

French trip June 2018 (written by some Year 7 boys, in their own words)

The journey

We arrived at school bright and early with our suitcases and soon it was time to board the coach. We were all really excited! After a couple of hours on the road, we arrived at the docks, passed through border security and drove onto the ferry. Tony parked the coach and we all walked up the stairs to the main deck where we ate our lunch. After lunch we were allowed to go off in groups and look round the ferry's shops where we bought drinks and sweets. Soon France came into view and it wasn't long before we were back on the coach and on the way to the hotel via the aquarium. (Ed Bolton 7L)

Nausicaa Sealife Centre

When we arrived in France we went straight to Nausicaa which is the largest aquarium in Europe. We had to go through a quick bag check and then we were given a ticket and allowed in. We had to follow the numbers which showed us around the aquarium. We saw many fish and other sea creatures that live in the sea/water. We saw jellyfish first and a number of smaller fishes too. Later we saw a lot more fish which were both tiny and relatively large. We went into a room which had a huge number of jelly fish in a giant tank. We then went on to see the things most of us were looking forward to. Sharks, there were huge sharks and a few smaller ones too. We saw some small sharks/catfish (we couldn't tell which) near the bottom of the tank. After that we went to see some turtles which were swimming in the same tank as the sharks. I was surprised they weren't eaten! We went to see some sea lions. They kept on sticking their heads out of the water and it was amazing to watch! Then we went to buy some things from the shop and our trip to Nausicaa had ended. (Ewan Walker 7L)

Nausicaa was amazing, the sea life centre was brilliant. We saw the amazing sea animals. At one stage we saw a massive turtle which was fantastic. When we lost the turtle we had to find it. Eventually we found him. Nausicaa was a good trip. (Ayaan Anis 7C)

The hotel

When we got to the hotel Mr. Clarke gave us our room keys. In my room I was with Sam, Ryan and Cameron. The rooms were very modern. The beds were not that comfy but at least we always got the sunlight through our window in the morning. In the evening we had Spaghetti Bolognese for tea. Out of ten for the food for the whole trip I would give it a seven and a half. The showers were very nice but you had to give them about one to two minutes to warm up. The hotel was one minute from the beach and a five minute walk to the market. (Henry Ludlum 7C)

The hotel we stayed in was called Hotel Les Embruns. It is quite near-by a beach that we went to in the evenings. Hotel Les Embruns is slightly small but makes use of the small space for the better. There are 2 parts of the building, the main building and the garden. The garden area is small, but organized and is a good place to hold meetings and get people together so we could go out to places. Certain rooms were

quite good and had very comfortable beds. The food was quite good as well, and we had a routine, usually. For breakfast, we had a choice from cereal to croissants to bread and a choice of drink. For lunch, we would have a sandwich of our choice. We would either have ham, crab and mayonnaise, cheese, tuna or a plain roll. After the sandwich, we would have either fruit or yogurt. For dinner, we would have a hot meal like a burger or Spaghetti Bolognese. Afterwards, we would have a cold dessert, like ice cream. (Max Mitchell-Nessbert 7L)

Room Inspection *(a time-honoured and carefully planned tradition, whatever the boys might think!!!)*

Every night in our hotels, we would have room inspections. Madame Taylor and Mr. Rogers would come into our rooms and have a look at every nook and cranny to see if our rooms were perfectly clean and tidy. We had to take teddies or any stuffed animal on the trip and name them. You would get points for creative names. This is how the room inspections worked: you would start on ten points and would lose those point if the inspectors found any flaws in the room. This was all fine up until Thursday night, when Mr. Clarke snuck into each of our tidy rooms, messed up our duvets, spun our hanging lights around, opened our draws up and turned on our showers. The worst part was that when we tried to explain it was Mr. Clarke's fault, the teachers would just deduct points! (Angelo Cooper 7L)

Room inspection, one of the most interesting bits about our trip, well I can't say room inspection was as **exiting** for other people, as I felt it gut wrenching to see us get marked down by a little mistake, like leaving the wash bags in the **smallest gap** imaginable in the bath room. The days were quite hard because Ollie (my roommate) wasn't the most helpful through the week (technically I did all the work) and don't get me started on the chocolate massacre (Ollie eating a flake on the bed) in the end after **we** scrubbed as hard as **we** could **we** both knew it wasn't making a difference, finally **we** came to a conclusion (**we**=myself) it was our only choice too.... brush the remnants of the flake under the bed, mission accomplished 007. But the last day was the worst. It was like Mr. Clarke was hypnotised somehow, he kicked our bin over (don't think the bin was very happy about that), turned the shower on (waste of water!!!), and stole Alfred's hat and threw it up on the wardrobe (Alfred is still crying to this date). (Freddie Read 7C)

