and the view was fantastic. This was the first time I really saw the beautiful nature of Canada. All the rivers, lakes and mountains were absolutely beautiful and I'm grateful I got to see so much of Canada's nature.

During fall break we also flew to Ontario so I'd get to see more of Canada and they could see their relatives. It was fascinating to see another Canadian province in contrast to Alberta and I loved all the buildings there.

We also drove to the Niagara Falls which was very special since I'd always wanted to see them. They were absolutely incredible and I'm glad I got the chance to see them

After that we went to Ottawa which is the capital city of Canada. At last we went to Quebec which is the french part of Canada.



Personally I loved my time in Canada and if I had the choice I would definitely do it again. I learned a lot there in every aspect like language skills but also social life.

I'd recommend everyone to apply for this program since it's a huge opportunity and you'll get to experience so many amazing things.