

****A Day at Stuttgart Airport: Our Journey of Discovery****

First, we took the bus from the Bahnhof to the airport, and when we arrived, we saw how beautiful and nice it was. Then we got out of the bus and entered Terminal 4, I think—I don't remember exactly. We took the stairs to get to the first floor, where we needed to wait. Our teacher said that we could go eat and do whatever we wanted, but we needed to be at the meeting point by 9:55 AM. There, we regrouped, and then the guide came. It was a woman with a good vibe, and we followed her into a room with four big TVs.

She showed us a film, but before the film, she displayed a large photo taken from a helicopter, I think, showing the airport and explaining where everything is. She said the airport is approximately 400 hectares and has four terminals, serving as one of the busiest airports in Germany, handling millions of passengers each year. The airport is located about 13 kilometers south of Stuttgart city center.

Next, she showed us the SkyLoop, a distinctive architectural feature located at Terminal 3. It is a series of interconnected glass-encased walkways that curve above the terminal, offering both functionality and aesthetic appeal. The SkyLoop is not only functional but also a key visual highlight of Stuttgart Airport, contributing to its modern and efficient infrastructure.

Moving on, she told us about the Bosch Bridge (Bosch-Steg), a well-known pedestrian bridge near Stuttgart Airport. This distinctive bridge crosses the A8 highway and connects the Bosch parking area with Stuttgart Airport and the Messe (trade fair) area. Speaking of the Messe, Messe Stuttgart is a major trade fair and exhibition center located near Stuttgart Airport. It is one of the largest and most important fair venues in Germany, hosting a wide range of events, exhibitions, and conferences throughout the year.

Then we moved on to the ICS (International Congress Center Stuttgart). Part of the Messe Stuttgart complex, the ICS offers state-of-the-art facilities for conferences, meetings, and events, directly connected to the airport.

Next came the business part, which was a bit more serious. The Air Cargo Center is a dedicated facility for handling freight and cargo operations, playing a vital role in the airport's logistics and trade functions. Then we learned about the Zollamt Flughafen Stuttgart (Customs Office), which handles customs-related matters and is located in the freight building, as well as within the terminal area for passengers needing customs services. Finally, we visited the Airport Office Center (AOC), which houses various administrative offices, airline operations, and service providers essential to the airport's daily operations.

After this, we went out into the hallway, and the guide said that we couldn't have anything sharp, like a knife or scissors, and also anything that contained gasoline or alcohol, like lighters or perfumes. She told us that we needed to give her anything like that, and we did. She put them in a cabinet, and then we went to the Zoll confiscated items display, where we saw a bunch of things like cigarettes and corals—many random things (illegal, of course).

Next, we went to get some vests that had "VISITOR" written on the back. We wore them the entire day until the guide was done. Then we went outside of the airport to a gate, where we entered a building. They checked us for metals with detectors. After that, we got our things back and continued our journey.

Afterward, we saw the kerosene tanks. She asked us what type of fuel was in those tanks. No one knew, but then I remembered from the Microsoft Flight Simulator game and answered. After that, we went a bit further, and our guide called a bus to take us on our journey.

First, we stopped right next to a plane. We talked a bit about it; it had the engine covers on. She told us about them, and then we took a group photo. After that, we went to the Flughafenfeuerwehr Stuttgart (Fire Department). We entered the department, where there was a mini map of the fire department. We talked about it a little bit, and then she asked us if we knew how many minutes it takes for the fire department to reach where they need to be. We guessed 20, 15, or 10 minutes, but she said we were wrong. They only need 3 or 4 minutes to get anywhere from their department.

There was also one gas suit (Gasanzug), and after that, we went to the area where the fire trucks were. They were super cool! We also saw a machine that is used in tunnels or cars if there's a fire; it is remote-controlled, so no one's life is in danger when using it.

After our visit to the fire department, we boarded the bus again and headed to the Gepäckabfertigungsbereich (Baggage Handling Area). She warned us to be careful because there were cars coming fast, and we didn't want anyone to get hit. That was no problem; we were very careful. She also mentioned that we couldn't take any photos in there.

We observed the conveyor belts (Gepäckbänder) that move the baggage, but there was no one around and no baggage at that moment. After that, we didn't exit through the same way we came in; we took another exit. If you aren't fast enough to get out, it could trigger the alarm in the entire building, our guide said, so we hurried out.

Once we were back in the airport, we went up to the first floor and returned the vests. We could keep some kind of visitor pass, and she also gave us plastic cups with the airport logo and a poster of the airport. After that, we retrieved our belongings and said our goodbyes to our wonderful guide. We thanked her for showing us around, and who knows, maybe we'll come work here one day!

Finally, we went down and waited for 20 minutes before we left because we needed to take the bus back home. While waiting, we found some massage chairs, so of course, we had to try them out. Everyone went where they wanted, and we needed to meet at the meeting point. Once that was done, we went to the bus terminal, took the bus home, and that was our journey. **A Day at Stuttgart Airport: Our Journey of Discovery**

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