

London Adventures

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London, England, United Kingdom

Thursday, May 5, 2016

'If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.' - Thorin Oakenshield

Monday 2/5/2016

The fine weather has continued - even if a little chilly this morning. Craig took us on the bus and then train to Hampton Court Palace to visit the home of King Henry VIII. Now, that's what I call a palace! Extensive grounds, magnificent buildings, formal gardens and luxurious appointments. A team of talented actors dressed as various occupants of the castle played out the drama of Anne Boleyn and Catherine of Aragon vying for King Henry's attention and of his plotting to have his marriage to Catherine annulled. The Pope was causing him some grief, so he decided to create another version of Christianity more to his liking. The show finished off with us singing rounds - the tune of which has stuck in our heads for days. The other featured occupant we learned about was King William III, who lived in sumptuous surroundings but didn't seem to enjoy being King of England too much.

Tuesday 3/5/2016

Another fine morning! What's all this talk about England's poor weather. Brad took advantage of this fine weather to take a tour of west London suburbs along the River Thames. Got to ride through places that we've all heard of but never really knew where they were - Fulham, Kew Gardens, Richmond, then back towards Brentford where the Grand Union Canal to Bristol leaves the Thames. Got a little geographically embarrassed and ended up in a place called Ealing, then Hanger Hill, Park Royal, White City (lunch at the Westfield Shopping Centre - an upmarket Chadstone). Headed back home via Hammersmith, then back to Fulham then a loop down the river the other way to Chelsea Harbour before the legs said, "enough". Meanwhile, Anna took the tube to Oxford Circus do some shopping at Liberty of London.

We later met up with Craig for a quick tour of Royal London Hospital where he works before joining our nephew Patrick to dine at Taayabs Indian Restaurant for a very enjoyable meal.

Wednesday 4/5/2016

This is getting quite concerning - another very fine day! Today is a typical London tourist's slog. Took the tube to Westminster wharf to catch a boat ride to Greenwich. The skipper gave a very interesting commentary pointing out scenes from Charles Dickens novels, where the Quaker ships were provisioned before picking up their passengers on the coast before sailing to America, and Catherine Dock where convicts were loaded on to ships to go to Australia. Greenwich is spectacular with a fine view of London from Observatory Hill. We then walked under the Thames River to catch the DLR (Docklands Light Rail) to Canary Dock, then on to Bank then another tube to London Bridge to have lunch at Borough Market - the oldest surviving market in London. It's a bit like Queen Victoria Market - but a couple of hundred years older. A great selection of food was available and we were starving - serendipity! From there we made our way to Big Ben, Trafalgar Square and then bus along Pall Mall to Kensington High Street then home to Fulham. A huge day. Very tired and looking forward to bed.

Comments

Chuffed you liked and enjoyed the idea of a ferry to Greenwich. Did you straddle the meridian?

— From Craig McArthur, on May 5, 2016 at 10:21PM

Hi Anna,

I am enjoying our blogs. keep them coming

— From Carol, on May 6, 2016 at 08:26AM

Sounds like you are loving London - we have only been home a week but wanting to go back already. The names and places mean so much more to us now that we have just been there. Big busy days are great days - keep enjoying - such an amazing city. Look forward to your next adventure. Cheers!

— From badminton65, on May 6, 2016 at 11:09AM

Really chuffed that you have enjoyed my London, I love the diversity, the history, the we are Londoners mentality. So effing pleased that you got what London is about!

— From Craig McArthur, on May 8, 2016 at 08:32PM

Pictures & Video



Hampton Court
Comments!



Hampton Court



Brad and Craig at Hampton
Court



Anna and Brad at Hampton
Court



Gardens at Hampton Court



Quiet chat - Hampton Court



Chimneys at Hampton
Court



Hampton Court



Garden view Hampton
Court



Big Ben



Tower Bridge



View of London from
Greenwich Observatory Hill



Horse Guard



Iconic phone box
Comments!



Anna on the Thames to
Greenwich



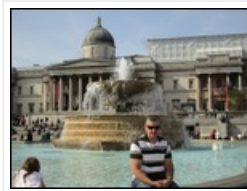
Brad on the Thames to
Greenwich



Greenwich towards the
Observatory.



View towards London.



Brad at Trafalgar Square.



Hampton Court

Comments:

That is what I call art and a magnificent balustrade, just beautiful !

— From Lindy, on May 6, 2016 at 10:01PM

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Hampton Court

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Brad and Craig at Hampton Court

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Anna and Brad at Hampton Court

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Gardens at Hampton Court

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Quiet chat - Hampton Court

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Chimneys at Hampton Court

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Hampton Court

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Garden view Hampton Court

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Big Ben

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Tower Bridge

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View of London from Greenwich Observatory Hill

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Horse Guard

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Comments:

Just in case you is interested: Check Wikipedia Red Telephone Box - you have to type it, rules on links on this site prevent links.

— From Craig McArthur, on May 5, 2016 at 10:10PM

It's wonderful that you are having super weather to enjoy the sight-seeing.

Great photos with blue sky London!

Don't miss the Museum of London - it's free and has clever displays.

Anne x

— From Anne H, on May 6, 2016 at 07:43AM

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Anna on the Thames to Greenwich

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Brad on the Thames to Greenwich

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Greenwich towards the Observatory.

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View towards London.

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Brad at Trafalgar Square.

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