

TRAVEL REPORT BY WHILL

OCTOBER 2025

GRAND HOTEL
HEILIGENDAMM, GERMANY



LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD

WHY DID YOU WANT TO GO ABROAD?

To build a culinary career without experiencing different places and exploring their food culture is like speaking just one language throughout your lifetime. I love traveling to new places and gaining brand new perspectives.



FOOD IS A GLOBAL LANGAUGE

HOW DID YOU MANAGE THE TRAVEL?

I got assistance from the HR department, and a member of the team was assigned to give practical guidance with apps and routes right down to the Hotel.

It took a combination of flight, train, bus and taxi to reach the hotel. The Journey took a whole day, but every minute was an adventure.



HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR **ACCOMMODATION**, HOW WAS IT?

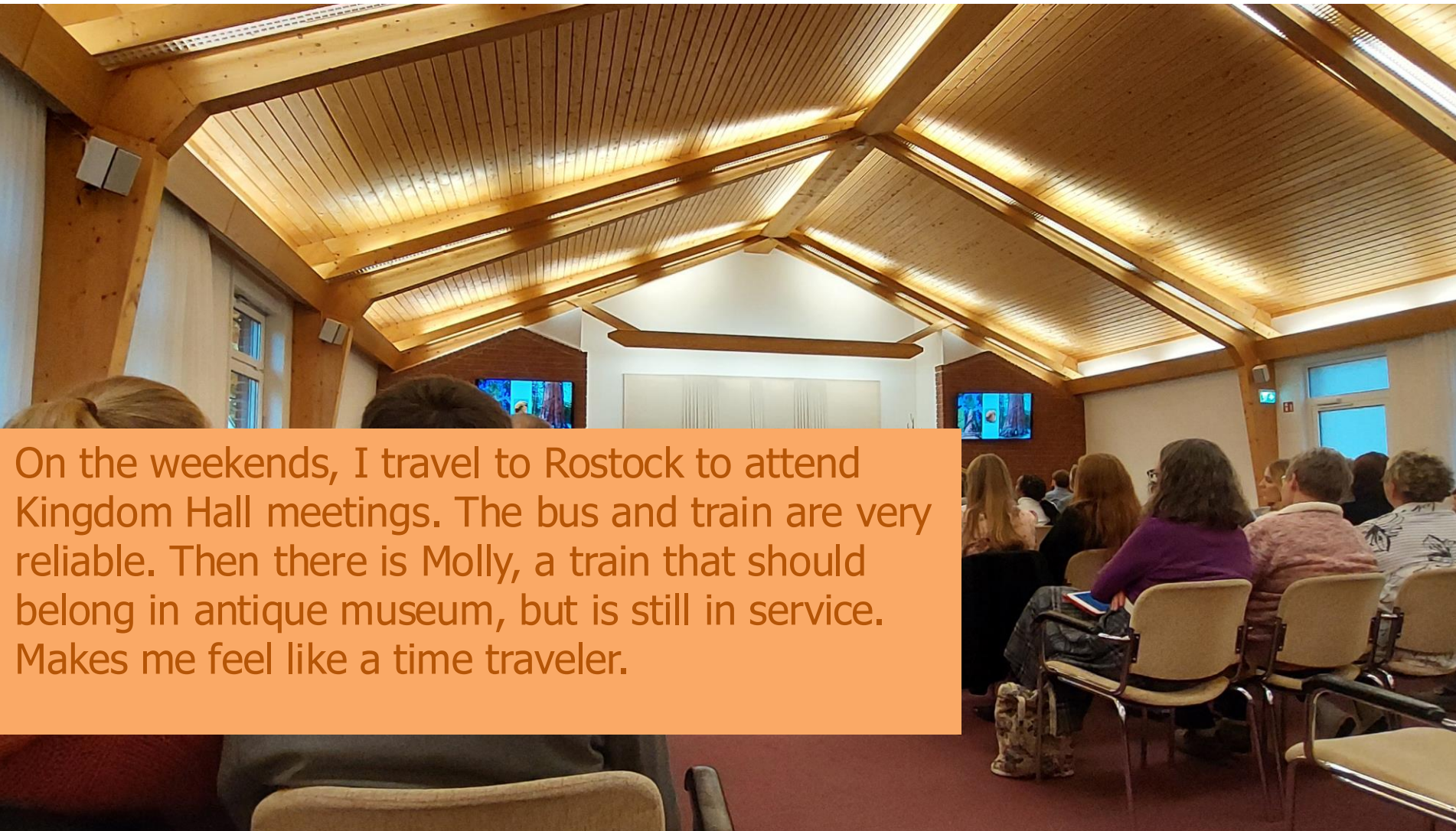


**I WAS PROVIDED WITH PLUSH
ACCOMMODATION RIGHT IN
THE HOTEL AND
GIVEN GUEST
TREATMENT THROUGHOUT
MY STAY.**

WHAT WERE YOUR **GOALS** AND **OBJECTIVES**?

I was particularly interested in working in a Michelin starred restaurant kitchen. I wanted to see for myself what is involved in achieving such distinction and see also what insight I could gain to sharpen my skills and set my career off to a glorious start.

How did you get around in the city and elsewhere?



On the weekends, I travel to Rostock to attend Kingdom Hall meetings. The bus and train are very reliable. Then there is Molly, a train that should belong in antique museum, but is still in service. Makes me feel like a time traveler.



WHAT DID YOU DO ON YOUR FREE TIME?

