



Girls' Choir Tour to Germany October 2016

Cottbus Diary

Sunday 23rd October



After an exceedingly early start, we flew back over Southend on our way to Berlin Airport.



Monday 24th October

Der Chor des Niedersorbischen Kinder- und Jugendensembles e. V. aus Cottbus und der englische Jugendchor aus Southend-on Sea (Essex) laden ein.

Chorkonzert

Montag, 24. Oktober 2016

18:00 Uhr
Stadthaus Cottbus/Chóšebuz
Erich-Kästner-Str. 1 (neben dem Piccolo-Theater)

Eintritt frei



Šula za dolnosorbisku rěc a kulturu Chóšebuz
Schule für Niedersorbische Sprache und Kultur Cottbus
gegründet von der Stiftung für das sorbische Volk, der Stadt Cottbus/Chóšebuz und dem Landkreis Spree-Neiße

Dolnosorbiski žišecy a množinski ansambel z. t.
Niedersorbisches Kinder- und Jugendensemble e. V.



Today we were given guided tours of the city of Cottbus including churches, the first Synagogue in Brandenburg and several birds' eye views from the tops of towers.



Some singers even enjoyed the opportunity to sing on the stage of the main theatre in town and Stephen gave a brief, impromptu organ recital in the church of St Nikolas.

We finished our tour with lunch at the University, just by the amazing library building. The afternoon was free for shopping and socialising with host families.

Tuesday 25th October



We said goodbye to our hosts and headed towards Wannsee and our youth hostel. Once we had found our rooms and dropped our luggage we got back in the coach to view the church of St Nicholas in Wannsee where we would be singing later.



We then went into Potsdam via the bridge of spies, the old border between east and west.

After lunch and a quick look round the town of Potsdam, we went to visit the Prussian Gardens of Sanssouci. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful views despite the rather damp weather.

Wednesday 26th October

After a leisurely breakfast we made our way to the local train station to catch the train to Berlin. We soon discovered that even in Germany they have the rail replacement bus service! We all squeezed in, to the amusement of the local travellers and finally arrived at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof station.

We walked past the Reichstag and on to view the famous Brandenburg Gate. After this we visited the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. This



unique memorial gave everyone cause to stop and think as we wandered between the concrete pillars.

Following this, we found lunch at the Mall of Berlin – McDonalds, PizzaHut, Subway etc. After a little bit more shopping, we walked down to Checkpoint Charlie where we posed for photos with the ‘guards’. A visit to a remaining part of the Berlin Wall followed and a look around the neighbouring museum.



Back at the hostel it was time for packing and an early bed as we have an early start in the morning.

Thursday 27th October

Our last morning at the Wannsee Youth Hostel meant an early start to ensure everything was safely packed and the beds stripped in time for breakfast. We then returned to Berlin for our visit to the dome at the Reichstag.

Having passed through security we followed the audio guide instructions to the top of the dome.

The panoramic view of the city was breathtaking as we reached the top despite the low cloud.

