

London Study Trip Report

Our class spent 3 days in London. This short trip was held at the end of the 3rd semester. In the morning on the 10th of January 2017, we flew from Basel Euro Airport to London Gatwick Airport. Afterwards we took the Gatwick Express to Victoria Train Station. As a result of a strike at the underground, we had to take a bus to our accommodation. This journey was pretty long as there was a lot of traffic. In the afternoon, we visited the British Museum where there were many different exhibitions. It was very interesting to get an impression of how specific groups of people lived in earlier times.

Later on, we had a look at the new London Architecture Model which is a 1:2000 scale interactive model of central London. The model is 12.5 metres-long and covers more than 85 square kilometres of London. Its main aim is to show the story of London's historical and physical development. We had the possibility to listen to a presentation of the Director who told us many different aspects about the model and could answer all of our questions.



On the next day we visited a district of London called Greenwich, where the famous Prime Meridian of the world is situated. At first we walked up the hill to the Royal Observatory which is an old building that has a big red ball on its top. Its function goes back to earlier years when seaman set their clocks to the accurate time. In the inside of this building was a large exhibition. Everyone got an audio guide that explained how great scientists found out how to measure longitude and improve navigation at sea. It was combined with information boards and inventions like clocks, books, tools and so on. So, we moved around individually and could read more about pieces that we wanted to know more about. The Peter Harrison Planetarium is nearby, which is the only planetarium in London. It features state-of-the-art HD projection technology, visualisations based on real scientific data and real astronomers.

In the afternoon, we had some free-time to visit what we were interested in. Our group decided to go to the O2, a stadium where events take place, to which we travelled on the Emirates Air Line cable car above the river Thames. This was followed by some sightseeing in the city.

We spent our last morning at the British Library, where we had a look at the exhibition called "Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line". The focus was laid on the history of the 20th century through maps and of the history of mapping across the century. It also showed the impact of maps on society increased during 20th century and mapping technologies (for example Global Positioning System). We got a comprehensive impression of different kinds of maps. After this individual walk through the exhibition, we went to Gatwick airport and flew back home to Basel.