Day 12
Bremen, Germany

Since our first day in Bremen was cut short due to the time it took to travel from Copenhagen, we took advantage of the second day to explore the city. We started off by venturing into “old town”. This area consisted of some of the city’s most beautiful buildings including the St. Petri Dom Bremen Cathedral. This cathedral was originally built in the 11th century and since then has had renovations and expansions to form it into the structure it is today. We walked through the cathedral and saw the historic rooms it held as well as the massive organ used during services.

Just outside the cathedral was the Town Musicians of Bremen Statue. There is an old fable in which four musicians go on a quest to find Bremen, which was known for its great freedom. The musicians in this fairy tale are animals and set off to find Bremen while encountering different situations on their way. A few of us were able to get a picture next to the Towns Musicians of Bremen Statue, which is thought to give good luck to everyone who touches it. After we left old town, we walked along the water. There, we were able to try native German food such as Schnitzel, Schwarzwurst, and Apfelstrudel.

Throughout the day it was easy to notice that Bremen was a town focused on reducing their carbon footprint and creating an eco-friendly environment. Many of the
residents biked as opposed to drove and there were resources throughout the city to assist with reducing the amount of cars on the roads such as City Bikes and affordable public transportation. Additionally, there were many wind turbines in and around the city. Germany’s pursuit of renewable energies has led them to be on the forefront of these technologies.

Most of all, it seemed as if the choice to “go green” was more a culturally decision than anything else. The people in the city seemed to have an interest in helping the environment and didn’t mind riding their bike if it meant it would help the country achieve its goal. This is something that isn’t seen much in the United States but all over Europe in countries that are doing a much better job of reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

Pj Tatano