

THE GLOBE

Traveling

Aneli Poland, Class of '13



In the spring of 2011 our small school set out across the world. Many of us traveled to Germany and two Spanish-speaking students went to Cali, Colombia. The German travelers stayed with host families, whom they had met earlier that year when they visited us in America. For the first two weeks, the German students attended the Waldorf school in Munich, and spent a delightful weekend in Vienna. Their last week was spent traveling the countryside and visiting cities and castles, including the Austrian city of Salzburg.

Meanwhile the Spanish students attended the Luis Horracio Gomez Waldorf School in Cali and traveled the countryside, even visiting a coffee plantation. Our travels took us to new places. We saw castles, walked through caves, ate new, exciting food, made new friends, and saw old ones. It was by far the most memorable three weeks of the year.

Our long plane ride back reminded us how far we had gone and how we experienced the world.

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AN AMERICAN IN CALI: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Samuel O'Brient, Class of '13

As the plane touched down in Cali, Colombia, I looked around in amazement. We were finally here! The airport was located by a field of sugar cane that stretched as far as the eye could see. I was amazed at how different everything was.

Cali was much bigger than I had expected. There were many shops, bakeries, street vendors, and stray dogs. In the outskirts of the city, some of the houses were made from tires, old bricks, scrap metal, and other random building materials. At the Luis Horracio Gomez Waldorf School that we attended there were no halls, and instead the school was located entirely outside. The high school was guarded by stone columns and a great ivy wall. Behind the school was a tropical garden, with palm trees, flower beds, a small area for ducks, and a brook. There was even a banana tree and a blue-and-gold parrot that lived in it. The bird intrigued me, as he was able to say hello in both English and Spanish.

I met my host sister, Juliana Pava, soon after I arrived. She was pretty and kind, with deep brown eyes and flowing black hair, and she spoke very little English. After being shown around the school, I followed her to class. The classes were fun, although I did not understand much of what was being said. When school ended for the day, we walked to a nearby beauty parlor where Lucy, Juliana's mother, greeted us – she too spoke almost no English. My Spanish began to improve right away!

When the 10th grade went on a class trip, I moved to the home of Daniel Esteben, a senior. Because he had spent three months in America, he spoke English fluently. While staying with Daniel, I got to see the city of Cali and all its marvels. We also visited a public high school during our second week. Many of the students there lived in the slums on the outskirts of the city. Visiting a school that was so different to the Waldorf school was an eye-opening experience. The students were friendly and I was glad we went.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Harry Schiller, Class of '14

“Harry, it’s time to wake up,” says my host father through the door.

The house is beautiful, with winding stairs, tiled floors, statues in the halls, and paintings on the walls. My family lives about 20 miles away from the school and so to get there we need to drive for 10 minutes and then take two trains. I eat a breakfast of fruit with Felix, my 14-year-old host, and his brother Tobias, 17, then we get in the car to drive to the station. As we wait for the train, we talk.

When we arrive at the Munich-Schwabing Waldorf School, we make our way to Felix’s homeroom on the third floor, where math, Felix’s current main lesson, is about to start. Justin and Mac are already there. We sit through math and then have snack when main lesson is over. After this we attend eurythmy, English, and a regular period of math. During lunch, we visit various stores surrounding the school. We eat pretzels with butter and pastries for dessert. We stop for ice cream, trying new flavors of gelato that are rarely available in America.

Back at school, the afternoon music class passes quickly, as we look forward to our tour after school. The time finally comes: We take a short ride to one of the biggest breweries in Munich.

Once there, we see a video about the process of making beer, and then walk through underground tunnels to watch beer being distilled and stored. We taste grains of malt, and at the end of the tour we find ourselves in a brightly-lit room with large tables. We are served pretzels, Lieberkase (a slab of meat with mustard on top), potato salad, and Spezi to drink. It all tastes delicious, and we leave feeling much too full. I take the trains home by myself and pass the evening playing basketball with Felix and Toby.

MUNICH AND GREAT BARRINGTON - TWO WALDORF SCHOOLS

Harry Schiller, Class of '14

The Munich Waldorf School was different from our school in many ways. The first and most obvious difference was the size. The Munich school (pictured) has about 6,000 students from grades K – 12. Though this is obviously a bigger grade range than GBWHS, their high school alone consists of more than 400 students.

The other big difference is the location. Whereas GBWHS is set in a small town in the country, where it would be unthinkable to not have a car, the Munich Waldorf School is in the middle of a large city. Consequently, almost all of the students take the subway to school. Many of them bike, and some families do not even own cars. Despite the differences, the Munich Waldorf School shares the same spirit that GBWHS and many other Waldorf schools have – a strong feeling of friendliness and shared interests in many subjects.



