

Excursion to Meiningen



On December 3rd we took a trip to the southern city of Meiningen in Thuringia. Although our main attractions intended to be the Elisabethenburg Castle and the theatre Museum, we couldn't say no to visiting the Christmas Market.



Meiningen with approximately 20,000 inhabitants is known throughout the world through its centuries of tradition as THE theatre city in Thuringia.

We weren't able to visit the theater but we were able to visit the Meiningen Theater Museum, during which we were able to gain insight into the history and development of the Meiningen Theater since the 19th century. The theater museum focused on the original stage decorations for plays including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Wilhelm Tell*, *Hamlet*, and many more—approximately 300 plays! We saw original costumes, listened to excerpts from the theatre performances and gazed at many more details of the “magic world of the scenery”.



Another highlight of the trip was the visit to the Elisabethenburg Castle. It is an important testimony to the high Baroque palace architecture in Thuringia at the end of the 17th century. After an introduction to the various rooms and exhibitions, host families and students explored the palace individually. This included the church, the picture galleries, the former duke's and princes' living quarters and much more. We were lucky because this weekend the handicraft market took place in the castle. Of course we were also able to enjoy mulled wine, Christmas biscuits and the typical Meiningen "Zwickchen", which is a certain kind of bread roll that is only available in Meiningen and has been around for centuries. For many of us, the visit to the magnificent baroque café in the tower of the castle was an unforgettable experience.



During our tour, we all made sure to take a group picture which would remind of us this lovely trip.



The shopping trip on Meiningen's Avenue and the Christmas Market also made this excursion day a lasting experience.



After a full day of impressive visits, we made our way back to Erfurt. Many students used this day to spend it together with their host parents. Inspired by the delicious cookies, cakes, gingerbread, and the wonderful Christmas decorations, many host parents invited their students to their home for Advent or Christmas. This will definitely be an interesting part of their stay in Germany.



Erfurt, December 2016