Brussels Amsterdam Journal

by

Theo

This journal contains my write-up of the city break I did this October which was kind of two in one.

Friday (last day of school before half term):

Friday was my last day of school before half term and my excitement level rose throughout the day.

By 3:30 it was time to leave Chemistry early and make my way to Cambridge Station.

That was the start of my travels.

I got a train to London King's Cross and then got a Eurostar to Brussels.

I was in Standard Premier class on the Eurostar which meant I was brought my dinner on the train!

That night I stayed in the Hotel Metropole and I ended up by some miracle with a suite with two rooms, one for me and one for my parents.

Saturday:

I woke up early, like I always do (particularly in new places).

I got my BrailleNote Touch out and logged on to the hotel WiFi inorder to research my next destination!

After that it was time to tuck in to a scrumptious breakfast which kicked off with a very filling waffle and ended with some delicious juicy fruit.

After that, I got a taxy to a reception I had been invited to to celebrate 20 years of a Tactile book competition. There were speeches, announcements of the winners and then some time to feel all the wonderful tactile creations made all over the world.

Saturday afternoon:

I went to another part of Brussels on the tram with George, it was great fun.

I got the metro back !o my hotel once George and I had nothing more to do and even the metro ride back turned into a bit of an adventure itself and I even stopped off and got a fresh Belgian waffle!

After that I went out for dinner somewhere which I have been lots of times before. I always get a steak and always ordering a steak there and eating the whole thing has turned into a sort of tradition.

On the way back to my hotel George downloaded an app onto his phone that meant that George and I could use one of the numerous electric scooters parked around the city.

George and I scooted in a square with fountains in it so I could hear where in relation to the fountains I was.

Sunday morning:

I woke up early, very excited.

That day, I was getting a high-speed train to Amsterdam.

I had a lovely breakfast that filled me up for the morning.

After that, I got a tram to the station.

At the station, I waited for my train getting more excited by the second.

Finally, the train came and I hopped on.

It took the train about an hour and 45 minutes to reach Amsterdam where even more excited, I stepped out onto the platform.

I got the lift down and scanned my tickets on some ticket gates.

I they got a taxy to my hotel where I found my cozy bed and George and Elin left the bags.

After that, I walked to a house boat museum which was literally a floating houseboat tied to the shore which you could go inside. It was really fun.

After that, I had the most enormous pancake you would have ever seen (the size of a plate) for dinner! I chose bacon and pineapple for my filling.

After dinner, I walked back to the hotel and went to sleep in my lovely cozy bed.

Monday morning:

That morning, I got a tram to the Vangogh Museum where I had a special tactile tour.

First, I was taken round to a few of the actual paintings that were described to me.

After that, I went down to a quiet room where they had loads of tactile representation of the paintings.

They even had a model to explain the painting called "The Bedroom"

I learnt how Vangogh had drawn lots of different sunflower paintings. From the first one that was very contrasted to the last one he drew that was yellow on yellow.

Monday afternoon:

The afternoon kicked off with hiring bikes (for the rest of the day) which very fun particularly which nearly everybody else in Amsterdam seemed to have bikes.

I cycled back to my hotel on a tandem with George.

After that, I cycled from the hotel with George and I thought I'd just see where I ended up. George told me when there was a choice of left or right and I chose which way to go not knowing where I was going. It was so fun.

I actually ended up at a tourist shop (the first one I'd seen in Amsterdam so far) where I got some keyrings.

After that, I went to a cheese tasting class at a cheese shop near my hotel. This was George's idea and it was quite fun but it ment George, Elin and I all ate loads of cheese!

After that, I went to the Ann Frank House which was fun to see but very sad to think about because Anne Frank had died because her hiding place had been betrayed and taken on the last transport train to a concentration camp.

After that, I returned the bikes and went back to my hotel.

Tuesday morning:

George and I set out to find a coin squasher and came back with four squashed coins. This mission was a big success!

After that, I went to the canal museum where I got to feel a huge model of Amsterdam.

Tuesday afternoon (travelling home):

That afternoon, I went all the way back home and I took three trains!

First, I took a high-speed train back to Brussels.

Then, I got a Eurostar train to London and finally a Great Northern train to Cambridge.

All three trains had WiFi which was fun and that was the most trains I'd gone on in a row in my life!