

Welcome to Dortmund, Buffalo's Sister City in Germany! This three week intensive German course in the Auslands-gesellschaft NRW (the Foreign Institute of North Rhine-Westphalia) is specifically designed to help students improve their German in a target language environment. While living with a German host family, you will attend the intensive course and participate in a program of excursions geared toward expanding your knowledge of German culture and history. This program provides participants the opportunity to study German during the day, while applying newly-acquired knowledge of German to every day contexts outside of the classroom, both with your host family at home and while out and about in Dortmund and during excursions with the group.

#### An authentic immersion experience: your German host family:

A host family awaits your arrival in Dortmund. Each of these families has a relationship with the Foreign Institute, having either travelled with us or having sent one of their sons or daughters to Buffalo on one of our youth or high school exchange programs. Spend time with your family in the evenings or on the weekend while in Dortmund to practice your language skills and foster a relationship that has the potential to last a lifetime. Learn about German customs and history first hand.

#### Travel in and around Dortmund:

Upon arrival in Germany, you will be greeted by a team member of the Auslands-gesellschaft. From there, you will be taken by train to meet your host family. A monthly train pass is provided to each participant to ensure not only safe and timely arrival to your class and other destinations throughout your stay, but also to familiarize you with using an expansive German



public transportation network. Travel by train or bus to Amsterdam and Berlin are also included in the cost of the program. At the close of the program, you will be provided tickets to your departure airport.

#### Weekly excursion program:

After class on select days, you will be taken to several points of cultural and historical interest in and around your sister city. An example of these follows below (programm may slightly vary from year to year):

- Walking tour of downtown Dortmund
- Visit to a local brewery and/or pub
- Guided tour of the Steinwache, former SS police headquarters
- A walking tour of the Nordstadt with visits to refugee organizations
- Guided tour of the BVB Signal Iduna soccer stadium
- Official welcome and reception by the mayor of Dortmund

#### Day trip to Cologne:

Not far from Dortmund and still within the state of North Rhine-Westphalia on the Rhine river lies Cologne. The 800 year-old Cologne Cathedral will be a focal point of your visit to the city. The inside of the cathedral and tower provide more insight on Germany's oldest city with Roman roots.



#### Day trip to Amsterdam, the Netherlands:

Take in the sights and sounds of this well-known Dutch capital and canal city on the North Sea Channel. Experience the rich history of Amsterdam during a Grachtenfahrt over the canals. Learn about the importance of the port city as a trade center as you follow the waterways past some of the most historically significant locations in Holland. Additional planned visits to the Anne Frank house and a museum are also on the itinerary and

included in your program fee.



#### Weekend in Berlin (2 full days with 2 overnights):

Welcome to the capital of Germany! After arriving by train from Dortmund, you will explore one of Europe's most favored cultural and historical centers from both visitor and local perspectives. From your accommodations located directly in the city center, enjoy easy access to numerous historical and culturally significant sites. The trip to Berlin includes the following:

- 2 day-tickets for use of public transportation in Berlin
- A guided visit to the Holocaust Memorial and Museum
- Guided tour of Unter den Linden from the Brandenburg Gate to Alexander Platz
- Visit and entry to one of the numerous museums and galleries i.e. Deutsches Historisches Museum
- Guided tour through the Reichstag building, with a visit to the glass dome
- Guided walk along the East Side Gallery, Berlin's longest stretch of Berlin wall remnants
- Group dinner on the river Spree in Kreuzberg, one of Berlin's most diverse neighborhoods
- Visit to Checkpoint Charlie

