

Y9 Paris Trip 9.2.24 - 13.2.24

Friday 9th February

At 23.30 on Friday 9th February 44 Y9 students, accompanied by myself, Mrs Davis, Miss Morgan, Mr Matthews and Mr Vera left Church Stretton School on a very comfortable, luxurious Travelstar coach to travel to Dover.

Saturday 10th February

At 6.30 am we all boarded P&O Ferries' first fully electric ferry "The Pioneer" and set sail for Calais. Our first stop in France was to the Chocolaterie de Beussent near Boulogne where we learnt about the chocolate-making process and had the opportunity to both sample and buy some delicious chocolates.

Saturday evening we checked into our hotel and had a three course evening meal before a highly competitive Music Quiz.



Sunday 11th February

We began the day with a delicious continental breakfast at the hotel before heading to the beautiful Palais de Versailles where we saw the opulent state rooms and the famous hall of mirrors where the peace treaty for WW1 was signed.

Our next activity was a river cruise along the Seine, taking in all the famous Paris monuments such as Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower.

The day in Paris finished with a climb up to the Sacre Coeur where we spent some time exploring the cobbled streets around Place du Tertre and various souvenirs were bought: Eiffel Tower earrings, Mona Lisa T-shirts, colourful berets... we bought them all!

Our evening at the hotel was spent playing various games with our brilliant animateur, Anthony.





Monday 12th February

Monday started with a visit to La Tour Montparnasse, the second highest tower in Paris with one of the fastest elevators in the world. What fantastic views!

After our visit to La Tour Montparnasse we climbed to the top of another famous Parisian landmark- the Arc de Triomphe for

more fantastic views over the city before some shopping and sight-seeing along the Champs Elysees. Finally, we walked from Place de la Concorde to the Louvre museum, strolled along the river Seine and ended the day in Paris at the beautiful cathedral of Notre Dame.

Our final evening was spent doing a French quiz and then it was sadly time to pack and get ready for the journey home the next day.

Tuesday 13th February

We were all packed and ready to leave for Calais at 7.30am on Tuesday morning. We had a final shopping stop at a hypermarche in Senlis where we spent the last of our euros. Some staff were pleased to have the opportunity to stock up on some French cheeses before travelling up to Calais to board the ferry but the cheese made the coach smell rather ripe!

We sailed back to Dover on The Pioneer again and, once back in the UK, stopped at Beaconsfield Services for tea - McDonalds and KFC being the restaurants of choice.

After saying "Au revoir" to our fantastic driver, JJ, at Warwick Services we pulled into the school car park at 23.00 having made some fantastic life-long memories.

Merci beaucoup to Mrs Davis, Miss Morgan, Mr Vera and Mr Matthews for accompanying this trip to Paris. To the students - thank you for your excellent behaviour and conduct throughout the entire trip. It was a pleasure and a privilege to take you to France's beautiful capital city.