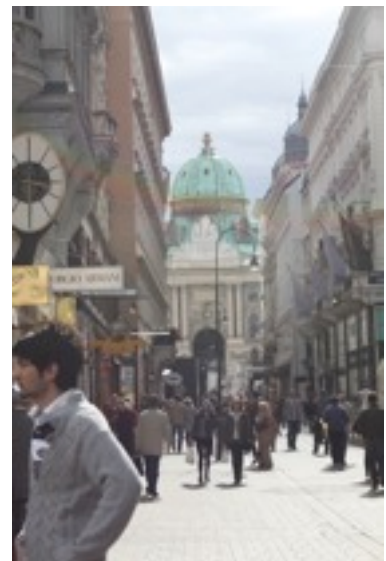
VIENNA

Arthur Seltzer- Class of '14

During our three-week trip to Germany, we spent a weekend in Vienna, Austria. We left Munich Central Train Station early on Friday morning and arrived in the Austrian city in time for a deliciously traditional lunch of weiner schnitzel and bratwurst in a local restaurant. The youth hostel was cozy, but we all spent most of our time out enjoying the old city. We went on two guided tours to visit the museums and concert halls, and still had plenty of free time to go

shopping and find more charming restaurants.

One of the loveliest parts of the trip was seeing the emerald green Austrian countryside through the train window. The landscape seems more vertical than horizontal, and crops are grown on the steep sides of the tall mountains.



During our trips we were required to keep journals on what our day to day activities included. Here are some excerpts:

COLUMBIA JOURNAL

Samuel O'Brient, Class of '13

Dia Uno – Lunes, Cuatro de Abril

Hoy visitamos la escuela "Luis Horacio Gomez." Miramos escuela y yo visite la casa de mi hermana de acogida Juliana Pava.

Dia Dos – Martes, Cinco de Abril

Hoy fuimos a la escuela. Despues yo nade en la piscina con Juliana y su amigos Juan David y Martin.

Dia Tres – Miercoles, Seis de Abril

Hoy Enrique, Senora Sonia y Yo visitamos un casa historica en Colombia.

Dia Cuatro – Jueves, Siete de Abril

Hoy despues de escuela, Enrique y Yo fuimos a ver una pelicula con el hermano de acogida de Enrique Juan y los padres de Juan. La pelicula fue buena.

Dia Cinco – Viernes, Ocho de Abril

Hoy fue el cumpleaños de Juliana. Despues de escuela una fiesta se llevo a cabo con muchos amigos de Juliana.

Dia Seis – Sabado, Nueve de Abril

Hoy Enrique y Yo fuimos a el zoologico de Cali con Senora Sonia, Daniel, y Sebastian

Dia Siete – Domingo, Diez de Abril

Hoy Enrique, Juan, los padres de Juan y Yo fuimos a pesca. Yo cogi un pescado grande.

MUNICH JOURNAL

Harry Schiller, Class of '14

Wednesday, April 6.

Today our class took a tour of a bakery. We twisted pretzels and were shown the ovens where everything is baked. Afterwards, we ate some delicious food.

Saturday, April 9.

We woke up this morning in our youth hostel in Vienna, had breakfast, and left for the same place as yesterday, a long, narrow street, packed with beautiful

buildings. Today we explored some more. I bought ice cream and souvenirs. I also had fried dough for dinner in a large market.

Wednesday, April 20.

We took our last big trip today – one of the best ones we've taken. Our first stop was Schloss Linderhof, a beautiful castle with its fine gold inside. Our next stop was Murnau, to eat lunch. Then we

went on to the Munterhaus and looked at paintings. We ended the day with ice cream.



Germany Photos



Top left - Caira Myers, Robin Graney, and Naomi Pitman with German friends Maria Jung and Leoni Schnitzenbaumer.

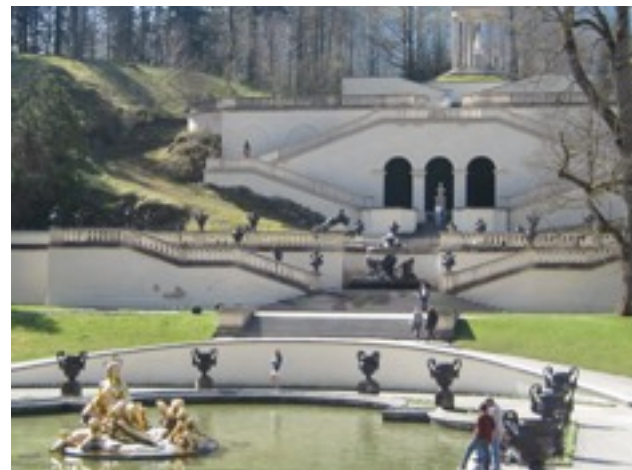
Top right - City of Salzburg, which we toured.

Left - Church in Vienna, one of many beautiful buildings there.

Right - Poem by student Shai Lev, Class of '14.

Bottom left - Students Naomi Pitman, Arthur Seltzer, and Milena Stanton in Munich.

Bottom right - Building across from German castle Schloss Linderhof.



Columbia Photos



Top Left - Sam and Henry join the senior class field trip during the architecture block. They visited la Hacienda Paradisio deep in the heart of the gorgeous Colombian Countryside.

Top Right - The entrance to La Hacienda Paradisio.

Left - The biggest roots we had ever seen.

Right - Lost in a bamboo forest on the coffee plantation.

Bottom Left - Henry and Sam with their friend Juan (Henry's host brother).

Bottom Right - Feasting on watermelon, plantains, papayas with our new Colombian friends at the school cafeteria. (left to right, Sebastian, Juan David, Juliana (Sam's host sister), and Vittorio).

