

# Camp Lyse

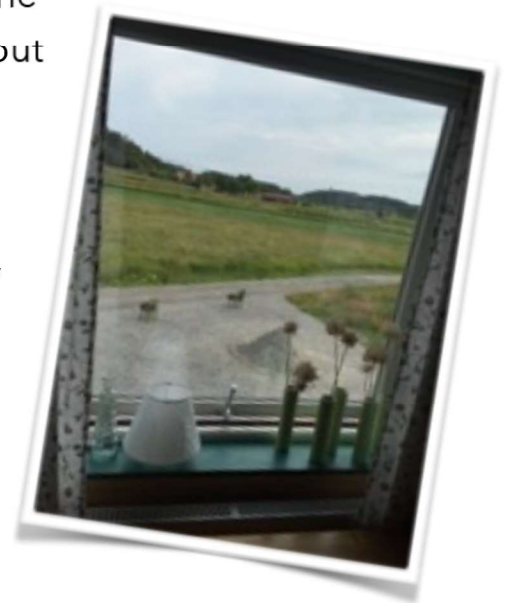
Lions Exchange Camp in Sweden



# Camp Lyse

## Home stay

I was fortunate enough to join - for a second time - a Lions camp and home stay. This time I was in Sweden, in the province of Bohuslän. Bohuslän is located about a 90 minute drive from Gothenburg Airport, where I landed. The first week I spent with Karen Blomstrand and her husband. Unfortunately his English was as limited as my Swedish, so most of the communication was with Karen. Also Toke from Denmark stayed at Karen's. We struck up a warm friendship and had lots of laughs!



Karen showed us the Agricultural School, which is going to be closed down. The pigs and cows had already been moved to another school location. We drove around Dingle, where Karen lives, enjoying the landscape. That was very nice, quite different from The Netherlands: there were hills!



We also visited a museum, explaining about the history in the region. And a quaint harbour, Smögen. So pretty! Fishing is



important to the Swedes.

On the cultural side, we visited a museum celebrating the career of the well known Swedish Hollywood actress Ingrid Bergmann, who lived there.

Also, not too far from Dingle, is a small zoo. It showed some exotic animals, but also (threatened)



Swedish wildlife.

Dingle has a train connection which stops there twice a week (! Sweden has a very low number of inhabitants per square kilometer). That was a lovely drive, with pretty views.

Toke and I met with a few other exchange participants for the first time, playing midget golf. I liked the group and we had good fun.



It struck me that Swedish television shows a lot of gambling adverts - but as Swedish is very hard to understand (it is a Germanic language, like Dutch - but VERY different!).



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## Camp

The final two weeks were spent with some 25 young people from all over the world in a nice scouting building. The other 'exchangers' came from Estonia, Israel,

countries like:  
Hungary, Denmark  
Germany, Italy,  
France, Belgium,  
Japan, Hong  
Kong, Turkey,  
Slovenia,  
Greece and  
Sweden. So

diverse! Boys/girls  
split was 50/50. I shared my

room with Toke. With some activities

we made our acquaintance as a group. The

introduction about Lions and nature was nice, but a bit lengthy. There was definitely a generation gap going on between the organizing Lions and the group. We heard that a lot of the preparation had been hampered by continuity issues, so I was impressed with what they had managed to

organise for us!



We made it to  
the local  
paper:





We had breakfast together, dinner was cooked for us (nice!!) and off and on we did our chores. Frequently, we had the so called Fika: tea/coffee/drinks with a cinnamon bun. Cozy and a nice moment to chat and rest.

