

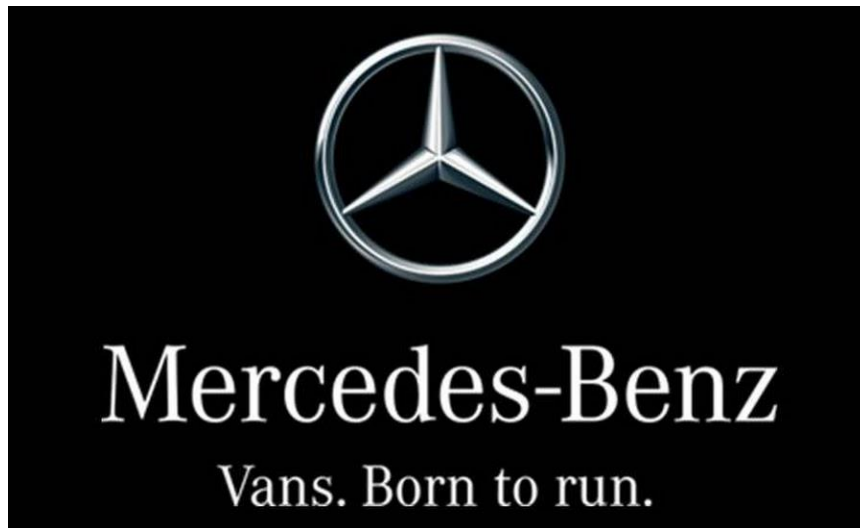


Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC, Charleston, SC

Anonym

Maschinenbau – Wirtschaftsingenieurwesen – 3./4.Fachsemester

15.07.19 – 10.01.20



Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC (MBV) is a Charleston South Carolina-based plant that manufactures Sprinter vans for the U.S. market. Until 2018, the vehicles were manufactured entirely in Düsseldorf, then disassembled again and delivered to the United States, where they were reassembled. With the success of the Sprinter van in the U.S. market, the decision made to expand to a full-scale production plant. 2015 Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC has invested 500 million US dollars in the construction of a new Sprinter production facility as well as in the expansion of the previous assembly activities. Then in September 2018, MBV officially opened its new plant with the new Body shop, new Paint shop and extended Assembly shop.

Charleston, SC, USA

- Charleston is the oldest city in South Carolina and is located on the east coast of the United States.
- Charleston has been known for its religious tolerance and is also called „The Holy City“. Religious freedom brought people from all over the world to Charleston.
- It is an architectural jewel that invites you to take a trip back in time, but also leads you into dark times of American history.
- Due to its rich past, Charleston offers travelers various cultural attractions, such as: Charleston Market Place, The Battery, Boone Hall-Plantage and many more.



Tasks during the internship

During my time at MBV I worked in the field of Inhouse consulting and had the opportunity to participate in several projects.

For example, on the one hand I worked on identifying bottlenecks in the assembly shop. Solving them together with the department responsible for the bottleneck and prepared presentations with the results. In addition, I learned to use a Daimler software tool and analyzed production data and created management reports.



- I have learned how to deal with different cultures in my daily work
- I had the opportunity to work on strategic issues and got to know the political level in companies.



Impressions

It all starts with the whole visa process. Then finally arriving in America, your life will completely change. You have to take care of everything yourself and you don't always have a contact person at the beginning. Meaning the first weeks are a bit tiring. Then finally arrived you are confronted with all the beautiful life on site and the outstanding people. In addition to this life you will get to know a slightly different way of working, which is of course american in spirit. The whole life there shapes and develops you and then, in addition to the work and the local people, you also travel to other states where you also collect completely different impressions.

Cultur

In a new country I am very interested in history at the beginning. Charleston offers a lot of possibilities to understand the history of the „Holy City“ and the state through sights and museums. The southern states are also very hospitable and open people, which is very noticeable and will inspire you. But also animals such as alligators, cockroaches and snakes can be found here.

On the other hand, I was horrified by their opinion about weapons and also by the fact that everyone has the opportunity to own a weapon is slightly shocking.



- Dealing with waste and especially plastics

The lack of waste separation was already a shock. And also the handling of plastic, e.g. that in grocery stores almost every single product is put into a separate bag.

- Usage of the car

Every way here, no matter how small, is done by a car, which means you don't see pedestrians on the streets.

Tips & suggestions for future interns

- Make sure you apply for your visa as early as possible because it may take a while. Have all documents as a copy in Germany, the originals always with you and make digital copies, so that you always have access to them if necessary
- Try to maintain a healthy work-life-balance, so that you have the opportunity to take a lot of the culture with you.
- Right on the spot in Charleston you have access to three beaches (Folly Beach, Isle of Palms, Sullivan Island) which you should definitely visit after work or at the weekend.
- A visit to the surrounding universities like Clemson and Columbia is recommended to visit their sports events and hang out with the students. Especially Clemson has been very successful in American football the last years.
- The surrounding mountains also have a lot to offer when you drive further into the country. It is worth renting a cabin in the mountains, for example in Gatlinburg.
- Also plan trips to other states to see as much as possible during your trip.



My life after the internship...

I had the opportunity to practice my english and now I am almost ready to enter the international professional world. After my internship I will write my master thesis here in Charleston at Mercedes-Benz Vans and then apply for jobs so that when I come back to Germany I can almost start my professional life.

I enjoyed my time at Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC and in South Carolina but through my internship I also realized how important my family and friends are to me. So I can imagine coming back to work for a few months or even 1-3 years, but I would always come back home.



South Carolina

Charleston

