

We are all
made of stories

Americans of Tübingen: *Luther*

“Tübingen is my favorite city. The friendliness of the people, the beautiful scenery, the energy and enthusiasm of the University, the architecture, and the environmental consciousness all contribute to making Tübingen an extraordinary place.

My interest in Tübingen began as a result of my on-going effort to improve my German language skills. Learning German has been a wonderful opportunity for me following a career in health care and teaching. I have lived and worked in the past in Rheinland-Pfalz with colleagues who spoke English fluently, so that I did not apply myself to seriously learning German. However, having lived in Germany I received the gift of many German friends and a love of German culture, literature, and land.



Upon my return to the States I began to seriously study German at Portland State University in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. PSU has a student exchange program with universities in Baden-Württemberg. Being familiar with Mannheim and Heidelberg, I applied for placement at one of those universities and was surprised by my placement at the University of Tübingen. I was reassured when one of my PSU Professors learned of my Tübingen placement and said, “You will love it!” That has certainly been true!

My first evening in Tübingen was magical, as I walked from the train station across the Neckarbrücke, viewed the Neckarmauer and Hölderlin Tower, and then discovered that my Hostel room had a view of the Neckar!

During the summer semester of 2019 I lived in Waldhäuser-Ost and took five university classes, including topics in German literature, art, history, geography, and a B2-level grammar course. I also took a wonderful class about humor in the German culture, which bettered my understanding and appreciation of intercultural issues. My wife joined me for part of the time, and we enjoyed strolls through the Old Town, hikes in the Schönbuch, visits to the Botanic Gardens and Art Museum, as well as outings to Bebenhausen, Reutlingen and Stuttgart.

In March 2020 my wife and I again stayed in Tübingen for several weeks and studied German at the Vivat Lingua Institute, before returning to the United States due to the coronavirus.

Additional excellent experiences include the “Rent an American” program with the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut, through which I visited schools in Reutlingen and Rottenburg and talked with students about American culture. I also participated in the University sponsored “Tandem Projekt” which paired me with a native speaking German student who I met with regularly for conversation in English and German. In this highly valuable experience I made a new friend, improved my German language skills, and learned of many wonderful cafes, restaurants, and activities in the local area.

My wife and I look forward to living again in Tübingen. Seeing our German friends, furthering our German language skills, and enjoying the culture and the scenery of the area all combine to make Tübingen a special place in our hearts.”