LONDON

This blogpost is to share with you my experience visiting London a few years ago with my little brother. We were both so excited to explore this beautiful city and we only had 4 days to do it, so we were constantly on the run. Despite the tight schedule, we managed to see and experience some truly amazing things.

London is home to over 8.9 million people, making it one of the largest cities in Europe. The city has a diverse population, with over 300 languages spoken and a rich mix of cultures and traditions. Recently, the city has been impacted by Brexit, which has caused some changes to the way things are done in the city. The UK's exit from the European Union has resulted in new trade agreements, immigration policies, and changes to the economic landscape. Despite these changes, London remains a thriving hub of activity, with a rich history and a bright future ahead.

CHINATOWN

One of the first things we stopped by was Chinatown, obviously. As we are both gourmets we couldn’t wait to try the food. Now that I think about is, when it comes to travel with my family, trying that nation’s food is always our first priority. So was it in London. Located in the heart of London, Chinatown is a vibrant and bustling area filled with Chinese culture, history, and cuisine. As we walked through the streets, we were struck by the colourful lanterns, street signs, and the unmistakable aroma of delicious food wafting from the many restaurants. We stopped at one of the local restaurants and we finally tried the real Peking duck, the ancient dish that hails from Imperial Beijing. I am not exaggerating when I say that this was the highlight of our trip. We also tried some of the delicious pastries and sweets, which were a real treat.

Chinatown is also home to the Chinese Arch, a traditional Chinese gateway that was gifted to the city by the people of Guangdong in 1986. The arch serves as a symbol of friendship and cultural exchange between the UK and China, and is a popular spot for tourists and locals alike. In addition to its rich cultural heritage, Chinatown is also known for its bustling nightlife and vibrant festivals. One of the most famous is the Chinese New Year Festival, which is celebrated with dragon and lion dances, fireworks, and traditional food stalls.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Another one of the amazing places we visited during our trip to London was the British Museum. As one of the oldest and largest museums in the world, it is home to some of the most important and fascinating artifacts and exhibits from all over the globe. Here you can see the Rosetta Stone, which is considered one of the most important artifacts in the history of archaeology, or the Parthenon sculptures, also known as the Elgin Marbles, these were once part of the Parthenon temple in Athens, Greece.

While the British Museum is home to some of the most famous and well-known artifacts in the world, there are also many myths and historical facts that are not widely known. Here are a few that I found particularly fascinating during our visit:

The Rosetta Stone was not discovered until 1799: Despite the stone's significance in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, it was not discovered until late in the 18th century by a French soldier during Napoleon's campaign in Egypt. It was later acquired by the British Museum in 1802 and has been on display there ever since.

The Parthenon sculptures have a controversial history: The Parthenon sculptures were acquired by the British Museum in the early 19th century and have been the subject of much controversy over the years. Some argue that they should be returned to Greece, while others believe that they are a part of the museum's collection and should remain on display.

The Egyptian mummies were once used as medical specimens: During the 19th century, Egyptian mummies were often used as medical specimens for the study of anatomy and disease.

The British Museum has a hidden crypt: Beneath the museum lies a hidden crypt, which was once used as a storage area for valuable and sensitive artifacts. The crypt is not open to the public, but it is said to contain some of the museum's most interesting and obscure objects.

BUS PROS CONS

As a student, my little brother and I took a bus from Hungary to London because it was the most cost-effective option for us. At the time, we were on a tight budget and couldn't afford to fly. Looking back, I can say that the bus ride was an experience, but it was not the most comfortable one.

It was cost-effective and convenient, however the journey was long, and we had to make several stops along the way. The seats were cramped, and the lack of amenities such as Wi-Fi and entertainment made the time seem to drag on. By the time we arrived in London, we were exhausted and in need of a good rest.

Now, as an adult, I have a different perspective on travel. While cost is still important, comfort and convenience are also important factors for me. The next time I travel to London, I will definitely be choosing to fly. While it may be a more expensive option, I believe the benefits of a faster and more comfortable journey will be well worth it.

TIPS FOR COST-EFFICIENCY

Whichever way you choose to travel I’ve collected some tips you can do to control your spending and make the journey more cost-efficient.

Book in advance: Booking your bus ticket well in advance can help you secure the best prices and ensure that you have a seat on the bus you want to take.

Pack wisely: Packing light can help you avoid paying baggage fees, which can add up quickly if you're traveling with multiple bags.

Bring food and snacks: Many bus companies only offer limited food options, so bringing your own snacks and drinks can help you save money and ensure that you have access to food that you like.

Plan ahead: Doing your research ahead of time can help you find the best deals on bus tickets, as well as help you plan your route and make the most of your time in London.

The most important thing is to find a balance between cost-effectiveness and comfort. While it's important to control your spending, it's also important to ensure that you have a comfortable and enjoyable journey. By finding the right balance, you can ensure that you have a memorable trip to London without breaking the bank.

Why we should travel more with our siblings?

Traveling with my brother was my favourite thing about the whole journey. Firstly, I was able to share the experience with someone who was just as excited as I was. We were able to explore the city together, try new foods, and visit famous landmarks. It was a special time that we will both cherish forever. It also allows you to have someone to lean on when things go wrong. Whether it's getting lost, missing a bus, or dealing with unexpected weather, having someone by your side can make all the difference.

Finally, it helped us build our teamwork skills. We had to work together to plan our itinerary, budget our time, and make decisions. This helped us learn to communicate effectively and work together towards a common goal.

Peter Pan

One of the highlights of our trip to London was visiting the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens. Although it's not considered one of the main tourist attractions, it was important to me to see this statue for a personal reason. Standing in front of the statue, I felt a sense of nostalgia and joy. It was like I was transported back to my childhood, and I felt a connection to the inner child in me who still loves the magic and just like Peter, never wanted to grow up. For me personally.

Summary

Looking back on my trip to London with my brother, I have to admit that it was a total rush and a bit of a mess. We only had four days in the city and were constantly running around, trying to see all the mandatory sights and attractions. While it was great to see all these famous landmarks, I felt like we missed out on the real essence of the city.

That's why I'm determined to return to London and experience the city in a deeper, more meaningful way. This time around, I want to take my time and really get to know the city, its people, and its culture.

I want to experience London both during the day and at night, to see the different sides of the city. I want to wander through its streets, sit in its cafes, and talk to its residents. I want to explore its neighbourhoods and experience the city's vibrant food and art scenes.

In short, I want to feel the pulse of London and immerse myself in its unique atmosphere. I believe that this type of experience is the key to really understanding a city and its people, and I can't wait to return to London and do just that.