

TRAVEL AWARD REPORTS

The three winners of the 2017 travel awards competition have now completed accounts of their journeys to England. The next competition will be in 2020.

ADAM PETR First prize winner

First of all I have to say that I am really surprised that I had no big trouble in London. I got lost only four times and I think that is a huge success.

I was travelling only with a backpack and made my way through Prague airport pretty easily, found my flight, found my seat and then fell asleep. I woke up at Stansted airport. It is actually very small airport, so I had no problems at all with finding my way out.



I bought train tickets to London. Everything went according to plan so far. I got off the train at Liverpool Street. After that I had to buy tube tickets and saved about £10 on that, because I did not buy a 7 day pass, but "pay as you go" oyster card, thanks to one kind lady.

I thought it would be good to take a walk around the City of London. I made two steps and then realised that I was hungry. I turned around and, just with my hunting instincts, I found McDonald's!

With my stomach full I went back on the road. I saw buildings like The Shard, Walkie-Talkie, 30 St Mary Axe and then The Tower of London, Tower Bridge and the battleship HMS Belfast. I found a nice bench near Belfast and sat there for a while. The time was about 17:15 already so I decided that it is time to find my "hotel".

I had booked a hotel north of the City of London. It took 20 minutes from Liverpool Street station. The hotel was not good at all. There were ants, the handle on the bathroom door kept falling off and there was no Wi-Fi, even though they said that they had Wi-Fi there. After my stay I told them that I would not pay full price and they did not even seem surprised.

The next day was match day. I reached Stamford Bridge by tube - they open a





special station on match days - bought some food and then went to find my seat in the West Stand. Chelsea lost to Crystal Palace 1:2. I was really upset because Crystal Palace did not want to play from the 20th minute. But at least Chelsea were still pushing them and trying to score, so it was not a boring match.

After the game I went to see Piccadilly Circus, but it was undergoing some reconstruction, so nothing interesting there. From Piccadilly Circus I went to Oxford Street and then by tube back to my hotel.



The third day I was mostly just walking around London, visiting some shops. Basically I just tried to see the everyday form of London, not just the tourist one. In the evening I went to the British Museum and then to Westminster and Trafalgar Square.

The last day was really short, because I had to be at Stansted airport at 4 p.m. I walked along the Thames and when it was time to go, I made my way to Liverpool Street station and rode the same train I rode on the first day, just in the opposite direction. My flight was

delayed, so I really enjoyed my stay at Stansted airport! Finally after 5 hours of waiting I flew home.

I am very glad that I visited London – my thanks to the competition organisers and judges. I really appreciate this competition and that you chose me as the winner - a great experience ! Thank you.



