



Paisley

From Kitchener

to

Germany

Best Time of My Life

On August 12th at 11:30 pm I got on my first solo plane ride ever and left my family and Canada behind. I've never been more nervous, but I've also never been more excited. The next afternoon I arrived at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam where I transferred to my 40 minute flight to Bremen. My plane arrived in Bremen early but as I stepped out of the airport my new family stepped in and we were ready to begin the year. My new parents are all I could have hoped for. They are kind, considerate and most importantly fun to be around!

The very first week I was here in Germany I went to my Rotary councillors house for tea and cake and I met his daughter Sophia and her friend Erin who is also from Canada. They invited me to go to Groningen in the Netherlands with them the next day to shop. We went by train early in the morning and spent the day wandering around the shopping district which was really beautiful. I've also spent quite a bit of time at my host families summer cottage which they call the Dutcher. It's about a ten minute bike ride and it has a really amazing view.

On the 11th of September I started school! German school is really different from school in Canada. There classes have around 25 students. We stay together in the same room most of the time except when we have certain courses like drama. The other students are pretty shy and the language barrier is pretty hard but I've made a few friend-type people in school. As my German gets better we are getting closer!

The first Rotary sleepover was amazing as expected. When exchange students get together it's always awesome! It's a bit of a relief to be around other exchange kids since I'm the only one in my city. The end of September was my Rotary tour around Germany which was absolutely wonderful. We visited a lot of really famous German cities like Köln and Berlin. I didn't sleep for five days but it was one of the best times of my life.

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The amount of incredible opportunities I've received and the amazing people I've met is more than I could have ever hoped for! Exchange is really the highlight of a lifetime and I can't thank Rotary, my family, and host family enough for allowing me to be here! For future exchangers: enjoy your time because I can't believe how fast it's moving!

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