

Manchester Excursion Report
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On Tuesday, 10th September 2013, we started our 9-day-excursion to Manchester. The plane took us from the airport Köln/Bonn to Manchester within just a few hours. Arriving at our accommodation in Salford some of us were a little disappointed as I have to admit. Although it was good that everyone had his or her own room, the apartments were not as clean as we had wished. The countertops in our kitchen were sticky and the cooker hood had some uncomfortable stains of brown colour. In our shower we found a used lady shaver. But we decided not to let this influence our mood. So we started to explore Manchester. Our first impression of that city was not that positive, but after seeking a little bit, we found some really pretty places like the Manchester Cathedral and the area around it.

Unfortunately, the weather was not very nice during the first few days. But as we had expected that in Great Britain, we were well prepared with raincoats, umbrellas and wellies. Among other things, we visited Blackpool, North Wales and the Peak District. But my favourite place was West Yorkshire, where we visited the Brontë Parsonage Museum. I had only heard about the books of the Brontë sisters before, but after visiting that museum and learning about their lives, I got myself an anthology of their novels. I found it really touching to hear that all of them died so young and none of them had children. We were told that the sisters used to walk around their dining room table at night after everyone else went to bed to read and discuss their writings. After Emily and Anne died, Charlotte was said to walk alone around the table at night. This truly moved me because it is such a sad image. The story of the Brontë sisters really left a lasting impression to me.

But also the town of Haworth, where the museum is located, was a neat place. The streets and houses looked old, but were well kept, so that it seemed easy to imagine how it must have looked like in the days of Charlotte Brontë and her sisters. Although the weather was bad, there were plenty of nice little shops to spend the time in. Among others, there was a small book shop called Spooks that mainly offered esoteric literature and ghost stories. As it was our last day in England already, I had the chance to spend my last Pounds there for some souvenirs.

After our visit in West Yorkshire, it was time to enter the ferry in Hull. We spent the last night of the excursion on the ship while it was taking us to Rotterdam, where we arrived in the morning of Thursday, 19th September 2013. A bus took us back to Germany. I bet all of us were tired and happy to be back home after the long journey. With a whole bunch of photos, souvenirs and memories in our baggage, it was time for us to get some sleep in our own beds.

In the end I would say Manchester, and England in general, is definitely worth a visit.