MY TOP 5 FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO/ SEE WHEN SPENDING A YA IN HAMBURG

1. Elbphilharmonie
2. Hafengeburtstag-pier
3. Sternschanze- food and shopping
4. Fischmarkt
5. Rent a canal boat/ pedalo

My name is Justin and I have been fortunate enough to have spent the last 9 months working as an English language assistant in Hamburg. As my time here is nearly over, I’d like to reflect on some of the highlights about my time here and what I’d recommend for you to do here if you’re just visiting or moving here.

Hamburg’s most recent and most famous landmark is the Elbphilharmonie. The landmark has truly bought some attention to the city of Hamburg as the announcement of the opening was announced worldwide. It has become one of the stock images of the city when you search up ‘Hamburg’ and for good reason as the unique structure truly is an amazing sight to see. Despite being a concert hall, you can visit the viewing platform for free which provides a fantastic view of the harbour. I personally have been multiple times as it one of the first things I go to when I have visitors! Thanks to the concert hall, Hamburg has been declared by various travel guide publications as one of the top- ranking places to be.

A personal highlight for me was being here to celebrate the Hafengeburtstag in May. I had no idea the event was such a big thing, but I am so grateful to have been here to experience it and it was one of the best days that I had here. I had some visitors that weekend and for most it was their first time visiting Hamburg, so I was keen to show them how amazing Hamburg is, and I think it was the perfect weekend for it! Seeing the so many people gathered by the pier to celebrate the Hafengeburtstag was truly a sight to see and the firework display in the evening topped everything off!One of the best decisions that I made on my year abroad was moving to the Sternschanze. At the start of my year abroad I lived in the outskirts of the city near my school as it was convenient, but I outgrew the suburban environment of that area very quickly and I wanted to experience the city more and I couldn’t do that from where I used to live.

I made the decision to move as I knew the Sternschanze was one of the best areas to live for young people like myself as there are great shops, bars and cafes here. It is for sure my favourite area in Hamburg and would recommend anyone to live here if they are looking at areas to live. I really am so lucky and grateful to have spent my year abroad in Hamburg. Being here has allowed me to do so many things such as travel, go through a different cultural experience and develop my German language. Hamburg truly is an amazing city and has undoubtedly become my favourite city in Germany and I will miss it deeply however I think I have experienced a lot of what Hamburg has to offer.