

London



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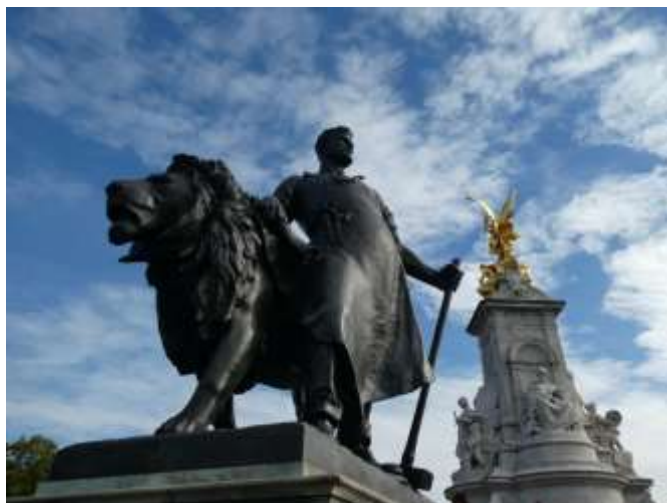
Our trip to London – Bilifahrt 8B – 29/09/ - 05/10/2019

Our trip started on Sunday morning at 7:15 a.m. at our school. We put our luggage into the coach and at 7:30 a.m. we finally left. That was the beginning of a very long journey, but it was worth it. We had been looking forward to this moment for more than 3 years!!

We arrived at a meeting point in Pinner about 14 hours later. Here a member of our host families picked us up. They were all very surprised because they thought we would arrive one day later!

On Monday we met again at another meeting point. From there we went up a little hill to the train station. As soon as we had arrived in the city centre we started our sightseeing tour.

Of course, we took a lot of cool photos of typical British things, places and sights. We saw Buckingham Palace, St. James's Park and visited the Museum of London. The museum was gigantic and there were so many historical things to see and the souvenir shop sold many interesting gifts.



St. James's Park was a bit dangerous because there were pigeons, squirrels and ducks attacking us!! (Just kidding!)

In front of Buckingham Palace we watched the 'Changing of the Guards'. Oh, and I can't forget about Millennium Bridge – do you remember that in one of the Harry Potter films the bridge was destroyed which in reality never happened, of course.



On Tuesday we did a street art tour which I enjoyed very much. Our guide was an Italian woman and really nice. We saw a lot of graffiti in different sizes which were done in special techniques. One artist even draws his art on chewing gum that pedestrians had spat on the street. Another one, called Banksy, doesn't show



himself. Nobody knows what he looks like but he surely produces interesting stencils.

After our tour the guide took us to an indoor market where we had the possibility to eat all kinds of food like fish and chips or Indian food. Anyway, after we had finished lunch, we went shopping in Oxford Street which was really cool. After a long day of shopping (and rain) we

made our way back to our host families which generally took about 50 minutes.



On Wednesday we did a lot of cool and exciting things that were inspired by our English textbook. First, we visited the Tower of London. It was very crowded but very antique and beautiful. From the entrance of the Tower you had a fantastic view of Tower Bridge and the skyscrapers. After that we took a DLR train. Can you



remember? It's the train without a driver that takes people to Greenwich. We got off the train near the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. It's a tunnel under the Thames! It is very long and it took us about 20 minutes to walk through it. Finally, we arrived in front of the Cutty Sark. It is a very old and huge sailing ship. On deck of the tea clipper we met real sailors and we played special interactive games that taught us what life was like in former times. There was also a moving bench that gave you the feeling of sailing.



Then we walked to Greenwich Park. I have never seen such a big and beautiful park before! We also saw the boating lake. We remembered it well from the first unit in our English textbook – to be honest, I never believed that it exists.



Soon we walked up the hill to the Royal Observatory where we all wanted to put one foot in the west and one in the east of the Meridian Line. The first thing we did once we were up there was taking a cool picture of our class in front of a beautiful background view. But we were a little disappointed by the Meridian Line because the line was so short.

Unfortunately, you have to pay if you want to see the longer bit. Still we all did a lot of funny photo-shooting.



For our way back to the city we took a boat. It was interesting to see how many people use the boat as public transport and going underneath the Tower Bridge by boat was amazing!



Thursday was a great day. In the morning we visited “Wallington Highschool for Girls”. The boys felt very uncomfortable because all the girls kept staring at them. Anyway, the girls were very nice and funny. Most of them were able to speak German quite well and some of them had a fantastic pronunciation. We accompanied them in their lessons and in the German lesson we had to talk to them. After that they showed us their huge and beautiful school building. I liked the uniforms the girls were wearing.

After our morning at school our very patient and relaxed coach driver took us to the Harry Potter Studios. This was my favourite part of the day. The studios looked amazing on the outside but the inside was even more stunning. Before we were allowed to walk through the exhibition we took part in a workshop about how to make costumes and sets which was really interesting.



When we started our tour through the different halls I realized how big the whole building was. There were so many props, rooms and details and every scenery looked so realistic. It felt like being in one of the Harry Potter movies. I think everyone has probably taken a lot of pictures. The only thing I know is that I have taken hundreds!



Friday was our day of departure, but still we did lots of cool visits. We had already packed our suitcases the night before, so we were ready to put everything into our coach at 8 o'clock the next morning. Then we took the underground to the Science Museum and after that we visited the Natural History Museum. This museum was really huge. It has 3 floors where you can learn about dinosaurs, bugs, birds, crystals, earthquakes or volcanoes and many other topics. I was amazed! My favourite sections of the museum were the ones where you could see dinosaurs, sea creatures and crystals. They were just stunning! And the museum was so big that me and my friend got lost several times ...





In the afternoon we went to the London Eye. There was a big queue, but luckily, we passed it in about 5 minutes. The ride on the London Eye was fantastic and again I took a lot of photos of the perfect view, of course. Half an hour later we watched the 4D movie about the London Eye which was really cool. I was a bit scared when water splashed on us.

Unfortunately, it was time to get to the O2 Arena where we would find our coach. We went on a double-decker bus for quite a long distance, but then we had to go the rest of the way on the underground.

Oh no, rush hour again! We had to separate the class into two groups because we could not fit into one train. Of course, we lost each other ... but met again at the meeting point. We bought some snacks for our journey in a small supermarket and then got on the coach which took us to Calais. At midnight we got on the ferry and after a long trip we safely arrived in Solingen at 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

If you ask me the trip was very exciting and absolutely cool. I have never been to London before which makes me even happier to have seen it.



Giuliana

Good bye, London!

