

## Anglistik Excursion 2013

### Manchester and North - West England: September 10<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2013

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The Manchester excursion I and about fifty other students took part in was organized by the University of Siegen. My expectations of the excursion were that it would familiarize me with the city, its language and accents, its culture and characteristics. My expectations have been more than satisfied.

Our journey started at Cologne/Bonn Airport on the 10<sup>th</sup> September early in the morning. The plane only needed 45 minutes to take us to Manchester airport where a coach transfer took us to our accommodation at the University of Salford. We were lodged in four- to six-room apartments with a kitchen and a bathroom. The location of the university was ideal because of a shopping centre and numerous bus connections which were accessible on foot in three minutes.

On our second day there was a trip to Blackpool. We had enough time to visit the funfair *Pleasure Beach* and to go shopping or to discover the city. The Illuminations in the evening were the highlight and culmination of the day: the whole resort glowed and guided us our way back home with its magical lights.

As the following day was free for those who did not sign up for the cycle tour, my friend Jenny and I decided to discover Manchester's shopping qualities. We took a bus to Manchester Piccadilly where one shop lined up after another: a real paradise for shopping freaks. What really surprised me was how friendly the Mancs were. Whenever we were unsure which bus line to take or if we had a general question (for example about money exchange which turned out to be real trouble for Jenny and me ;-)) they took the time to explain everything helpfully. Another thing I did not expect was how distinctive and confusing the Manchester dialect was. Even I as a capable speaker of the English language had my difficulties to understand the people there many a time. At the same time this was very useful for Jenny and me as our project group topic was Manchester's dialects and accents, and we obtained a live foretaste of this.

Apart from shopping- amusements the historic and informative part of our excursion did not get a raw deal. In North Wales we visited the beautiful Conwy castle and took a trip to Llandudno, a small, dainty town I had not heard about before. In Castleton we marvelled at the amazing nature of the Peak District, the first National Park in the UK. For me personally, the three hours - city centre cruise was a perfect finish to this excursion, as I had to leave the rest of the group earlier because of the Dubai trip I booked before I had known anything about the excursion and which overlapped with it . Retrospectively I can say I do not regret that I had to pay an extra flight back to Germany because of the individual departure I had to make. I would have missed a lot of fun and an amazing time otherwise!