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London Trip

From Monday January 4th until Wednesday January 6th our class went to London for sightseeing, to hear presentations at University College London (UCL) and to visit the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

Early in the morning on Monday, the trip to London started. Half of the class took a plane from Basel and the others, including us, from Zürich; we met up at London Heathrow Airport. With the Underground, the journey went on to Kings Cross Station near our youth hostel. After a delicious and spicy Indian meal, we spent the whole afternoon in the British Museum where we could admire the big selection of different exhibition pieces. The first day in London ended with a typical dinner in an English pub followed by a tour

through some interesting pubs. The beer culture is quite big in England which was in our favour. On Tuesday, a big day stood in front of us.

In small groups, the class went sightseeing on the hop-on hop-off buses or with the ferries. All was sponsored by the IVGI. Our group started at Kings Cross Station, and we went through the whole city centre to the Tower of London, where we took the boat to Westminster, and then, after a little walk through St James's Park, we walked past Buckingham Palace to Victoria Station. We drove to Euston Station with the Underground to get to UCL.

During the afternoon, we listened to some interesting presentations related to Geoinformation systems or Building Image Modelling. The presentation on 3D GIS and another on metadata from twitter posts were very interesting. In the first presentation, they showed us the potential of 3D GIS and some thoughts about the future on these systems, and in the second one, the result was a map with different user groups and their common post styles in specific areas of London. We went hungry and exhausted on to our dinner with

some of the presenters in a non-touristy area and, there we had the chance to discuss the presentations.

What was also special on this evening was the tour through the Soho area of London with the very interesting and well lit up Piccadilly Circus.

On Wednesday morning, we went all together to the Royal Observatory in Greenwich where two very good guides guided us through the observatory and explained the history of it, the surrounding area and how it came to the establishment of the historic Prime Meridian of the World.

After a quick lunch and a stop at the Sky Garden Balcony with the wonderful view over the skyline of south London, we went off to the airport to catch the plane back to Switzerland.

All in all, the short trip was a great opportunity to explore London and many historic places, to listen to presentations and to meet up with the presenters from UCL.



(View from the Sky Garden Balcony)