



Katja with host family and Kristin from Openmind with family

I had no idea what awaited me. How would my host family, the house and the school be like? But when I arrived at the airport, all those questions quickly vanished, because my host parents Marcelo and Silvina, my two host sisters Camila and Valentina, my host brother Luciano and my local coordinator were waiting for me, greeted me warmly and made a very nice impression to me. The organisation Openmind was great from the beginning to the end and it was always a great help. I highly recommend it!

The positive impression of the family was not deceptive. During the 3 months I felt very well and in good hands. I did quite a lot with my two host sisters (cooking, going to the beach, shopping...) and when they were busy, I went exploring the island with my host parents. It was not always easy. I had some "homesickness" and "boredom" crises, but most of the time I experienced many new and unforgettable things. I didn't find the cultural differences so big. The host family had similar habits as me (except for the food that was very meaty, as my host family came from Argentina). I was able to adapt quickly, and I got used to their everyday life. They were very open and gave me a lot of freedom, which also made it easier for me to settle in.

In Spain I had the feeling that the people are in a better mood, very happy and funny. Time is less important; you sit together and forget about it completely. I miss that a little bit here in Switzerland.

About school: I think it is a great advantage to go to a public school: you learn the language much faster and you see how young people speak. The students were also very open and spoke to me quickly. Since I understood practically nothing in the beginning, I closed myself off a bit and afterwards I found it difficult to find my way back into the class. Now I would do it differently. After this stay, I feel that I have become more confident. I know that I can accomplish something on my own, even if it's not always easy. I got involved in something completely new and I learned a lot. My Spanish has also improved enormously.



I would give the following tip to a future exchange student: to adapt to the family and at the same time to remain yourself, to be very open and talkative. It is certainly an opportunity to discover new sides of yourself, to enjoy freedom and to experience unforgettable moments with your host family and new friends.

