

Getting to know Dresden: And that's my mustard on that

Hi, my name is Peggy Boynton, and I am a German teacher at James Clemens High School in Madison, Alabama. In July 2019, I was awarded the opportunity to be a participant in a 2-week long educator workshop hosted by the Goethe-Institut called "Sprache, Landeskunde und kulturelles Lernen in Dresden." I had only briefly visited Dresden in the late 90s, so I was thrilled at thought of having this span of time to dig deeper into the heart of Saxony, and here are a few of the things that I learned this area of Germany.

Many goods are made in and around Dresden! I visited the **Meißen manufactory** just outside of Dresden, where extremely luxurious porcelain is made. I spent time in an artisan shop called **Ratags Holzdesign** that specializes in those delicately detailed decor pieces famously made in Saxony such as *Weihnachtspyramiden*, *Räuchermänner*, and *Schwibbogen*. I so went into the shop of the 139-year-old dairy company, **Pfund**, which is known as the "Most Beautiful Dairy in the World." It's the shop itself, not the cows, that holds a world record for beauty, I came to find out.

With one foot in the past, I set another one into the future and saw the **Gläserne Manufaktur**, where Volkswagen is producing e-Golfs on view for the public and discussing ways to produce goods with a lighter impact on the planet.

In Saxony, not only are physical products made, but also work is done to improve its citizens' education. One such group is making progress with how people utilize media and technology in their everyday lives. On one of my mornings, I spent time with the head of the **Medienkulturzentrum Dresden**. He shared with us the multitude of impressive and inspiring programs that the center offers to children, young adults, professionals, educators, and senior citizens, that encourage and enable them to interact with and create with a variety of media platforms.

So, if you imagine yourself wanting to visit Germany someday, consider Dresden, Saxony. I experienced, saw, heard, and tasted so many wonderful things. I can't wait to start sharing them with my students. And, *das ist mein Senf dazu!* Speaking of mustard, don't pass up the opportunity to visit the **Altenburger Senfladen**. Over 350 mustards, sauces, dips, and seasonings are available to taste and purchase. Does a mustard a day keep the doctor away?