

TRAVEL REPORT

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MANCHESTER

Anglistic excursion September 2013

Report

Exploring Manchester and the area around was absolutely worth getting wet several times (a day).

My personal highlight on this excursion was visiting Conwy with its wonderful castle and the tiny old town centre with little shops and a cosy market. Also Castleton, where we took a walk through rough nature, got to meet some nice sheep and afterwards explored the hospitality of a very nice and traditional pub, was one of my favourite trips during our excursion.

Conwy Castle

getting in touch with a sheep in Castleton

Conwy

Conwy

As we entered the town of Conwy I was amazed by this old and beautiful town.

Though it was grey and cold weather, the castle and the little houses looked cosy and historical. We took a walk through the old castle ruins and I felt really connected to the history as this place is some kind of a starting point of the *Wars of the Roses*, a fight between the houses of Lancaster and York which both had roses in their coat of arms. At the end of these several wars the Welsh Tudors succeeded the crown.

[Editor's note: Wrong war! These Welsh castles were built by the English Tudors (under Edward I) to keep the Welsh under control!]

Not only the castle and its history caught my attention but also the nice town centre did.

Below the castle a little middle age market was held, containing owls and eagles that we were allowed to touch. As I have never had touched an owl or eagle before, it was a very special and powerful moment at once. I walked further through the little town and found an excellent bakery where I had the ultimate apple pie and a cup of nice English tea as it was raining cats and dogs outside. I would really like to visit Conwy again in summer.

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Castleton

This little village is exactly what I have in mind when someone asks me about what the English countryside looks like: little houses of stone, green meadows, sheep, a church, an old castle ruin and people driving around in Land Rovers with a Border Collie at the back. But this stereotype isn't intended to be negative: it is really beautiful to me. Walking through the village, we found a little hiking trail, more or less by accident, and decided to take a walk. Unfortunately we didn't have the right shoes to walk the whole path, as it was really pebbly and slippery. But we got a tiny view of the nature which was wonderful. It somehow reminded me of my journey to Ireland a few months ago. Sooner or later it began to rain and we returned to settle down in a traditional pub, waiting for our coach ride back to our accommodation.

This pub is one of the nicest I have visited so far. Old furniture, a warming fireplace and, on the whole, delicious food. I tried my first black pudding which, I must admit, was not really my cup of tea. But the homemade apple crumble brightened up my mood. Or maybe the pint of Guinness. I'm not that sure anymore.

Though Manchester itself wasn't too interesting for me because I'm not so much into city trips in general, the few little trips we made I liked a lot. I would recommend

participating on a excursion for any other student. It is a good way toget to know the country and the language you study in a personal way.

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