

Thursday January 5
Day 10 – Innsbruck to Munich
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Northern Lights 16-1

Today we woke up around 7:00 and had breakfast at the hotel. For our final meal in Innsbruck we had croissants with Nutella, eggs, fruit, and other various breakfast treats. We then finished packing and got on a bus to drive to our two final surprises before the end of our trip. The ride was around two hours and it was just amazing! Although a little treacherous feeling at times because of the winding road through the mountains, it was such a gorgeous trip, and we took lots of pictures! We even got to see a rainbow arching over the mountains into the clouds!

Our first stop was a little town called Füssen which was so cute and colorful. We were only able to be there for a short amount of time, but it was really fun. We shopped for a bit, before all 20 of us met in a second story pizza restaurant for an early lunch. After ordering various pizzas to share, we sat and talked before eating. The food was super delicious and we were all so glad we chose that place to eat! After our exploring in the town we headed back to the bus for our final surprise, making sure to use the restrooms on our way out.

Only a couple minutes away, we got off the bus at our last and final stop: the Neuschwanstein Castle. It was a bit of a hike to the top, but the views were so worth it. Before reaching the actual castle however, we took a separate path to a long bridge. We had a couple minutes on this bridge to take pictures and look at the castle, which we could see on a hill just a little bit away. After leaving the bridge, we walked back towards the castle. We waiting outside in the courtyard for a little while before entering for our tour. During this time we took a group photo! At 1:40 we started our tour, which consisted of seeing various rooms including the kings quarters. We learned about all the detailed paintings in each of the rooms, as well as some history about the kind himself. We finished our tour with a quick gift shop walk through, and balcony view of the mountains and village below. This part was absolutely stunning, and the view was breathtaking!

Before getting back on the bus for our final ride, Curt treated us to some tasty powdered donut-like desserts. They were SOO good!

After hiking back down to the bus, we drove for another two hours to the airport hotels. We got our room assignments and had a few minutes to chill before meeting up again for dinner. With only a small selection of options for eating, we had fun mix and matching various foods to create a fun meal. Some people went to McDonalds, while others got sushi, sandwiches, fruit, chips, and more from a small grocery store.

We finished our day with a little more team bonding, including multiple games of Red Door, Yellow Door, before going to bed. Today was a perfect way to end our AMAZING trip.

As for the trip as a whole, our entire group absolutely loved it! We are all soo grateful we had the opportunity to travel this far, and experience the culture here! Everything we did was so much fun and we feel so lucky to have been able to share these moments together! The people here are so welcoming, all the places are beyond beautiful, and we are so sad to be leaving. Overall Europe was an amazing experience that we will never forget!