Austria - Odin Kelly

I think I might talk about what I did today. A plain old, average Austrian sunny day. My new host brother said to me, 'Odin let go out to some land my Dad owns and go fishing and just muck around in the wild.' I was like yeah sure sounds good I've got nothing else planned.

We arrive, in a rather typical picturesque Austrian afternoon, with the sun setting over the grassy land. After walking around checking the place out, not much to do. But there's this old, run down shack, looking likes its been there since the beginning of time. I keep going back to it, thinking I want to go in there. Time passes and I ask, 'Berny (my host brother) what is that old house? Is it yours? What is it doing on your land?' He says, yes its his great grandmothers fathers or something and pulls out this huge old metal key and says, 'You wanna check it out.' I'm like, 'Yes please'. He said the man that used to live in here died ages ago and no one in his family has cleared it out. It was practically left the way it was, the day the great uncle died.

I walk through the creeky 100year old door, and unbelievably the house is left like it was 50 years ago. Straight out of a horror movie with old mirrors, axes and spider webs covering the walls. I put the thought to the back of my mind and keep exploring the bizarre antique like artifacts. Finding old news paper clipping and posters from the 30's and 50's, old rusted cut-throat razors, home made looking tobacco and old bottles that have weathered and broken to name a few.

I close my eyes for a minute and imagine how life was, back when this house was alive. It makes me think that we have come a long way, in modern housing design, but I cant help to notice the solid wooden furniture and how it has lasted, longer than most do today.

The prise find of the day was a box of old emblems from the war, Nazi badges, old Christian pedants, ancient newspaper clipping, and odd section of buttons.

I don't know if its just me, with the love of going through odd junk shops, antique stores, opp shops. Call me crazy but it was just a really fun, interesting day.

best regards Odin

Austria - Phillip Jorgensen

What have I been up to?
6 months to 9 months.
Summer Holidays!

- Summer holidays were from around the 1st of July till the 12th of September or so
- Birthday in Austria - . I had two parties in one day. The first with all my host families which was amazing. I got lederhosen! In the night I then had a party with all my friends, lot of fun.
- Australian exchange student in Spain visit – Alana, my friend living in Madrid came for 12 days. Alana and I did a heap of travel through Austria. We managed to see together, Voralberg (in the South, next to Switzerland and Lichtenstein), Salzburg, Saint Pollten (we went to see the Strokes and other bands play at a festival called nuke festival), Wien twice, and of course Graz my home city.
- Sailing in Croatia – My second host dad, with my host brother Valetin and our friend Max. We went sailing through Rijeka and the many islands in Croatia, stopping ever night in different small ports eating great food in small restaurants. (5 days)
- Kayaking Slowenija, Savinja Valley - This was shortly after my trip to Croatia. We were in-between the Austrian, Slowenijan, and Italian border, where Italians and Austrians fought in the First World War. We also did Cannoning (jumping off waterfalls). We went for 5 days. I did level three rivers.
- Donau Insel festival - Wien, the largest free open air festival in the world, which is situated in central Wien in the middle of the river Donau. A lot of German bands and Austrian bands played, including a lot of international acts

- I spent around 2 weeks at home, spending time with my host brother, friends, and exchangies
- Croatia, Novi Vino Dolce- In early August I moved back to my first host family for 3 weeks or so. In the first week back we to Novi Vino Dolce, for a week. Awesome.
- New host family – Griemer family. After one night at the Griemer´s we went off to Spain and France for 12 days. AMAZYING. We arrived in Beaudeax on the 28th of august. Spent 4 days there in a Chateau about 20 minutes from the city centre. I met another school friend on exchange in Beaudeux, Jade. I spent time in wine vineyards, restaurants and near the pool, the weather was perfect no clouds in the sky. A highlight was the roman town of Saint Mellon. After Beaudeux we went to the coast in Spain for 3 days, Saint Sebastian. Beaches like AUS! I also saw the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao! After the few days in Spain we went to Biarritz for 5 days and spent them with family friends, in a huge holiday house near the Coast. AMAZYING!
- Back to school

That was basically my last three months excluding small but equally great adventures.
Phillip Jorgensen.
Auf Wiedersehen!