



Brittney
From Milton
To
Sweden

Just jump in, you won't regret it!

The biggest adventure of my life started three months ago and everything has been absolutely amazing! I arrived at the Gothenburg airport on July 30th where I was met by my oldest host Sister, host Dad and my councilor. The first thing I saw when stepping out of the gate was the large sign my host sister had painted saying 'Welcome Brittney', from that second I knew this was going to be the greatest year of my life.

Once leaving the airport we had to drive two hours to my house in Strömstad. We talked and laughed the whole way so it didn't feel so long. Once we got home, I met my host Mom and other host sister; they showed me around the house and took me to my room. I was extremely surprised when I saw my room because it looks like it's straight out of IKEA. I love it! I unpacked the two suitcases I had brought with me and went to sleep. It had been a very long and exciting day.

On my second night in Sweden my host sister brought me night swimming at one of the campgrounds in town where I swam in the ocean for the first time! It was so much fun and we really bonded after that experience.

At first, I did not want to go in the water, as it was freezing cold with extremely high winds, but my host sister, Freja, threatened to throw me in! Hearing that was what finally convinced me to jump in on my own. Once I was in the water with them we had so much fun. This “night swimming experience” is something that I will never forget. That was just one out of many amazing experiences that happened within my first month on exchange.

Shortly after I arrived in Sweden school started. To be honest, I was really scared to go to school. I had no reason to be though! Everyone was so nice to me. I biked to school with my neighbour and she introduced me to all her friends. Those people are some of my closest friends in Sweden still today. Being in a small town is fun. I barely had to introduce myself since everyone already knew I was coming and who I was! I am the first exchange student Strömstad has had in twenty-five years.

School is also really cool because you get a lot more freedom here. Teachers are not as strict and classes are very laid back. My schedule is much like a Canadian university schedule. Most days I go to school for four and a half hours, but some days I am only in school for two hours!

It is now my third month in Sweden, and I still love it. My Swedish is getting a whole lot better, despite the doubts I had about learning the language when I first arrived. I have made many great friends both native Swedes and exchange students alike. I’ve now fallen into a daily routine and everything is slowly falling into place. I’m with my current host family for another three months and I really like it here. In January I am going to make my first Rotary presentation completely in Swedish and I am looking forward to that! Going on exchange was the best decision I’ve ever made and I would recommend it to anyone!

Jag älskar Sverige och jag älskar utbyte!

Hej då från Sverige,

Brittney