



【Vol.2】 Report from Yutaka Ie

I had chances to visit several cities in Germany for sightseeing during this project. In the second report, I introduce some of impressive points. We frequently use Deutsch Bahn (DB), which is a German railway company, as a mean of transportation in Germany. DB is working together with train companies in other European countries. Thus, we can easily buy an international ticket by internet. Other advantage of DB for parents is the family-friendly system. In Japan, we have to buy additional tickets for children to keep their seats. On the other hand, we do not need to pay any money for children in DB. In my case, since I have three children, I can get three additional seats for children without extra money. It is very comfortable for us. This situation means that it is more economic for us to travel in Germany and European countries using train, compared to airplane. Because, in the case of airplane, it is essential for children to buy ticket. Therefore, I also used DB to go to Switzerland, France, and Czech Republic!

Our first trip was Cologne. It takes almost 1 hour from Frankfurt by Inter City Express (ICE). Cologne is famous for Dom, which was built in 1880. This Dom is located in the front of Cologne central station, and we are overwhelmed by 157 m in height!

For the next trip, we tried to visit Berlin. Why try? Because, it takes 4 h to go there by ICE, and it is the longest journey time using train for our family. Contrary to my concern, ICE was comfortable for children due to the presence of dining car and separated saloon room. In Berlin wall, we directly felt the negative history of physically and ideologically divided Berlin between 1961 and 1989. For our children, it was more impressive that two old men is kissing in the picture.

Then, we went to Stuttgart to visit Mercedes-Benz museum and Porsche museum, since our children are very interested in Germany car! We could learn the long history of both companies. However, a blue Porsche car with eye, which is named "Sally" in the movie "Cars", was most impressive for our children.

We are staying at Frankfurt. This city was seriously damaged during the period of World War II, and thus it is difficult to find historical building. Under this situation, our interest directed towards the historical Germany cities such as Heidelberg, Rothenburg, and Dresden. As we expected, the building, atmosphere, and culture of these cities are much different from that of Frankfurt!

We are now planning to go to Bremen and Hamburg in a short-term holiday including Reformation day. This will be our last trip during this stay in Germany. I am looking forward to eating seafood in Hamburg, because we mainly eat meat (and potato) in daily life in Frankfurt.



Dom in Cologne



Berlin wall



Mercedes-Benz museum



Porsche museum



Heidelberg



Rothenburg



Dresden