

My First Experience with Servas

I heard about Servas from a friend some time ago and in June of this year heard that she had had a request to put up a young man from Uganda for the Climate Conference in Bonn and was unable to host. As we were at home during the time he wanted to come, I told my friend I could put him up in our house in Bornheim.

It turned into a very interesting experience! Olaa was an engaging young man and had many interesting stories to relate about growing up in war-torn Uganda and his own personal journey. It ended up with him and his girlfriend, Barbara, staying for about ten days, as the hotel she had booked could only take her for two nights. During that time we really only saw them morning and evenings (which was best for us too as we were also quite busy) as they were busy both visiting the conference and trying to fit in short tourist trips to Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin and Dortmund stadium (Olaa!). Their energy was boundless as the trips were all very short and involved late night travelling but I understood that they wanted to make the most of their trip to Europe having come such a long way. It was fun having these young, energetic and enthusiastic young people to stay.

We were very impressed with them both and Olaa has since been elected as president of the student parliament in Kampala. The experience encouraged me to join Servas.



© Mary, photo: private