I EXPLORE THE CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATERS OF THE BALTIC COASTLINE AND ROAM THE FORESTS ENVELOPING THE HOTEL.

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HOW WAS WORKING USING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

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I USED TO THINK FINNISH LANGUAGE WAS DIFFICULT UNTIL I ARRIVED IN GERMANY. THANKFULLY, I HAD VERY SUPPORTIVE COLLEAGUES WHO COULD SPEAK ENGLISH TO HELP ME IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.



WHAT DIFFERENCE DID YOU NOTICE IN THE WORKING CULTURE?

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THE WORKPLACE IS MORE FORMAL. TITLES ARE VERY IMPORTANT. SUPERVISORS ARE NOT ADDRESSED BY FIRST NAMES, AND THE WORKPLACE HIERARCHY IS STRICTLY ADHERED TO.



WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT **GERMANY** AND IT'S CULTURE?

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GERMANY IS RICH IN DIVERSITY. THOUGH REMOTE, MANY NATIONALITIES WORK IN THIS HOTEL. I HAD A COLLEAGUE FROM A COUNTRY I NEVER HEARD ABOUT BEFORE. THE PEOPLE ARE VERY HARDWORKING AND RULES ARE EMPHASIZED.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF?

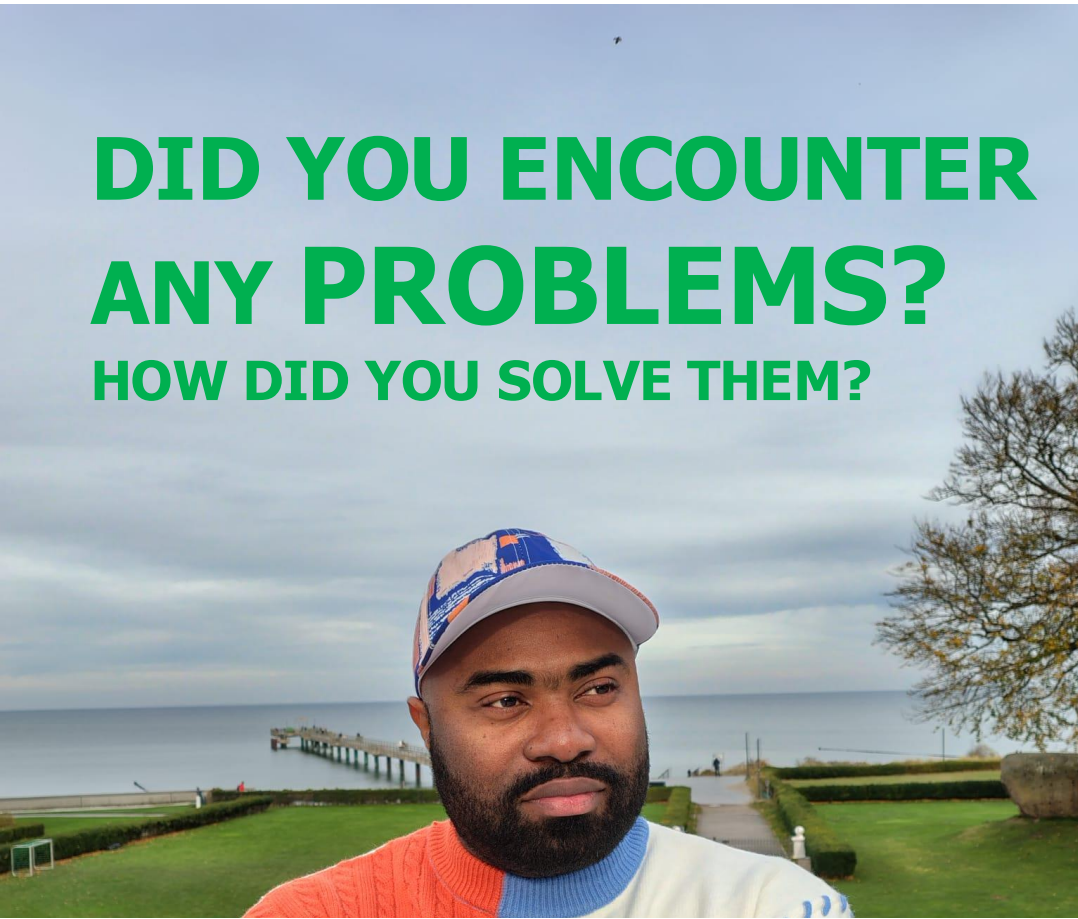
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I learned that I could blend in so effortlessly with total strangers in teams. Even when there is language barrier, body language and emotional intelligence can save the day.



DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS? HOW DID YOU SOLVE THEM?



SOMETIMES I WOULD HAVE A SUPERVISOR WHO CANNOT SPEAK ENGLISH. ANOTHER COLLEAGUE WOULD VOLUNTEER TO MEDIATE OUR CONVERSATIONS. WE LAUGHED AT OURSELVES A LOT.



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WHAT WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF YOUR TRIP?

MY TIME AT THE MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANT KITCHEN WAS CAREER DEFINING. EVERYTHING IS DONE TO PERFECTION. THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS REMARKABLE. THIS FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGES MY PERSPECTIVE ABOUT MY PROFESSION.

WHAT TIPS WOULD YOU GIVE THE NEXT STUDENT GOING TO THE SAME DESTINATION?

Be prepared to work hard and give your finest effort.

Go with an open mind.

The hotel will meet and exceed your expectations in your welfare and learning.

