

## Fine Arts Trip

Our 12-day fine arts trip to Europe took flight in the afternoon of March 18. First on the itinerary was London, England. Our stay in London consisted of walking and bus tours of central London, observing sights such as Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, the National Gallery, the “London Eye,” and a production of “The Phantom of the Opera.” The group also enjoyed traditional London cuisine which included fish and chips and chicken curry.



Next on the itinerary was Paris, France. Once in the city of lights we quickly embarked on a beautiful “Paris by Night” tour where we viewed the Eiffel Tower lit to the sky and a boat cruise of the city. Our stay in Paris also included a walking tour of the historic Palace of Versailles, Arc de Triumph and world renowned art museum, the Louvre. However, I must admit, the biggest experience and testament of the group’s patience was on the overnight Paris to Florence, Italy night train, where we were squeezed into very small compartments no bigger than a cubicle for 12 hours! That was truly a bonding experience.

Upon arrival in Italy, the group was taken to a leather workshop and shown different preparation methods for leather. After Florence, we headed for a quick stop-over in Assisi and then to Rome. During our tours of Italy, the group marveled at the ancient Coliseum, city of Pompeii and enjoyed an easy boat ride around the city of Capri. Italy was great for a variety of pizzas, pastas and tiramisu gelatos.

This trip was an educational and enjoyable once in a lifetime experience. I would like to extend a thank you to Mr. Nguyen and Mrs. Liang for putting up with the group for almost two weeks. Although the educational value was significant, it was the time shopping, and hanging out with our friends which made the trip truly memorable.

By Don Ahluwalia, Grade 12