

**Studienaufenthalt  
an der Singidunum University  
in Valjevo/Serbien Herbst 2017**



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## **Arrival**

When I first arrived to Serbia, I was so nervous but also full of curiosity what I could expect for the next three months. I managed to take the bus from Belgrade airport to Valjevo, even though no one spoke English. I felt a bit weird that I couldn't communicate in English with the persons I met on my way to Valjevo. I was quite happy when I arrived and was warmly and friendly welcomed by Ivana and Jelena. They brought me to my new home. I was surprised to see how beautiful this new place has been, and I guessed I would feel comfortable here.

## **What to do in Valjevo**

The next days Jelena and the Erasmus students showed me around Valjevo to get to know all the different places. I expected this town to be much smaller before I arrived here. The places I mostly liked were, Tesnjar, "the Hollywood of Serbia", and the view and legend of Markova Stolica. I like to have breakfast at these little restaurants next to the river "Kolubara" with the view to this beautiful and big cathedral of Valjevo, as well. I love the Serbian traditional food, like cabbage, Kobasica, Ayvar.

At the beginning it was not so easy to get used to the currency and the different mentality of the Serbs. I had difficulties in communicating with them, because most of them could not speak a word of English. That was one point that really surprised me. But this changed somehow, because they knew after a while, that I am the foreigner. So, I slowly improved my Serbian.

At first, I felt a little bit lonely in Valjevo, but when the academic year started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October this year, I got to know some more students. They took me with them for a coffee or lunch to town. Furthermore, it surprised me how many different coffee shops and bars (kafana's) Valjevo has. I really love the live music in those bars. We don't have this in Germany. It doesn't matter how small the bars are, they will play live music, at least for the weekend.

## **Studies etc.**

I started to have lectures at the modern Singidunum University. Some lectures I have together with other students and some lectures I have alone with the professors. It is going well so far. I like that the professors are so young, if I compare it to the ones in Germany.

Moreover, I had the opportunity to take part at the Tourism Conference in Novi Sad and some traditional festivals such as the Cvarkijada. At this festival the Serbs celebrate their pigs and eat lard. I enjoyed myself celebrating with them.

Furthermore, I was able to travel a little bit around Serbia. I saw some breathtaking landscapes such as the Tara National park. I liked the old part of Belgrade with the river Sava a lot, as well.

In conclusion, I can say that I had a great time over here so far. I made friends with whom I can spend my time with. I get to know Serbian traditions and food. Also, I made use of the sunny autumn to explore some nice places in Serbia.

