



History Tour to England

The 2008 History Tour to England, France and Greece proved to be a wonderful experience for all concerned. The fourth biannual History Tour left on the last day of term four and returned home a few days before Christmas.

Our time in London included a vast array of activities. The Premier League Football Game between Manchester City and Fulham was definitely a highlight on day one topped off by Spencer Bowen catching one of the Manchester City player's jersey. Over the next three days we managed to experience many of the great sites of London. The Thames river cruise dropped us off at the Tower of London where in beautiful sunny weather the boys kicked off the historical sites. We managed to visit the Tower Bridge exhibition, the London Blitz Museum, HMS Belfast, the London Globe, the Imperial War Museum, the London Eye, Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral and taking in the musical "Chicago" in the West End. Three days of sunny but cold weather and plenty of walking set the tone for what was to be a memorable tour.

From London we made our way via the 'white cliffs' of Dover by ferry and bus to the historic medieval town of Ypres. The highlight of the trip for many of the boys was the time spent in the First World War battle fields culminating in laying a wreath at the moving Menin Gate ceremony. This ceremony commemorating the soldiers lost in World War 1 has taken place every night of the year since the memorial was completed in 1927. This leg of our trip was particularly poignant as two of the boys were able to visit the graves of relatives who died during World War One. We were also able to visit the famous primary school in Villers-Bretonneux that was rebuilt after World War One with funds raised by school children in Victoria. Our guide for our time in the battle fields was Colin Gillard who managed to make the trip both interesting and relevant. Our last night in France was in Amiens where we enjoyed the Christmas markets and the evening light show at the famous Amiens Cathedral.

During the Greek section of our tour Peter Kariatlis acted as our tour guide. His detailed knowledge of Greece and its ancient sites kept us entertained on the bus and informed of us of the significance of each of the historical locations. The highlights of our trip in Greece were undoubtedly Cape Sounion, Epidaurus, Myceanea and the Delphic Oracle; the so-called "navel of the world" as the Greeks thought it was the centre of the world. Athens gave us a real contrast to London and provided a great experience for the boys of an ancient culture in a modern city.

The tour was a great success and we hope to be running another tour to a different part of the world in 2010!

