

# LIVE IT OUT

Volume 2 • WINTER 2007/2008

## 2007: A Holiday Abroad

### Prologue



In 2006 when I had visited Europe for the first time I had no idea that I would ever go back. The idea had crossed my mind but it seemed so expensive and unrealistic especially since I was starting university and did not know what changes would happen in my life. So in the fall of 2007, while I was knee deep in my first semester of university, when my dad had asked me if I would have liked to go to Germany and Amsterdam for Christmas to see family; it was a definite yes. I couldn't wait to experience Christmas in a completely different country with different cultural customs and foods! As soon as I finished my first set of University exams I was set to take my second transatlantic flight to Europe and spend my first holiday abroad!

### Amsterdam



Our flight landed in Amsterdam on December 19th and we were automatically hit with the magic and beauty which made me fall in love with the Netherlands in the first place. Mere moments after we landed from our tiring flight we were greeted by stilt walkers and costumed dancers in white, wishing us a Merry Christmas (in dutch of course). When we left the airport Amsterdam was covered in a thick blanket of snow, and every street corner was decorated with christmas decorations and lights. It was so beautiful. We traveled back to Ede where my Dad's sister-in-law lived and visited her. After the quick visit a little shopping and some amazing dutch cuisine we left Amsterdam for my first Christmas in Germany.

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## Nuremburg



When we arrived at the Frankfurt Airport everything was covered in a thick blanket of snow. The two hour drive to my cousin's home which normally would feel very long suddenly had an air of anticipation added to it because everything around me felt so festive! We stopped by Käthe Wohlfahrt in Rottenburg to buy some new Christmas Ornaments for the tree. I found a delightful pastry called Schneeballen. Before long we went to the Nuremberg christmas market, Christkindlesmarkt, the most famous christmas market in the world. I had never been to an outdoor market that was so large in my life. So many different christmas ornaments and foods and people; it was astounding.

## Christmas



Just before Christmas I had the joy of skating on a frozen pond with my friend Lisa. I had never ice skated on a pond before and was very excited. On Christmas Eve my cousin Florian was playing one of the three kings in the Nativity story at the local church and I was invited to watch. The church was very different because it was a Catholic and Protestant church so there were both priests making sermons; definitely something I had never seen before. After Florian's performance we went back home to enjoy gift opening with the family. On Christmas day we went to my Aunt Marianne's home for tea and cake.

## New Years Eve



After Christmas day my cousin Raven invited me to watch him play in a soccer game in Rottenburg. I excitedly tagged along to see him play and to also get some more Schneeballen. On New Years Eve my friend Lisa invited me to a party at her friends house. There was meat fondue, and we had a fun time chatting about Harry Potter. When midnight struck we went outside to see the fireworks. There were so many fireworks going off it felt as if I was in a battleground with rockets whizzing past my head, it was so crazy! As Lisa drove me home I was saddened that my exciting holiday was coming to an end. Within a few days I said goodbye to my family and boarded my flight back to Canada; saying goodbye to my holiday abroad.

## Photos



Ravens Soccer Game



The Christmas Tree



Uncle Helmut &amp; Klaus