

Travel report: Manchester

From 10th to 19th September we stayed in Manchester and Greater Manchester in the UK. Although the weather was cold and rainy it was a great experience and we had much fun. Our accommodation was in the Student Village of the University of Salford next to Manchester. The flats were very plain but reasonable and near to the station. So it was easy to get into the City of Manchester and to Chester, Liverpool and so on.

On the first day we went on a coach trip to Blackpool. Unfortunately the weather was really terrible on that day so we got soaked to the skin. The funfair must be a great attraction but because of the rain we only visited Ripley's Believe It or Not. There we were able to have a really interesting trip through oddities of the whole world. In the evening I got a culture shock when we passed the Illuminations. There were a lot of big pictures in colored and bright lights. I think I never saw anything that is more kitschy than those Illuminations. My conclusion from that day is that Blackpool might be a little, family-friendly version of Las Vegas.

We also went to North Wales to visit Historic Conwy, an old castle and Llandudno, a beautiful small town on the coast and we visited the Peak District, the first national Park in England. There we went on a boat trip down an old mine.

On the other days I went to Manchester. It's a good place for shopping but also for museums and of course football. The MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry) is a very interesting place where you can get a good deal of information also about the history of Manchester but in particular about the industry of this region. It's also good for children because there are plenty of hands-on activities. For football fans there is a football museum where you can learn almost everything about (British) football.

But Manchester doesn't only consist of football and industry. There are also very nice places where you can sit in the sun and enjoy the atmosphere of the city. Around the cathedral there are little old houses with pubs and good restaurants.

A great trip was also the stopover in Haworth and the Bronte Museum there. In this museum the lifestyle of the Brontes is shown. But you don't only get information about the Bronte family but also you get an idea about life in the 19th century in Great Britain.

The excursion was my first trip to Great Britain and altogether it was a great experience. I love the landscape and all the small towns with the nice shops and cafes and I'm impressed about the friendliness of the British. They all were very polite and really friendly.

Ok, the weather wasn't great but we did have some sunny days and we knew we had to expect grey and rainy weather. I think it wasn't my last trip to the UK and maybe I'll visit Manchester one more time, but definitely North Wales.

Meike Stahlberg