

A language and sightseeing trip of Business Academy PB to England

Nowadays it is nothing unusual to go to a foreign country if you want to learn or improve your language knowledge. However, it is still not very common for a secondary school student to visit Great Britain as it is a long journey there and quite expensive for most students to travel and stay there.



Our language class 3 A, the English group, and some other students of our school had an opportunity to visit this exciting country and stay there for a week, 30 September - 7 October 2006. The journey by coach with some breaks took more than 20 hours. We travelled with Student Agency and though our first experience was not very good (our double-decker had

a trouble), fortunately in The Czech Republic, and we had to change our London Express for another one, all we enjoyed the trip to the south of England to the full. I can even say it was a great success.

We got to England from France by the Channel Tunnel. The country welcomed us with its typical rainy weather which changed many times a day and for a while even the sun appeared in the sky. On the way to our destination – Hastings we stopped in Dover to visit Dover Castle and then in Canterbury to see its Cathedral. On Sunday evening we arrived in Hastings where the host families picked us (the teachers and the students) up and we stayed in their houses and they also provided us with the food all the week long. We had to get used to a very changeable rainy and windy weather.



On Monday morning we all met at school but did not have much time to discuss the first impressions of staying with the English families. After the students had done the tests, they were divided into three groups. The Slovak teachers could not visit the lessons, only the last day, but all the students were excited about the lessons and the English teachers and they said they had learnt a lot. They understood almost everything as the teachers spoke clearly, but especially at the beginning they were shy to communicate. It changed the next days and they became more communicative. On the last day they received the certificates and the teachers expressed satisfaction with their progress.

Every afternoon we had a sightseeing trip to different places in Southern England. We visited Hastings Castle, Smugglers' Caves, The Old Town of Hastings and its old fishing port, the town of Battle, where famous Battle of Hastings took place in 1066, an old pirate town of Rye, the beautiful cliffs named Beachy Head and Seven Sisters, which are popular suicide paradise, Brighton and its Sea Life Centre with lots of sea fauna and flora and Royal Pavillion and finally the capital city – London and many sights there –



Westminster Abbey, The Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square with the National Gallery, Whitehall, St James' Park, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, Oxford and Regent Streets, Sherlock Holmes' Museum and Madam Tussaud's Museum. I think it was more than enough during those several days.



I liked the hospitality of our host family, the Jacksons, the meals cooked by Mrs Jackson, though sometimes it is said the English cuisine is not very tasty, and the English are not very hospitable, their three children and detached house, beautiful green colour of the English lawns, the English scenery, especially that on the cliffs, visit to The National Gallery in London. I know not everything was perfect, surely not that horrible rainy weather in Brighton and London.

I would recommend a trip like this with this travel agency to everyone. The students and the teachers have very nice memories which will never be forgotten. When we now discuss the topics like English food, housing, shopping, weather or similar ones at the English lessons, the students who have been to England have the first hand experience and so no problem to express their opinions. Of course, a week does not help you to know the way of life of a foreign country but it helps to get some information about the country, life in the families and improve communicative skills.



Finally, a good piece of advice for all visitors to Great Britain: Never go to this country without an umbrella!

