

Dear Kristin,

I have already booked the flight for June 23 to leave Jerez. We will have a big party on June 21 because of the end of the school year and next day it is my host brother's 18th birthday and he will celebrate it. Can I ask for a better farewell? 😊.

I have lived such an enormous experience this year. I have been very lucky with my host family, not only because of the house I have lived, the bedroom, the food and the location, but also because of the nice family made up of a great host mother and two siblings who were the same age as me. And because of all friends I have met right from the very beginning.

I can say that the school was nice. I have learnt a lot about the differences in the school system between Germany and Spain. I prefer the German system, but the time here was perfect in order to become aware of this. Otherwise, I could have never compared my school life in Germany.



Lucas with his Spanish cousins

Regarding sports I have enrolled in a gym where I went every day in order to burn out all the tasty but fatty food I ate. Unfortunately, I could not practise my favourite kind of gymnastics I normally do at home, because there was none (there was not even the word for that).

Apart from that, I have had a very very nice time. It is quite clear that there were times when they were not so good – especially at Christmas time, when you were at your desk on the 23rd and the only thing that reminded a bit of the celebration of love was the Advent calendar that my mother had given away to me. But then you said to yourself: "Come on, it is only this year and the following years will be like the old times!". And in the end, you receive a Skype call from your family on the 24th, then you have some tasty Spanish food and a party that lasted until next day. In the end, you said to yourself that even though it was not sooo nice like home, it was much much more exciting and thrilling and simply a fantastic and nice experience 😊.



Lucas' host parents

Something that was partly difficult for me-but also interesting- was the arguments about the current crisis. Of course, Merkel and the "German rich people" were mentioned. However, there was neeeeever a true fight, but simply discussions that are maybe now very important to have.

The weekend in Galicia organised by Openmind was fantastic. A nice programme, friendly people and again simply German humour,

gossips and laughs. When evenly paying the bill until the last penny for just a coke, a tea and a soft drink I realised that there are just two types of people, which both have their great sides, but also their quirks!!

At this point, I would like to thank you for everything – not only for this fantastic weekend... simply for this great year. It was perfectly organised and I never felt abandoned! I arrived in a really fantastic family and I had simply a nice time. Thank you very much!

Dear Kristin, again many dear greetings from Jerez!
Your Lucas 😊

