

november monthly report

what it's like to have lived in rhineland-pfalz

During November, my host parents and I took a trip to a town in the south-most part of the state I've lived in this past year, Rhineland-Palatinate. Germany is a country which is divided into 16 states, mine being most well known for wine and its steep valleys. This year, I've been fortunate enough to have travelled over the whole region when I've been visiting friends or going shopping in my favourite cities. Looking over the view of the whole of the Pfalz was such a cool experience, as you were able to see the whole state from one of the highest castles in the region. Each state in Germany has a dialect, with the Pfalz having

no exception. The dialect we speak here is called 'Pfaelzisch'. It's been a bit difficult getting to know how to speak both Hochdeutsch and Pfaelzisch, however it's definitely special to have something like a dialect to take back with me as well as the German language.

Living in the Pfalz has included a lot of wine-tastings and a lot of social events I've gone to with my host families. Something also really special about the Pfalz is the wine culture here. Since this state is known for being the most wine-centred state, we have an abundance of vineyards.

Walking my host dogs through the hundreds of fields of vineyards while overlooking the mountainous landscape is an amazing sight. There are never that many tourists in my state, as we don't hold any of the main cities, however, if you want to experience the true German lifestyle, I would definitely recommend the Pfalz.



heidelberg orientation

My rotary orientation this month was actually the selection weekend for the new German exchange students. On the first night, we sat in groups based on where each of the exchange students came from (e.g. Argentina sits in a circle with other people from South America) and we talked about our home countries with the Germans. I sat in a circle with the Australian in my district and we answered questions about the lifestyle of our countries. The next day, each exchange student made a small presentation about his or her home country along with a video. During the evening we were able to go explore the city of Heidelberg and go around the Christmas market there. The next day, the German exchange students figured out what country they got to go to.



next month's plans

December is a really big month for me, as it's my last month in December and I have a lot of plans for it. With rotary, I have a Berlin Tour for the first week, and a Ski Tour in Italy which starts late December and goes over New Years into the first few days of January. During the middle of December my dad and sister will come to visit me for two days right before Christmas. It's still crazy to me that I'm able to say it's my last month in Germany, and that 11 have already passed. I'm dreading saying goodbye to everyone here, and the country itself, but being away from home has really proved to me just how much I've missed it.