

Travel report

The excursion to Manchester from the 10th to 19th September was great. During the stay, we lived at a student village in Salford. To get in the city of Manchester, it only took around 20 minutes with the coach. We had enough time to discover Manchester, but we also travelled to different places and towns near and far from Manchester.

On the 12th September, a big part of our group did a bicycle tour which took the whole day. First, we went to Buxton by train and from there, a taxi took us to the Monsal Trail, a cycle, horse riding and walking trail in the Derbyshire Peak District. First we got our mountain bikes and our helmets. The helmets looked all the same and the bikes were only divided into bikes for men and bikes for women, the only difference was the color (the men had a white bike, the women a pink-purple one). As everyone was ready, we started the cycling tour. On this day we were lucky because the weather was good and the sun was shining. Most of the other days, it was rainy and windy in and outside of Manchester during our stay.

While riding, we enjoyed the landscape and sometimes stopped for a couple of minutes to take photos. Everything was green, the trees, the meadows, the hills, it was a beautiful view. From time to time, there were tunnels from the former railway on the trail. A lot of people crossed our way, some of them taking a walk, accompanied by their dog, other people also riding a bike. We were advised to ride on the left side of the trail which was strange at the beginning because in Germany you ride on the right side. In England we had to accept the British rules, but it was no problem.

The Monsal Trail was a rather easy route to cycle because it was straight, we had not to climb any hills with our bikes. I guess it took us around 90 minutes to reach the end of the Monsal Trail after 13.7 km. We left the trail and had some time to visit and discover the town next to the trail which was Bakewell. It was an ancient, old little town. The buildings looked very old and the streets were very narrow, a big difference compared to Siegen. First I discovered the town with some other people and we decided to go into a café to relax, eat and drink. The name of the café was “Naughty & Nice”, it was very small but nicely furnished and was a paradise for chocolate lovers. I chose the “Ultimate Chocolate Cake” and a “Hot Chocolate” and it was worth every penny. After this filling meal we left the café and took a look at the church which was on a little hill (the church's name is “All Saints Church”). It totally fit into

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the whole appearance of the town because the church was also little and old but very nice. After having discovered the church for a short time, we went back to our meeting point because the time was over and we had to go back to our bikes.

We went back to the Monsal Trail and rode back to our starting point. The weather was still warm and sunny, but we noticed that the way back was much harder, not only because we already had ridden 13.7 km and some of our group were a little bit tired but also because the route had a little ascent, and we were riding a little bit uphill. On the way there I did not notice that we had ridden downhill because the route seemed level. But on the way back I felt it in my thighs because I had not done sports for eight weeks because of a torn ligament. The group I was with rode the way back in a quick tempo without making a pause. As a result we were the first to reach the end of the trail. There we waited for the others and also for the taxi to pick us up and take us back to Buxton. From Buxton, we took the train back to Manchester. It was a nice day and I really enjoyed the bicycle tour.