

London Trip – January 2017

On Monday the 9th of January all of the 19 students from G2015 met each other at Basel Airport to fly together to London. Our transfers were organised very well, so there was no problem to reach the city centre from Gatwick Airport by train. The journey from Victoria Station to Kings Cross Station was much more difficult because there was a tube strike. So we had to take the bus, which needed a bit more time. Finally, we arrived at our youth hostel and deposited our luggage.

We met the teachers for lunch at British Museum, where we also spent about two hours to visit the different exhibitions. After that the next meeting point was at “New London Architecture” where we had a guided tour of the New London Model by the Director of NLA. It was very interesting to hear some facts about the land use planning in London and how the city is growing constantly.

Because of the tube strike we walked from the New London Architecture to the pub we had reserved for dinner. This tour took us about an hour and was guided by Gareth Boyes, PhD student at University College London.



On this tour we passed Waterloo Bridge so that we could see the London Eye, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey and then walked along the river Thames until we reached Tower Bridge.

On Tuesday morning we met at Kings Cross Station to travel together to Greenwich where we visited the Greenwich Observatory. With an audio guide we discovered the history and the knowledge of the British astronomers at various times and of course how the prime meridian was defined.

After this visit we had some free time which we used to cross the Thames with the Emirates Cable Car. This was a fun experience because we mostly use cable cars in winter to go skiing and not for sightseeing. Later we went on in smaller groups and walked through the city to see Buckingham Palace and Piccadilly Circus. In the evening the whole class met again for dinner in Camden Town. We found a very good grill restaurant, where we could have dinner all together at the same table.



On Wednesday morning we met at the British Library, which was straight across the street from our hostel. There we visited the exhibition "Maps of the 20th Century". As the title suggests, different maps from the 20th century were shown. Many of them had a connection to the second world war.

Because our flight back to Basel was at two o'clock we had to leave London early. On the journey we got a bit nervous because while we were waiting for the train back to the airport there was an evacuation of the train station and we didn't know if we would reach the flight on time. Fortunately, we just had to wait a few minutes outside the train station, could get to the airport for our flight and arrived home safely.

To sum up, it was an enjoyable, fun and very interesting trip and we would like to thank the school and the teachers for making this trip possible.