
2014-15 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

10-19-2014

Windsor and London

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2014-10-19 Windsor and London



A Windsor Castle guard. They really don't move!

I have just had the best two weekends ever. As I mentioned before, one of the perks of studying at a large university are the societies, and one of the perks of studying here is the travel society. The U of N travel society is run by students, and for a membership fee of only a few pounds, you can go on weekend trips to all sorts of cool places for ridiculously cheap.

Last weekend was the first trip of the year, a day trip to visit Windsor Castle. We left Saturday morning and after about a two hour coach ride we arrived in the beautiful town of Windsor. I didn't have the highest expectations for the castle, I thought it would just be another fancy building, but I was completely blown away by the whole thing. You can easily tell why Windsor is the Queen's preferred residence; the magnitude of it is utterly indescribable. The best surprise happened as we approached the castle. We came up on the entrance right as they were changing the guard, and we got to stand there and watch as a fully armed and outfitted (bearskins and everything) contingent of the Queen's Guards came marching out of the castle gates followed by a duty band. All that pomp and circumstance may seem unnecessary in such a modern age, but wow it is sure impressive.

This weekend's adventure was a day trip to London. We didn't have tons of time, so Friday night I carefully planned out an adventure and then we set off Saturday morning for London. From Marble Arch where we were dropped off I hailed a black cab and had the cabbie, who was the nicest guy, take me to Gower Street, so

I could have lunch at Speedy's Café.

I wandered around Piccadilly for a bit and went inside some of the more famous stores like Fortum & Mason, which was a fun experience. It felt like being in a Victorian novel, they had impeccably dressed footmen and all these beautiful glass jars and displays with sweets and tea and coffee. From Piccadilly I took the tube to Oxford Circus and then switched at Oxford and took another tube back to Marble Arch. I had a little time so I wandered down Oxford Street, another famous shopping centre, and found a few things as fun memories of my day. Tired but happy, I hopped back on the coach and went home. It may have been only a few hours, but I really had a great day. Walking through one of the most famous and historical cities in the world and getting to try all the most iconic British experiences like riding the tube was incredible. I know it's cheesy, but for someone like me who grew up on British culture and has been waiting ever since my dad finished reading me the last Chronicles of Narnia book to visit the U.K.; the little experiences are what make it all worth it for me. I can buy all the souvenirs in England, but they wouldn't be worth anything compared to an experience like coming up the steps from the Piccadilly underground and taking in the noise and sights of Piccadilly Circus for the first time. London is truly an incredible place; I can't wait to go back!

Cheers,

Lauren