

My favourite things



My name is Ute Froehlich. I'm married with two boys, seven and nine years old. Before we had kids, my husband and I spent two years in New York. We moved from Munich to London/Richmond two years ago. Before this I worked in the banking and insurance sector. For now I'm home and settling the family.

Your best advice to someone just arriving in the UK?

When we arrived it was quite helpful joining the FOCUS family.

The best place to meet people?

FOCUS organises so many meetings and workshops. I understood things better and met a lot of helpful people. Participating in their events provides a lot of contacts you might need for social and working life.

Your preferred pub, bar or restaurant?

We love to go out in the West End or in Richmond. We enjoy the food and the vibrant atmosphere at Chotto Mate in Soho or in Richmond we love to sit for a good steak and nice views at Gaucho restaurant.

Your favourite place for a UK weekend away?

So far it has been to the New Forest and the Isle of Wight.

The highlight of your UK adventure so far?

The best UK adventure for the whole family has been visiting Harry Potter World.

The most fabulous spa or hair salon?

We have our preferred hair salon here in Richmond, the Kymata hair spa, run by Georgina.

The best ice-cream?

During the summer we spent some time in the Italian ice cream shop Bella Del Gelato in East Sheen. The kids also love to have crepes at La Creperie on Brewers Lane in Richmond.

Your preferred mode of transport?

Because we love living in an outer borough of London our preferred mode of transport is the bicycle. My husband travels by moped into the city to save a lot of time for his commute.

Your first memory of arriving in the UK?

When we arrived in summer 2016 it was around 30 degrees. Everybody in Germany was saying that it rains a lot in the UK. We didn't have rain for weeks. We still believe the weather here is better than we had in Munich.

The best place to workout/exercise?

I really love to be outdoors. We are lucky to have Richmond Park just few steps away. For me this is the best place to have a run or exercise on the various benches. For yoga and HIIT training I prefer Bhuti in Richmond.

The best place to take out-of-town guests?

When we have out-of-town guests we always walk from Petersham to Richmond Hill, have a drink and enjoy fantastic views with a great sundowner at The Roebuck. For some good live music at New Year's Eve, The Vault is a great spot.

The best place to take the kids on a rainy day?

We love to take the kids to White Spyder.

Your favourite park?

Our preferred park is of course Richmond Park. There is so much to do there with the kids, even on a rainy day.

Best thing about London in the spring?

We love the spring in the UK, because it comes quiet early compared to Munich. We are in Kew Gardens on a regular basis and visit the Isabella plantation. You can't get a better picture of the UK spring.

Your favourite way to spend a Sunday afternoon?

We often spend time in Richmond with friends, sitting outside at a pub, with the kids playing on Richmond Green or a Sunday roast in The Marlborough.

I felt settled when...

...we had a neighbourhood and a house that we called home. When everybody started finding new friends. When the kids started speaking a new language. When we started to have our very own concept of living in the UK which is, ultimately, a combination of German traditions and English style.

