

Internship Travel Report: ÖÖD Houses and Hotels, Tallinn, Estonia

Marketing Communications in International Tourism Studies

19.11.2023-30.11.2023

My internship with ÖÖD Houses and Hotels in their headquarter office in Tallinn, Estonia was an unforgettable experience that seamlessly combined professional growth with personal exploration. I found a place to stay right in the city center, making it easy to get to the office every day.



Why did I want to go abroad?

The erasmus experience provides valuable opportunities for college students like me, to experience cultural diversity and broaden my perspectives. It fosters personal growth, independence and a global mindset, contributing to a well-rounded education.

How did I organize my travel arrangements?

Firstly, I had to know where I'm going destination and the dates as well, then I booked my ferry ride and accommodations online. I planned the transportation within the destination and make a checklist for essentials like passports and tickets to ensure a smooth trip.



Accommodation and what it was like....

I found a place through an online booking site. Truthfully not the best, but the location is perfect, just right in the heart of the city center and close to the office, making it convenient for both work and exploring the city.

How did I move from my hometown, where I live...

I took the ferry a night early before the internship started, so I can come well-rested and fully charged the next morning.

What I did in my free time...

During my free time, I explored the city, and both the head of marketing and other intern gave me tips on the best places to go and explore in the city.

What were my workplace, job tasks and colleagues like?

The people at ÖÖD were friendly, and I even got to meet the CEO. The atmosphere in the office was positive and made learning enjoyable as well. The tasks were aligned with my goals, offering the opportunity to learn and be independent, allowing me to sort things out on my own.



What was it like to work in a different language?

We mainly spoke in English. ÖÖD is a very diverse company working with people from different backgrounds and roots.

What differences did I notice between the local Estonian and Finnish work culture?

Honestly, I didn't notice many differences. They have clear work boundaries, which I appreciate and think is also important in Finnish culture. They respect others' opinions and have open communication.

What I learned about Estonia and its culture...

I learned that their culture is influenced by a mix of Nordic, German and Russian elements. Being there for roughly 12 days showed me that understanding and appreciating Estonia's cultural nuances contribute to a better experience and interaction with the country and its people. They value their independence and distinct identity despite being always affiliated to the Finnish and Russian culture.

What I learned about myself...

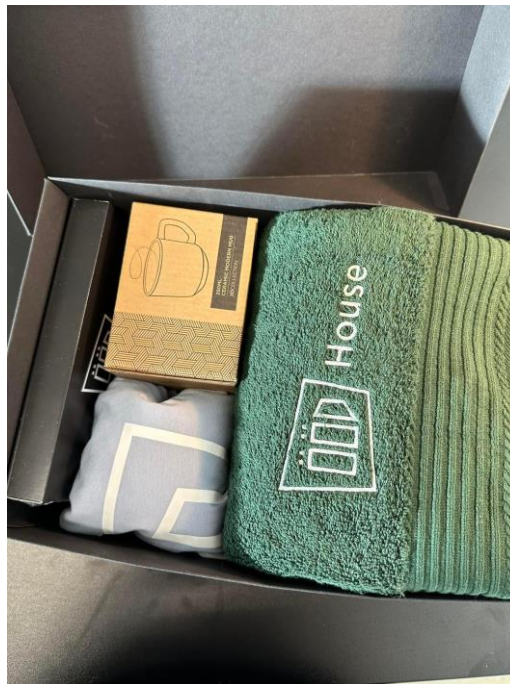
Participating in Erasmus and embarking on a 12-day travel study provided a transformative experience, cultural immersion, personal growth and lasting connections with people from diverse backgrounds. It offered a very invaluable glimpse into the different perspectives and ways of life.

Challenges Faced

Towards the end of my stay, I had a tough time. I got bad skin allergies, and the insurance didn't help. I spent 125 euros on calls alone because no clinics would take me. It was terrible, but I learned to deal with challenges independently.

What was the best experience of the trip?

I would definitely say meeting people from different parts of the world, the interactions are priceless, and of course the opportunity for cultural immersion, personal growth and building international connections, as it opens doors to new perspectives, experiences and a broader understanding of the world and how well we function in the society.



What tips would I like to give to the next student who is going to the same country?

Explore local culture by trying new foods and attending events when possible, learn basic phrases in the local language for better connections. Budget wisely, make acquaintances or friends and capture memories for a fulfilling experience.

Conclusion

I worked in marketing and learned a lot in a short time. The experience will be useful in the future. The whole journey, though brief, taught me to appreciate each step in my journey and see things differently now. Despite the health issue, my time in Tallinn was indeed very wonderful! I learned many useful things and I'm thankful for the experience. I'll carry these lessons with me as I move on to new things.