

## 3rd International Servas Meeting in the Ruhr Area from 12 to 14 August 2022 in Duisburg

We had to wait four years but our dream came true: our 3<sup>rd</sup> International Servas Meeting, which was originally planned for 2020, finally took place in Duisburg. Once again it was a fantastic meeting with wonderful guests and hosts :-)



“There was plenty of time to chat, meet new Servas members and make new contacts. The Servas spirit could be felt throughout the meeting,” said Helen from Switzerland enthusiastically

17 guests from Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland arrived in the Ruhr area on Thursday and Friday and welcomed by their hosts.

On **Saturday** we met at the Landschaftspark, the Landscape Park, Duisburg Nord where we were joined by day guests from nearby towns, a total of 47 Servas members.



After a welcome and introduction we had time to chat and meet each other. We then went on guided tours (in English and German) of the huge site of the former iron plant in Duisburg-Meiderich, now largely used for culture, leisure and events.

It was a really hot day but nevertheless most of us climbed up to the 70m high viewing platform of former blast furnace no. 5.



We then had time to walk around or relax with a cold drink or ice cream.





At 6pm we all met again at the restaurant where we enjoyed good food and were able to chat before we all gradually left, tired but happy after a great day.



On **Sunday morning** we met in Duisburg-Ruhrort where we took the boat on a two-hour tour of the largest inland port in Europe.



As the boat went along the Rhine we could see the "Echo of Poseidon", the "Rhine Orange" a sculpture located at the point where the Ruhr flows into the Rhine, and scrap metal pressed into cubes and then the boat entered the port basins.



We heard so much about the importance of inland waterway transport. It was the captain of the boat who personally entertained us with a wealth of information which a translator kindly translated into English.



We then had lunch and at 4.30pm the Servas meeting ended. But we couldn't leave without singing "Glückauf", the traditional miners' song and regional anthem of the Ruhr area.



Some guests stayed on for a few days and saw more of the region.

There really is a lot more to see and experience such as, for example, the Tiger and Turtle walkable sculpture built on the site of a former slag heap in the south of Duisburg.



The meeting was a great success and we're already looking forward to next time: we are planning another meeting in the Ruhr region in **2024** and the focus will be on Bochum.



Auf Wiedersehen and goodbye :-)

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