

Valkenburg Christmas Market

Valkenburg Christmas market was one of the Fontys activities and basically it was a Christmas market located inside a cave from the World War as it used to be a bunker. The concept behind it was pretty cool. The market was just about a two-hour drive by bus from Tilburg and its very famous here in the Netherlands. We were lucky to have arrived very early because we didn't have to wait in the queues for that long. However when we left the caves the lines were unbelievable, there were at least two hundred people waiting to get in, if we hadn't come early we would have spent our entire day in line which would have meant that we wouldn't get to see much of the city. The Christmas market in the cave was actually really big and it was so easy to get lost because of the countless number of dead ends. They had a large variety of products you could purchase in there, mainly little souvenirs, chocolate, wine and other Christmassy things. Another thing that I noticed whilst in the cave was that there was no signal whatsoever, so if you do ever plan on visiting Valkenburg Christmas market prepare to lose touch from the world for a couple of hours 🤔. However, the swipe machines were still working so they must have been connected to Wi-Fi or something but at least we could purchase items using our debit cards.

After we left the cave we had a little bit of some free time until the next thing, which was a tour of the city, so everyone pretty much just went exploring the city by themselves as well as finding somewhere to eat. Some of us decided to just go eat since we were going to explore the city either way, so we felt it would be better to tour the city once instead of repeating the same thing later. Unfortunately things didn't exactly work out as planned but I will get more into that later. So once the time for the tour arrived we all met near one of the canals where our tour guide was waiting for us. Valkenburg is a pretty old looking city, in fact it's more of a village rather than a city. During the tour we managed to see just a few places then the rain decided to ruin everything. At this moment I wished that I had done my own personal tour before because there was a mountain with a huge castle made from stone but got bombed during the world war and I really wanted to see that but I thought I would get the chance to see it during the tour. Since that didn't work out, we all just decided to go to a bar in the city where we got a couple of drinks while waiting for our time to go the bus 😞 In this moment I was pretty disappointed that I hadn't gotten to see much of the city, but after drinking a little I started loving the place, I guess you can say we basically travelled all the way to Valkenburg to spend a few hours in a bar 😊

Overall Valkenburg was okay, but not the best. If the weather had been in our favour I'm positive that it would have been even more enjoyable. The city was filled with tourists from all over who had come to see the Christmas market so it's a pretty busy place but very small making it easy to get around. If you ever plan on going there I'm sure you will be able to cover the main parts of the village within at least two hours because most of it is just houses, the centrum itself isn't so massive.