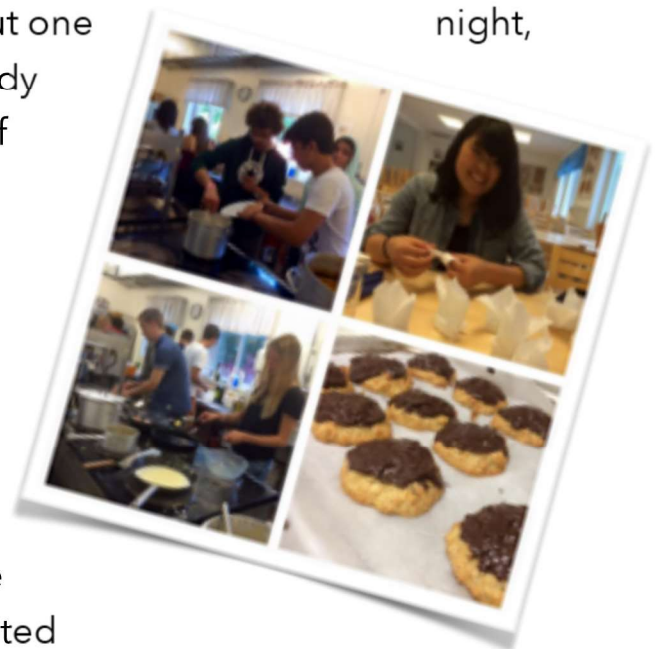
But one night,

everybody

made a sample of

typical food from their

country. I tried everything and like the French crepes best!



We

visited

Liseberg adventure park,

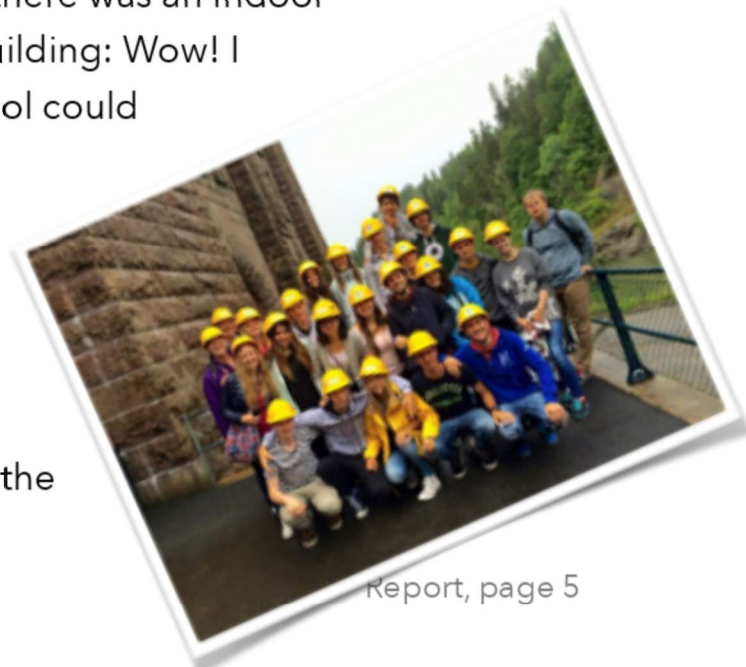
where the Helix rollercoaster stole

my heart. Despite the long waits, it

was terrific good fun! We did a boat

tour through Gothenburg harbour - there was an indoor-outside pool on the side of a high building: Wow! I never realized that swimming in a pool could induce vertigo...

The Uddevalla Science Museum was interesting - but more aimed at younger people. The tour through the hydroplant was impressive. Unfortunately the visit to the







Sweder

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Volvo factory was cancelled. Also, our two-day kayak hike was cancelled due to an approaching summer storm. What a pity! We had already practiced our survival skills earlier...



By the Aquarel



Museum (by the exquisite coast of Bohuslan), we rowed a boat together. At night, we played games. During the first week, we did our country presentations. My stroopwafels were a hit! A very Swedish phenomenon is the moose or elk, for which there is a museum. A nice visit.

So all in all, even though not all excursions were as interesting, the group was great fun. I enjoyed making friends and feeling accepted.

Thank you, Lions of Sweden, for making this stay so wonderful!

Sweder