

## Mobility in Zabrze (Poland)

The mobility in Zabrze was from Monday, May 11th to Friday May 15 2015. We had a really interesting time there and did many interesting things.

Our journey should start really early at the train station in Leer but there was a strike by the train drivers so we decided to go to the airport in Düsseldorf by taxi. After arriving in Düsseldorf we took a plane to Katowitz. From Katowitz we went again by taxi to the hotel where the teachers were staying.

Because we had to wait for our host families we decided to take a first look and went to change some money. Also we looked around in a shopping mall and that was our first real contact with the Polish way of life.

Then we headed back to the hotel and met our host families. We spend that evening with the families and did something interesting they planned for us.



*cut and stick in school*

The next morning we met at 8.00 o'clock at the school in Zabrze. After everyone had arrived, we did a little tour through the school and started to work on our "Water Atlas"-pages. We prepared everything at school in Rhauderfehn, so we just had to put the pieces together.

After finishing the pages we made our way to the municipality at the town hall. At the town hall we watched a short movie about Zabrze and were able to ask some questions. We also got some flyers and a movie about Zabrze.



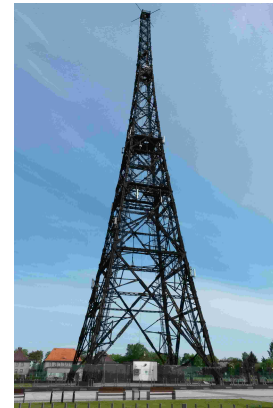
*the mayor of Zabrze*



*visiting the coal mine*

Then we went to the GUIDO coal mine by bus. The coal mine is also in Zabrze. We had a guided tour and explored the mine. There was much to see like the old and new machines they used to mine the coal. It was really interesting.

After heading back from the mine we had lunch nearby. Because there was some time left we decided to do a stop at the radio station in Gleiwitz and took some photos. But there was not much time to rest, because our next trip was waiting. So we entered the bus again and went to the “Palm house” in Gliwice.



*radio station in Gleiwitz*



*before the aquarium*

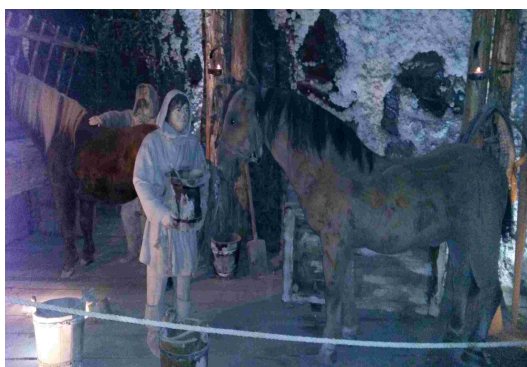
The “Palm house” is a big indoor garden with an aquarium and an inside jungle. Before we had free time we had the task to take a picture of our group in front of the aquarium. After that we had time to get something to drink or eat and explore the “Palm house”.

In the evening we headed back to the school and spent the evening with our host families that had planned interesting activities like bowling.

Wednesday was the day when we were going to spend a night in the “Wieliczka Salt Mine”. But let’s start the day from the beginning. The day started again with a meeting at the school and we went to Cracow by bus. After arriving in Cracow we had a sightseeing tour with a guide. The tour was really interesting and after it we had free time in Cracow to explore the city a bit by ourselves. Then we had lunch.



*tour with a guide*



*work in the Mine*

At 16.30 we arrived at the “Wieliczka Salt Mine” and had our second tour that day. This wasn’t a normal tour because we were able to meet a person that “lived” in the mine and this person had different tasks for us. From digging salt into buckets, rolling big barrels and building a scaffold around a person, we had to do all the things miners had to do in the past. This was really funny and we learned much about the work in the salt mine in the past and today. In the end we had the option to take some salt from the mine as a gift.

Then we went back to the sunlight and have our stuff taken out of the bus. After heading back down we had lunch in the mine. At 11 pm it was time to go to bed.

On Thursday, after a delicious breakfast in the mine we went back to the sunlight and entered the bus to our next trip. The next point on our list was a visit in the “Water Purification Plant“, which is a waterworks institution. But there was a problem with the weather (lots of water from above!) so we had to quit the tour outside and finished it in the laboratories. In then laboratories we saw how the people work and test the quality of the water. We were allowed to test some things by ourselves, like what happens to the voice when you breath in a little bit of helium. This was a really funny experiment. Then we headed back to Zabrze and dressed up at our host homes for the farewell show.



*in the Water Purification Plant*



*the group leader with the Water Atlas*

It was time to present our “Water Atlas” on stage.

At the farewell show we presented our “Water Atlas” pages in front of the host families. The show was really interesting and there were two choirs and a dancing group.

Friday was the day we made our way back home. It was really sad that we had to leave our host families, but we were also excited to see our families in Germany again. So we started our 12-hour train trip from Zabrze back to Leer. And after a little holdup in Berlin we reached Leer in the evening.