

## Impressions and Sensations about Maribor

We had almost done it! The seminar “Europäische Tourismusregionen” should be the last of the 6 compulsory seminars during the main studies and we wanted it to be something special. On the one hand we were satisfied that we were able to participate in the seminar, but on the other hand we were not sure yet:” Was that really the right decision?” Because of the behaviour of some other students about the way how the participants were intended for this seminar. But who cares. Eyes shut and go through!

Destination Maribor! But what did we know about the city, the country Slovenia itself? To make it short - nothing! But we had certain conceptions: socialist remains, destroyed and bombed houses and landscapes, reserved and unfriendly inhabitants, dirty, deteriorated and of course... cheap, cheaper, cheapest! As you can therefore imagine, we were absolutely surprised about that what our eyes perceived. Fresh green, large and beautiful meadows, hills and grounds, castles and cloisters in good condition, magnificent churches, fertile vineyards and charming readjusted historical old towns.

The most impressive was the way how the Slovenian students received us with open arms and open hearts. We noticed that already in the first minutes when we met them in the university in Maribor. Everybody was interested in talking to us and they gave us the feeling that they are really happy to have us there as their guests.

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Even before we made our presentation they showed a lot of interest about our University of Applied Sciences, our ambitions to enrol for this course of studies, our vocational career and of course our private life besides studying. The last stoppages and fears of contact were overcome on the evening when we went out all together to the students clubs called "Stuk" and "Trust". The open and friendly manners of the Slovenian students were the guarantee for an exceedingly successful and amusing day, and naturally night! But also during the day, when the rain was falling down on our heads all the time, there was offered a lot. Particularly interesting was the possibility to get information about the plans and ideas Slovenia has in the wide field of tourism, for example to become a destination for winter sports (Pohorje- Mountains). Whether this is a good idea will, with regard to the climatic and scenic facts and the competition of the Alps right in the closest neighbourhood, be the question. Another problem could be the aspired Wellness-Tourism, as the hitherto offer of so called "Wellness" do not correspond to the requirements and wishes of the German and Austrian customers. The above-mentioned target group considers the existing establishments and possibilities of Wellness, for example sauna, vapour- bath, whirlpool and so on, as a normal basic standard. To be a competitive supplier of top-grade Wellness and to penetrate this market, you have to offer more than this. Nevertheless we finally want to point out that for us this excursion to Slovenia was a splendid experience that we really don't want to miss!

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