

London 2017

At the end of the summer term 2017 and as part of the seminar 'Call Me Tony... Tony Blair on Screen, on Stage and in Songs', we went on a study trip to UK's beautiful capital, London.

On our first day (Friday), we visited Oxford where Tony Blair studied at St John's College. Oxford is part of the famous Oxbridge university tradition and offers not only a rich history but also charming architecture. The famous red Hop-On-Hop-off Tour provided us with an overview before we explored the University of Oxford and the Oxford Castle.

During the next two days we took the opportunity to discover the tourist hotspots in the city centre, London's political heart Westminster and Camden Market.

On Monday's agenda was a trip to Greenwich. Using the water shuttle, we were able to see London from the waterfront. Our first stop then was the Prime meridian which not only divides the Eastern hemisphere from the Western hemisphere but also serves as the source of the "Greenwich Mean Time". Afterwards we visited the Queen's House which is part of the Royal Museums in Greenwich. Having been built at the beginning of the 17th century, it is rather small but gives insights into royal history and (changes of) life during the centuries. Especially the paintings of Henry VIII and other Tudors reminded us of our lectures and seminars about this time in history and made it seem more real and accessible than ever. One of the highlights of that day was the Emirates Air Line cable car which we used to cross the River Thames to get back to London. In the evening we concluded this informative day with a visit to the British Museum.

The next day was already our last. Before saying goodbye, however, we had one more item on our list and what would be more appropriate of saying farewell (for now) to Good Old England than by visiting the home of one of England's most infamous? Hampton Court Palace it was. As one of only two surviving palaces of Henry VIII, this expedition tied in nicely with the Queen's House the day before. Before actually visiting the palace, we strolled through the surrounding park including its maze. The palace itself is way too large to see it all in one. Therefore, we concentrated on Henry VIII's kitchens and his apartments and saved the rest for another time.

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