

My First Girlguiding International Trip

This summer I went to Paris with my Brownies unit as part of Girlguiding Manchester's county trip. Over 130 people went on the trip from Brownies to Rangers, and it was a great few days away!

We left Manchester at 1:30 am, ready for the long journey to Paris. Despite travelling overnight, a lot of the Brownies were too excited to sleep! We arrived at Dover to catch the ferry to Calais which was a new experience for many of the Brownies – it was a lovely morning so we were able to sit on the deck for the journey and could see the White Cliffs of Dover as we left England. After arriving at PGL, we had time for a tour before dinner and our evening activity, which was making traditional French crepes!

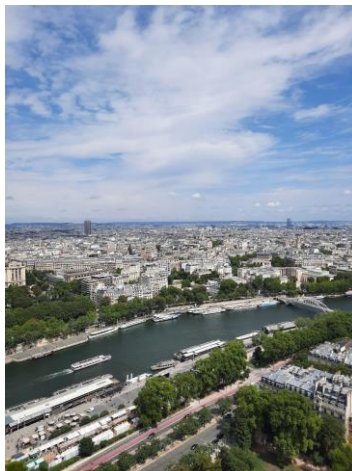


The White Cliffs of Dover

Our first full day in Paris included a trip up the Eiffel Tower and a boat tour along the River Seine. We climbed all 647 stairs up to the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, and were rewarded with amazing views across Paris. It was particularly memorable for two of our oldest Brownies who remade their promises at the top of the Eiffel Tower, and were presented with their Gold Awards! In the afternoon we went on a boat tour on the River Seine, where we were able to spot many landmarks such as the Louvre, Notre Dame and Pont Neuf. In the evening the Brownies enjoyed a swimming session in the outdoor pool at PGL, before a disco to finish off a very long day.



Arriving at the Eiffel Tower



The View from the Top



Notre Dame

The next day was our trip to Disneyland, which was the highlight of the trip for many of the members (and the leaders!) We had a packed day, including going on rides, watching the parade, getting character autographs and seeing the Grand Orchestra perform. There was also time to stop for some Mickey shaped pizzas, and a trip to the gift shop. The Brownies particularly loved the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, which we went on three times in a row! Our day ended with the amazing fireworks and drone show, which was the perfect way to finish our trip.



Big Thunder Mountain



Watching the Parade



Waiting for the Fireworks!

Taking part in this trip has inspired me to explore more international opportunities with Girlguiding, including IntOps or GOLD, and I would love to go on an international trip with my unit again in the future!