

Travel Man: Peter Cox on Tour

I travelled to Switzerland for two weeks as part of the YF Travel Programme.

There were many countries on offer and I decided to apply for the Switzerland opportunity as I had never been there before. I also felt that it was perhaps a little bit more exotic than some of the other options, such as Scotland! Having been selected to represent England after attending an interview at the National YF office in Stoneleigh Park, I was let loose in Switzerland from 19th June to 3rd July 2018.

My instructions were to meet the Swiss YF representative at Zurich Airport and I was soon sent on my way via train for two hours to Hasliberg. After plenty of photo opportunities and the occasional selfie, I arrived and met my host mother Monika Von Bergen. The car journey winding up the mountains provided me with the time to find out more about my host family, and the alpine dairy farm where I would be staying, the one crucial piece of information which Monika failed to tell me however was that her husband, also called Peter, does not speak a word of English!

I was first put to work the morning after arriving. I'd never milked a cow before so to be taught how to do so by someone who does not speak English was shall we say a little tricky... My other tasks included making cheese, moving the cattle and entertaining the dog called Shaula, whilst enjoying all the stunning views. I really enjoyed these duties because they are very different from my usual office day job. Fortunately, I did get to explore the country as well and put my hiking skills to the test by walking to the top of the mountain and taking a cable car to the nearby town of Meiringen. The town is full of sights including a waterfall and a mountainous gorge, the only requirement of this trip was that I had to be back for the afternoon milking.



During the first weekend of my trip, I met with Young Farmers from all across the world who were also taking part in a trip like mine! There were 13 of us in total and we set about with team building challenges as well as opportunities to learn more about Switzerland and each of our own countries. This was of course sandwiched by a party, so we did all share an interest in some way or another! I'm still in contact with some of the people I met and hope to meet up with them again.



I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Switzerland and although it was for only two weeks, I made sure that every minute counted. The list of countries on the YF Travel Programme includes Canada and New Zealand. If you would like to visit either of these places, why not explore through Young Farmers and see much more than if you travelled on your own?