

Our trip to England

Our trip began on the 27th of April at 5 in the morning, which was pretty early, but YOLO. We met at the school parking lot, the teachers checked our passports and we got on the bus. It was really cool how the lights turned off. When the bus started, all the parents started waving and taking pictures and we all waved back. The bus ride to Calais was actually alright, but it was a bit uncomfortable. It was about 7 hours long, I'm not really sure.

The ferry was better than the bus ride because we got free food and we could spread our legs a bit. The food was ok, but it was unfair that we got smaller portions than the adults. The deck was so pretty and if you closely looked in the water you could see some fish.

After we docked in Dover, we drove to a parking lot in the town of Whitstable. We had to stay on the bus while the teachers explained some stuff. After that me and my friend were one of the first ones to get picked up by our host family. The parents were nice but their kids not really. We fell asleep really quickly that night. We had to share a blanket which did not bother me, but it was really cold, because we lived in a farm-like house.

We had to get up at 6 am, we got dressed, ate breakfast, brushed our teeth, got ready and left. We met at the parking lot where we met all the other kids and our teachers. From there we drove 1 ½ h to London. We went to Greenwich Park and took some class pictures and someone lost their wallet. Then we walked through the park down to the River Thames and when we arrived, we went on a boat tour down the River Thames to Westminster Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.



You could see a lot of sights like the Tower, Tower Bridge, the Shard and the Gherkin. I also bought an overpriced ice cream for 3,50 pound. When the cruise was over, we saw Big Ben and walked to the city. When we arrived, we had time to look around London. My friends wanted to go to build-a-bear shop, but we sadly ended up not going because it was too expensive. We had to meet at an underground station to get to St. Paul's Cathedral. The

guide told us where to go and we went up the stairs. When we arrived at the top of the church tower we could see almost all of London, then a teacher asked us if we wanted to go even higher, and some said yes, some said no and we then went up to the very top. The view was really awesome but it was windy and I was scared that I was going to lose my phone. I think we went home after that I can't really remember.

After we got up on the next day we stayed in Whitstable where we had to complete a rally. We wanted to finish the rally slowly, but we arrived like 1h early at the meeting point. I fell asleep on the bench like a homeless person, but YOLO. After that we drove to a beautiful sandy beach in Margate where me and my friends built a huge sandcastle. We turned away for one second and someone had already destroyed it – well, that someone were some guys from my class. They tried to make it better but it didn't really work, so we buried a guy from our class in it and gave him a ten pack. Before all that we had some free time to do whatever we wanted, so we went to this place called Dallas where we had some really great pizza. After we had buried that guy in the sand we took some pictures. Then a lady came out of nowhere with two dogs and we had some fun playing with them. A few minutes before we left, some guys from my class started pickpocketing, they took my phone and I barely got it back. After we arrived back home in Whitstable, we got picked up by our host parents and we drove home. We ate dinner, changed, brushed our teeth and went to sleep.



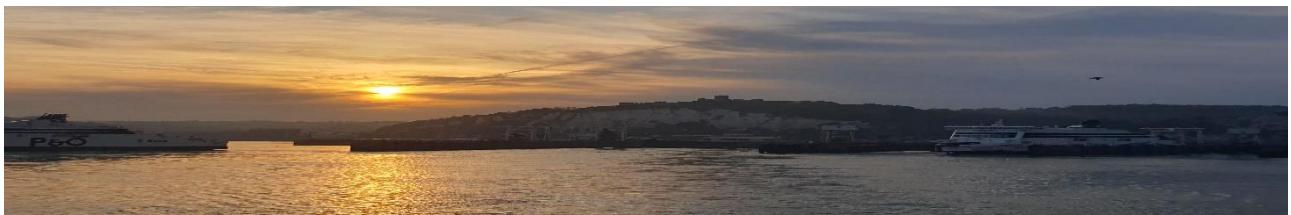
After we woke up the next morning, we changed, ate breakfast, brushed our teeth, got ready and left and we got a lunchbox. We went to London, watched the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace, went to Covent Garden etc. I didn't really like it at Covent Garden, we just sat around and ate some overpriced hot dogs. Before that we went to Trafalgar Square and China Town for only an hour, so we couldn't get anything done really. Then we went to Tower Bridge, which was cool because you could see through the glass floor. So, after Covent Garden we went home and slept.



The next day we went to Canterbury on double-decker busses, which was the best day if you ask me, except for the rally there because that just made us tired. We went to eat at McDonald's and went shopping. Then we bought supplies at a supermarket and started the trip back.



The trip back felt way shorter and the ferry was very pretty because we could see the sun going down. I could even buy some presents for my family there at the duty-free store. We also had some free food which was better than last time and the portions were bigger. After the ferry cruise we rode on the bus again. Some people slept through all night all but me and my friend did not. We watched movies, ate snacks, talked and tried to sleep, but it didn't go work. We also took some funny pictures of people sleeping but of course asked if it was alright to keep them after they woke up. We arrived back in Landau at around 7:30 am at the school where we got picked up by our families.



Recommendations:

- I would recommend you take good walking shoes with you, because you will walk a lot.
- Also, you will spend more money than you think, so you should really think twice before buying something.
- You should definitely take a lot of pictures with your friends, I regret not having done that.
- Wear comfortable clothes for the bus ride and take a pillow with you.

You won't spend a lot of time at the house of your host family, so don't feel stressed if you did not get a room with the person you wanted to. That's all, I hope you'll enjoy the trip too!

Tuana Shabani, Sb

