

# **GERMAN GOBBLER**



**Volume 1 Issue 2  
December 2015**

# London

Sarah and I traveled to London for Thanksgiving this year. We flew Ryanair for very cheap, and stayed in an apartment near Liverpool St Underground Station that we found on Airbnb for a reasonable price. It was on the 22nd floor, so we had amazing views of the city. With the proximity to Liverpool St, we had easy access to bus and train public transportation. We opted to pay the 5 pound deposit for the Oyster card and loaded it with 20 pounds each. It's very easy to use; all you do is hold it up to the sensor upon entering and exiting the train stations, and only upon entering a bus. When you're ready to fly home, you can get a refund for the remaining balance and Oyster Card deposit.



We walked to London Tower for our first site. We purchased tickets just outside on the square, and that included a walking tour as well as access to all the different museums and exhibits in the Tower. The tour was very informative and entertaining, and the guides recommended various things to see. Once we finished touring the Tower, we headed for Soho via the Underground for our 730pm Book of Mormon theater musical at Prince of Wales Theater. This comedy is not for the faint of heart or young kids, as there is a lot of profanity and vulgar content.



We set out early the next day for Buckingham Palace, hoping to grab some prime real estate for the Changing of the Guard. We arrived around 1000 for the 1100 start time, and all the space along the fence was taken at least three deep.

We did find a spot along the temporary barrier at the main front gate with unobstructed views. Finally, the event was starting--we saw the bands playing, guard marching, and even the guard on horseback decked out in their garb. It was quite a show. The changing of the guard is every day during the summer high season, and every other day in the slow winter months. I recommend getting there early; it's worth the wait. We had lunch after the show at a pub, and then set out for our own self-guided walking tour. We saw the Guard horse stables, Prime Minister's apartment, Trafalgar Square and other sites.


That night we opted for Indian food for dinner and were not disappointed.

London is well known for Indian food because of the old East Indies Trade Companies, and it is readily available and delicious there.



The next day we saw Big Ben, Westminster Abby, the Parliament Building, and several other sites. We also visited the Spitalfields Market near where we were staying. They had a Brewer's Market as well as lots of artists and international food stands. The markets in general in London are spectacular. The next day we visited Greenwich, and wandered around the Greenwich Market, which was equally incredible in terms of culinary delights! We also saw the Royal Observatory and the Prime Meridian from which all longitude is measured against. Our last hoorah was at Duke's Brew & Cue. We had to make reservations, and it was well worth it. Logan Plant (son of Robert Plant) started Beavertown Brewery and this restaurant to sell his beer in. The ribs and bbq were so delicious we didn't want it to end.

Needless to say, we loved London and will go back!

 *James Pauly  
Class of 2004*



# Berlin

Berlin is one of our favorite cities because there is always something to do or see. A few of the must-see sights are the Brandenburger Tor, East Side Gallery, Reichstag building, Checkpoint Charlie, Fernsehturm, Berliner Dom, and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (also known as the Holocaust Memorial), but there are many more.

Berlin offers a WelcomeCard that includes transit and discounts on select sights. We like to push our way to get the top front seats of the double decker bus on line number 100 at Alexanderplatz traveling to Zoologischer Garten. This bus route passes by the Berliner Dom, Brandenburger Tor, Reichstag, Victory Column and Schloss Bellevue. When using the subway, do not be surprised if a homeless person comes into the subway car introducing her-/himself loudly and selling street newspapers. They buy the newspapers wholesale then sell them for a small profit to be able to work to earn a small living.

The main shopping area, mostly commercial brands, in Berlin is near Kurfürstendamm (Ku-damm) where the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche is located. The Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) is worth visiting, as the largest department store in Europe. We love going up to the sixth floor to see what food they have to offer. There are also a bunch of stores in the area near the Hackescher Markt and Weinmeisterstraße. Randomly walking down streets in this area, a mix of commercial and more unique stores can be found. An example of more unique would be the eccentric-styled clothes offered in Starstyling.

On the weekends, there are several markets around the city. I enjoy looking at some of the art at the small Berliner Kunstmarkt am Zeughaus. At the Hackescher Markt, there are also some stands set up. From both markets, I have found before unique earrings for gifts. Once we found a young man and woman hand making beautiful jewelry on the sidewalk. Still on our must-do list is to visit the Sunday flea market at Mauerpark. Here you can perform karaoke at the amphitheater in the afternoon.

To eat, one of our favorite restaurants is Hashi for dinner. It is a Japanese tapas-styled restaurant with all Japanese cooks. The ceiling is completely decorated in chopsticks, as one of the translations of the word “hashi” is chopsticks. We almost always visit the Ritter Sport Bunte Schokowelt, whether to make our own chocolate creation for €3.90, buy some chocolate bars, or enjoy a hot chocolate and piece of cake in the upstairs café. Occasionally we will pop into Barcomi’s Deli, owned by a former New York City dancer, to grab some bagels or baked goods to take back to Dresden. When we want a really cheap lunch, we either get a currywurst or head over to Spätzleexpress for their Spätzle and Maultasche. Nearby Spätzleexpress, there are many other restaurants along the Oranienstraße to check out.



*Eileen O'Shaughnessy*

*Class of 2013*

# Überall in Deutschland

Christmas (Weihnachten) season in Germany has arrived, and the Christmas markets are open to enjoy some Glühwein with friends and family. Stollen and Baumkuchen are popular seasonal treats. Decorated gingerbread houses here are called “Hexenhaus” (witch’s house, like *Hansel and Gretel*). Christmas is celebrated here in the evening on the 24<sup>th</sup> with families. *Frohe Weihnachten!*

Do not forget to purchase your fireworks, which are great to launch out of an empty champagne bottle outside with Germans, and pull out your raclette grill to celebrate the New Year (Silvester)! Get a future omen for the new year with lead pouring (*Bleigießen*). *Guten Rutsch!*

We wish everyone safe and happy holidays!

**Share your European holiday experiences in our next edition!**



The *German Gobbler* is a newsletter for Hokies to share travel and cultural advice, stories, and pictures during their stay in Germany. We encourage entries whether one sentence, several paragraphs, or a few photos with captions. Contact us to be included in the next issue!