



Graham

from Milton

to

Japan

While preparing for an exchange, you always hear about how quickly it goes by. I can confirm 100% that this is true. I have been here in the Czech Republic for nearly three months now, and let me tell you, it feels like much less. I often have moments where I look back to the beginning of my exchange, and in my mind, I think, "Oh, that was only a few weeks ago," but really, it was more than two months.

The first month that I lived here in the Czech Republic was very exciting, I met so many new people, started school, did some sightseeing. It felt like every day something new and exciting was happening which was a lot of fun and I got to see and experience so many incredible things.



My second month was mostly just me settling in and learning about more specific details about the culture and getting used to living here. It was much slower than the first month because school had started and we were getting into the flow of school life, we still travel and do things on the weekends which is great.

Most recently this third month has been very eye opening for me, I have come to appreciate so many things about not only the world but also myself. The last month has been very laidback and the trips that I have been on have given me a lot of time to think and realize how lucky and grateful I am to be where I am today and live the life I am living.



Earlier this month my host family visited their cottage in the Jeseník mountains in a small village called Horní Lipová. During this short weekend we went hiking everyday we were there and it was a special moment for me, over the course of that weekend I discovered a passion for hiking and nature that I had never felt before. Previously I had enjoyed it but now I feel very passionate about it and it is as if my whole view on

the world has changed. I feel like this month and exchange as a whole has changed who I am and has grown me into a different person with much more respect for the world but also other cultures and people, living in another country has certainly helped me see how all humans are different, but we are all the same. We all need the same few things, and we all want many other things but, in the end, we are all humans who live on the same planet.

Anyways, I am really looking forward to the rest of my exchange year. Please check back in a few months and read my next BeaverTale when it comes out in February.

Graham

