

Sumalatha.G.S – My experience on “Tastes of India” and “Nature” in Germany

“Nächste Haltestelle: Deutschland”, one of my favourite sentence which I took home from Germany. Which means “The Next Stop is: Germany”. For me Germany was completely new since it was my first International tour. Language,



land, culture, food, weather, nature, people, animal, buildings, everything had a different taste of sensing. The first thing which mesmerized me was SNOW & negative temperature of cold. It was my first time feel for snow & I just loved playing in it. The complete place looks white & filled during winter. It's not usual

in Germany that the winter continues till April. In my four months of stay in Germany, I could feel four different weather conditions like – winter, spring, summer & rainy. Though people complained that's very unusual, I somehow enjoyed them.

Now, let me come to the point of my topic. As all Indians do, I too navigated for Indian stuffs in Germany - like Indians, Cloths, Food, Articles, etc. I am a kind of a person, who loves to eat & try out new things. Many people had suggested me before my travel, to be cautious on food due to religious issues. And they



have a mind-set saying, “Vegetarians find a lot of difficulty in surviving in Europe”. But it's completely untrue. There are many things which we can eat though you are a pure vegetarian. The hostels & flats have the flexibility to cook. Chemnitz University has different style of hostel accommodations, where - we can choose to cook

individually in an in-built kitchen or we can also cook in a common kitchen along with other roommates. When you hunt for typical Indian groceries, there are Indian stores available in many cities of Germany. In Chemnitz, there is an

Indian seller who sells Indian commodities on every Wednesdays & Fridays near Pomodoro at Falkeplatz. You have to take tram no.4 or 6 from Zentrum to reach there. There is also a nice Indian seller in Dresden. In this shop we can buy many sweets, groceries, cloths, tea, oils, show articles, etc. These above facilities are not just for us, but also for Germans & other country people to know our culture.

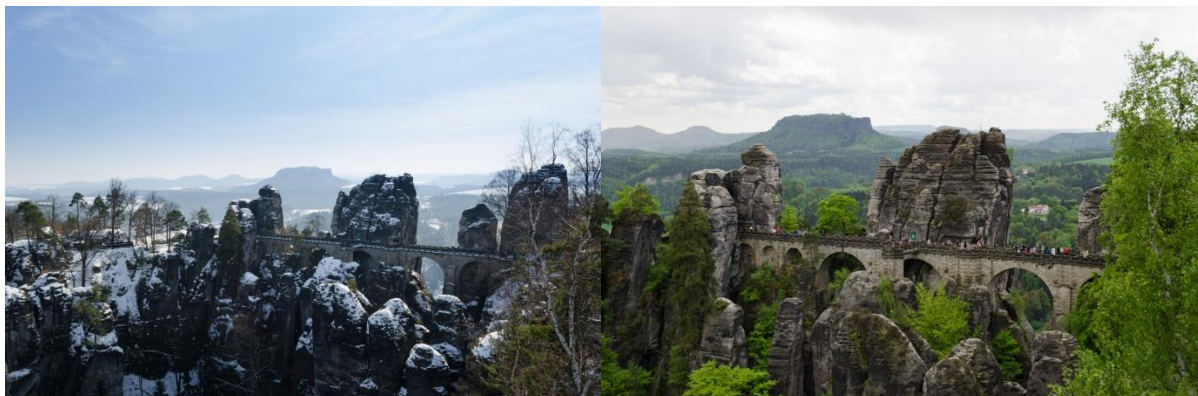
If you are looking for Indian restaurants to hang-out with friends, for sure you will not be disappointed. There are atleast 2-3 Indian restaurants in major cities of



Germany. I had the opportunity to try them at Chemnitz, Dresden, Leipzig, Meissen, Stuttgart, Strasbourg and Heidelberg. 'Delhi Palast' near Zentrum at Chemnitz is the best which I ever tried. The food is tasty & also cheaper compared to other restaurants. 'Maharani Restaurant' near university at Leipzig also had an awesome taste but a bit costlier. On my complete research on

foods I could find out that, many restaurants try to modify the actual taste of India to suite the German style. In this way, some essence of Indian taste is lost, especially like spiciness, ingredients and quantity.

Now coming to the 'Nature', Germany is very beautiful. There are no words to describe that awesome beauty. During spring & summer, where ever you see, it's colourful & green. There are varieties of colourful blossoms and plants which brings a pleasant feeling. Some are - Pustebblume, Glockenblumen, Darmera Peltata, Tulips, Roses, Mountain arnica, Common chicory, Common hepatica, Lilies, etc. The complete city & town looks very different in different seasons.



Here is an example of "Bastei in Saxon Switzerland – National park".

The best thing which I liked is long days in summer. The 'sun' that usually hides in winter, rises at around 4.30am & sets around 10.00pm. This gave me a chance to roam around & enjoy the days. I used to spend the evenings with my friends by playing, sitting in the parks, visiting special places. Germans find this as special occasions to enjoy themselves with barbeque, beer in the evening.

'Dresden' was my regular visiting place, because of my close friend 'Judith Wend', who stayed there. She cared me in my complete stay at Germany. Dresden is just an hour journey from Chemnitz. Being in the eastern part of Germany, it is an important place in the history of the country. I could also visit



Meissen, Bautzen, Bastei and Weisenberg which are around Dresden. 'Görlitz' was my first visit with my friend 'Manuela Heinze'. The city was showing narrow roads, beautiful Lusatian Neisse River and extraordinary border to Poland. 'Heidelberg' was my dream place to visit since the time of my Printing & Media Engineering course. And I could make that dream come true now. It is not just speaking about printing but also gave me the essence of fine arts, wine, shopping, old castle, river, bridge & mountains. My target destination at Heidelberg was 'Brass monkey statue' on the old bridge of the river Neckar.

Even though Germany is developing with new technologies & architectures, they keep the old ancient things untouched. There are many museums, castles, churches which are preserved from many decades. Most manufacturing industries are open for public visits to keep themselves transparent with the customers and also have good market sales.

Lastly, to speak about University of Chemnitz – It is a good place to be & study.



There are many students who have come from different parts of the world. Hostels are provided with classical utilities. There are specifically well maintained sports grounds, gym & courts for the student's fitness. Many occasions like party, barbeque, fests are conducted to get good interactions between the students. I had the opportunity to be a

part of sports fest & Gautschfest which was really nice & memorable.