

#4 New York...

...and the Orientation Seminar at the Department of State

On Tuesday, 08/07/2018 it finally started. After a long night with a lot of repacking and worrying about the weight of the suitcase, I drove to Frankfurt airport with my family. When I arrived there, I met (almost) everyone and we got our hoodies and t-shirts, which Karina had ordered and organized. Later it should turn out that the Hoodie is precious.

When it was my turn to check-in after, I felt the first shock: the suitcase scale shows 50 kg (110 lbs)! I already began to curse my scales at home, when the nice employee and her colleague behind the counter started laughing. She had put her foot on the scales to shock me...Why always me...? 😞

Then I went to the security check where I had to say goodbye to my family. That was hard. A year is a very long time and the USA is further away than England. Thank God there were 74 other participants who shared my mixed feelings.

The flight itself went smoothly, there was plenty to eat and drink and the entertainment was fine. However, we preferred to talk about our previous experiences with the CBYX/PPP and so about 8.5 hours passed very quickly.

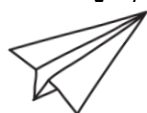
And then we were in the middle of New York. Skyscrapers, stuffy air, abnormally many people - and we in the middle.

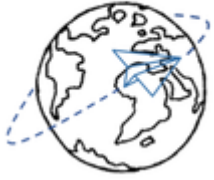
First, we checked in at the YMCA Hostel (Manhattan) and moved into our (storeroom) rooms. We didn't have much time, because we immediately went out to get dinner. We all sat down in a small park and enjoyed the sultry air. Former participants, who had been in Germany for a year and thus were real New Yorkers, showed us the city and gave us hints on how not to attract attention as a tourist. Well, that didn't quite work out. Everyone ran around with big eyes and their mobile phones in the air to get the best shot.

Afterwards we had "free time". The majority of the 75 participants went to a bar - those under 21 distributed themselves among groups and went on a discovery tour without alcohol. Together with some friends I walked through New York.

The next day we continued with the Orientation Seminar. We went to the Department of State on the 22nd floor and listened to lectures about buying a car and many other important topics. At 5 pm the seminar was over and we could explore the city further. With Christian and Anna, I took the ferry to the Brooklyn Bridge and took about a million photos. We met other participants and walked together to the 9/11 Memorial. Although you couldn't see much, because it was already closed for the day, the atmosphere was overwhelming and I felt quite queasy. Last but not least we took the subway back to the hostel and after packing my suitcase I went to bed, tired to death.

The next day the seminar was on the agenda again - for me, however, only until 12:30 pm, as my departure was imminent. I said goodbye to everyone as I was the first to travel to their placement. The reason was that my college already had an introduction for all international students on Friday and my college coordinator wanted me to be there. I was really looking forward to meeting my host family. What happened then is known to those who follow me on





Instagram. 😊 But that's another story and you have to stop when it's most exciting (or something like that). Small spoiler alert: meanwhile I have arrived in my host family. 😊

I wish you a nice weekend and look forward to your feedback!

Lena



Saying "Goodbye" to my family at the airport



Anna, Henning, and Me on our way to NEW YORK CITY!



Anna and Me at the Orientation Seminar in New York



We welcomed the rain in hot New York