The hotel and the beach

The hotel was peaceful and quiet; no passing cars or construction sites. I for one enjoyed the meals and I thought that the chef deserved the applause and congratulations. The hotel is in a perfect location, near a stretch of stores selling cheeses, cakes and ice-cream. It's also near a large market, selling a range of items from toys to furniture. Overall, the hotel was great, but I can't say the same for the other guests (we were a bit noisy!) As the hotel was so close to the beach, we were allowed to go off and play every evening. We played Football, Rugby, Volleyball and some of us played in the sand. Some nights the teachers joined in the games that we were playing, and they were having as good a trip as we were. (Kieran Baidoo 7L)

At the beach we dug lots and lots of holes and tunnels and had imaginary wars against each other and played football and other sports. We buried each other and we made Mickey Mouse and other sculptures out of them. (Matty Bartlett 7C)

La Cité Souterraine de Naours

My favourite part of the French Trip was the visit to La Cité Souterraine de Naours. First we went outside and were given electronic guides. We then learned about the fact that it was used as a hospital and was 33 metres underground at its lowest point! The city had a chapel for a place of worship and had countless monuments inside. The city is prepared with a clever chimney which, instead of expelling the smoke in a hole in the ground and attracting attention, expels the smoke through a mill so as not to draw any attention. My favourite part of the tour was when the guide told us about their defence mechanism, which was when the children would lure the attackers to a point where there was a small archway, which the children would run through but the soldiers would have to bend over to get through, then there would be a villager on the other side cutting off the attackers' heads as they came through. This is why this trip was my favourite part of the French Trip. (Rory Gibbs 7L)

Boulogne quiz

On Tuesday afternoon we went to a little town named Boulogne. When we got there, we split into two groups lead by the two Year 10 boys, Rohan and Elliot. I was in Rohan's group and oversaw taking the photos. I had to take one of the church, tobacco shop, cake shop and town hall. At the end of the quiz we got to go off in groups of four and go to the shops in Boulogne. There was a nice sweet shop and one stall that sold toys. We all enjoyed it. (Theo Spick 7L)

Bagatelle Theme Park

My favourite bit was Bagatelle. All the rides were so fun. My favourite ride was the Swing Air and my second favourite was hitch-hiking on Le Petit Train to get back in time so we didn't get in trouble! (Cameron Allenby 7C)

Le Touquet market

On Thursday morning, I gave a brief French lesson in the hotel garden, on shopping in French, even though the stall holders annoyingly answered back in English, as usual! The boys had a pleasant morning buying all sorts of gifts and souvenirs for themselves and their families, and some of them proved very good at bartering, egged on by Mr. Clarke who took full advantage to secure some fantastic bargains! (Madame Taylor)

The snail farm

When we arrived at the snail farm the man that worked there gave us a lesson about snails and we learned what they eat, what body parts they have and many more facts. After that we went to have a look at the snails and if we wanted we were allowed to hold them. We saw some big ones, some small ones and some baby ones. Then we went back inside and sat down to taste them. They tasted amazing!

We also tried jam that they made there and snail-shaped cookies. Some people didn't try them but others loved them. Then whoever had money left went into the shop to buy some snails. All of this was a great experience. (Josh Lunemann 7L)

On Thursday we visited the snail farm. When we arrived the first thing we did was watch a power point presentation about snails. After that we went outside and met the snails, they were quite small and some had their heads poking out of their shells and some were asleep inside. The part that came next was the part that I was not looking forward to...tasting them! Why do French people eat snails?! Actually they were not too bad and I was pleased they were already dead and had been cooked! We went to the shop and we could buy things for ourselves or gifts if we wanted to. The snail farm was more interesting than I thought it was going to be but I'm not sure if I would like to eat any more of them! (Ollie Savage 7C)

La Chocolaterie de Beussent

When I went to the chocolate factory I saw some amazing chocolate sculptures of buildings, for example a church which was quite magnificent. There was milk, dark and white chocolate being made from cocoa beans and after the tour we had of the factory I bought a ginormous chocolate bunny which I ate and it tasted delicious. (Eddie Fisher 7C)

Becasuc sweet factory

At the sweet factory we met a man and a woman who told us how sweets were made. Some of us had a chance of putting the mixture on the tray. We were taught how to make hard boiled and soft sweets. We also learned that the sweet mixtures are used in movies, for example as glass (that gets broken easily), and goo (hard boiled sweets). Afterwards we went to the sweet shop where there were lots of sweets to choose from and some drinks as well. (Danial Idrees 7L)

An excellent trip all round!