



## LONDON

Saturday 25th of April

Saturday 25 April Melissa, Leila, Doriana, Jolien, Mr. Desair, Mr. De Bruijne, Mrs. Voets and myself left for a trip to London. At 8.34 am our train left Neerpelt Station. Our first stop was Berchem where we had to change to the train for Brussels-South. Once we arrived in Brussels, we had a drink before we went aboard of the Eurostar to London.

After one hour and a half we finally arrived in London St. Pancras International Station.

It was about one o'clock when we left the station to go to our hotel. We went there by underground. After approximately ten minutes we arrived at Gloucester Road Station, which was located at about 300 meters from our hotel. Doriana checked us in and we could go to our rooms to freshen up a little. Then at three o'clock we left the hotel and we were ready for our first guiding tours.

Our first guide was Leila, who guided Big Ben, Houses of Parliament and Westminster Bridge for us. It was quite funny when she explained Westminster Bridge to us, because Leila didn't know which of the bridges was Westminster Bridge. Finally she realized that we were actually standing on top of Westminster Bridge. Then it was time to go to White Hall, where Doriana would give us more information, but she couldn't find the right building, so she did her guiding tour in front of the wrong building. She also told us something about Downing Street, which unfortunately we couldn't see because we were standing on the other side of the road and there was an enormous crowd standing in front of the gate that secures Downing Street.

We then went to Trafalgar Square, where I was the guide. And on Trafalgar Square the National Gallery is situated, which was guided by Melissa. Next on the schedule were Leicester Square and Covent Garden, which I both guided as well. The last guided tour, Westminster Cathedral, was for Doriana again. Afterwards we were all starving and we went to have dinner in an enormous restaurant called 'Prezzo'. After our delicious meal we went back to the hotel. In the lobby we discussed the day and it was about midnight when we could all go to sleep.

Sunday 26th of April

After a tasteful breakfast in the hotel we left for Hyde Park. On Sunday morning there are people discussing culture, religion, ... in a part of Hyde Park called Speakers' Corner, which we also visited. It was rather funny to see all those people standing on their step-ladders in all kinds of crazy outfits speaking their minds. I also guided Marble Arch, but this was kind of silly, because we couldn't see Marble Arch, because there was a tree standing in front of it. Afterwards Doriana took us to the nearby Kensington Gardens. After this long walk we decided to take a break and we had coffee at Starbucks. When we had finished our coffee Doriana took us for a walk through Notting Hill and Portobello Road. Then we searched for the nearest underground station and we went back to the hotel. At about 8 o'clock we left the hotel and went to Piccadilly Circus, where our guide was Jolien. After an exhausting day we had dinner in a very nice steak house. The food was absolutely delicious, but unfortunately this showed on the bill.

## Monday 27th of April

Today we had to get up really early, because at 10.30 am we had an appointment at the Grange Strathmore City Hotel. We met with the manager of the hotel, Sarab. He was a rather strange guy actually. We asked him questions and his answers were not quite what we expected and he could barely speak English. After a cup of coffee we had a guided tour from his assistant, Esther. She showed us the entire hotel: restaurant, conference rooms, all types of rooms, swimming pool, ...

After our visit to the hotel Jolien told us what the London Dungeon was all about before we went to see for ourselves. The London Dungeon is a museum that reproduces the bad and scary history of London and that is exactly what we experienced. It was really scary inside. There were live actors and many scary things. Everybody was screaming all the time (even the teachers). After our scary visit to the London Dungeon we had lunch at 'La Rouge', a French café in London. But the food was absolutely delicious. In the afternoon Jolien was our guide for the Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. And the last guided tour was St. Paul's Cathedral, which I guided. After this guided tour, we went for a drink in a nice Italian bar. After another exhausting day we went back to the hotel for a nap. At about 8 pm we left for dinner. Leila had made a reservation at the Hard Rock Café. We arrived there too late, because we had to wait for over 10 minutes for the underground, so they had given away our table and we had to wait for almost an hour before we could finally have dinner. And again it was over midnight before we got back to the hotel.

## Tuesday 28th of April

After another delicious breakfast we were ready for our first guiding tour. Melissa took us to Buckingham Palace, where we could watch the Changing of the Guards. After almost one hour and a half, we went on to The Mall, a busy street that runs from Buckingham Palace to Trafalgar Square. Melissa told us something more about this street before taking us to St. James's Park, a very nice and relaxing park. Now it was time for lunch and we went to a tiny sandwich bar for a quick snack. After lunch we listened to Leila for the last guiding tour for today, the London Eye. Our guided tours for that day were over so we went for a cup of coffee at Starbucks. Afterwards we went to the hotel to freshen up and then we left to the district of Soho where we had dinner. Normally we had planned an evening activity but everyone was so tired that we went straight back to the hotel.

## Wednesday 29th of April

After breakfast and packing our bags we left for our very last guiding tour. Jolien took us to Harrods, an enormous shopping centre. We got one and a half hour to go in and see for ourselves how immense it is. Before we picked up our luggage we went for our final lunch in London. And then it was time to say goodbye to London. At 14.34 pm our train to Brussels left St. Pancras International Station. And this was the end of our very educational, fun and lovely trip to London.

**Chloé Berkman – 6 Toerisme**