



MY EXCHANGE

I've always been quite an adventurous person, so spending several months in Canada by myself seemed perfect to me. You cannot imagine how excited I was, when it was finally clear that I was really going to live with a host family in Alberta, Canada for three months! From then on, the time until my departure passed with the speed of light. Finally, I said goodbye to my family and sat in the plane to start a journey into the unknown.

Well, not completely unknown, I informed myself about Calgary and Canada in general and talked to my host family and exchange partner on the phone multiple times. The organizational team did a great job with the selection process, finding the right exchange partners, and also preparing my parents and me for what was expecting us.

Then the plane landed and a big sign said "WELCOME TO CANADA!". My host family and I got along instantly and my exchange partner became my best friend :). The first day and the following two weeks were autumn vacation, which means I had enough time to get used to my new home and the family. We did a lot of trips too. To the centre of Calgary, to nearby towns like Cochrane, the mall or just to the local grocery store. Everything was so exciting!



School started and it was a dream. I attended Central Memorial High School, which was specialised in the fine arts. My classes were English language arts, media design, art and choir. Since I'm really into visual arts and music this school fitted perfectly. During my time there, I even wrote and produced an original song! All the teachers and students were friendly and patient as well and overall they made me feel so welcome! On top of that, the school offered

many clubs and outside-of-school-activities, that I was happy to take part in. I joined the cross-country club, which we went to several races with. It was great to experience the Canadian school spirit including preparation rallies and cheering the cross-country team. Moreover, we did nice school trips for example to the zoo.



Maybe the most exciting weekend of my whole Canada attendance I spent at the Goldeye Camp in the midst of the Rockies. All the German exchange students met and together we spent three days canoeing on a mountain lake, hiking the most beautiful tracks, rock climbing, playing games, singing around a campfire and sleeping in a wooden hut. It was simply amazing!



My host family did all kinds of trips with me, like going sailing or going on hikes to some of the beautiful Canadian lakes or falls. We went to museums about dinosaurs, history and music, to a light festival and a concert of a band that my exchange partner and I really liked. We even saw the Calgary Hitmen (the Hockey team) live! We went to a motocross race and I even dirt biked myself. They showed me Lake Louise, we ate burgers in a delicious little restaurant in Banff, a stunning little town in the mountains. They really cared for me as if I was a part of the family and I love and appreciate them very much.

That is why actually saying goodbye to my school, home, friends and family but especially my exchange partner was so hard in the end. Even though I miss them a lot, I always like thinking back on these great three months that I had and I cannot be more thankful for all the friends and memories I made. :)