

Henry Morris Trust Fund Paris Visit

for

Josephine Rainsford

Day 1 The Journey to Paris: 23/06/17

My mother and I left for Luton airport at 3:05pm on Friday 23rd of June. We approached Luton airport at roughly 5pm due to slight traffic. We parked and then we made our way through security and had our bags checked. I was stopped because I had one 100ml of liquid that I had not placed in a clear plastic bag so I had to dispose of it. After security, we made our way to the shops and cafes. We spent more time here than we planned as our flight was delayed for 30 minutes therefore we ended up leaving Luton airport at 7:30pm. We spent our time wisely by having a pizza at Bella Italia. Eventually, we boarded the EasyJet plane and took off. The overall flight was just as expected and the staff on the plane were exceedingly kind. We arrived at Paris Charles de Gaulle at approximately 10pm French time (for us it was technically 9pm). We swiftly disembarked the plane and went to the train station. We immediately caught the train to Gard du L'Est, the train station closest to the location we were staying in. However, we caught a taxi to Hotel Brady in the centre of Paris on 31 Boulevard de Strasbourg. We arrived our hotel at around 10:20 pm and checked into room 34 of the spacious hotel. Our location was accessible by foot to every place we wanted to visit. On the right is the booking for our hotel. It states that we stayed two nights from the 23rd - 25th of June. In total, the cost of the hotel was £166.72 for one adult

and one child however a majority of the money was used to pay for this.



Day 2 : 24/06/17

Morning: The Louvre

On the 24th June, my mother and I woke up in our hotel and swiftly made our way to the Louvre. We caught the metropolitan (tube) to the Louvre which took roughly 10 minutes. We were keen to get there as early as possible because of the immense queue that we were expecting. When we arrived, we were in sudden shock. The size of The Louvre was unbelievable and to think it was once a house was incredible. Luckily, we weren't in the queue to get in for too long, it took us around ½ an hour to enter. As it got later, the queue got longer and longer.



Once we had got in, we had to wait till 11am for our guided tour. While waiting, we observed the shops and the general atmosphere. We then received our headphones that we listened to the tour guide on. These headphones were incredibly beneficial as the background noise in the museum was very loud so we could hear the tour guide's voice clearly. One of the first sights we visited was the moat area where we could see how the grounds have changed over the centuries.

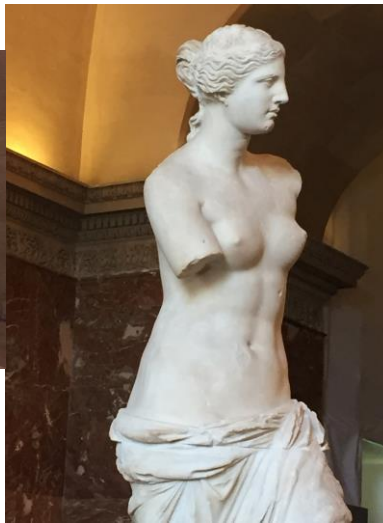


Above is a comparison between the old moat when it was the house of King Louis 14th, and now.

We moved upstairs and we saw the ancient Egyptian pink granite Sphinx and then Greek statue of Venus de Milo with her arm missing and beautiful contra posture pose which made her look very alive compared to the Sphinx! I immediately recognised the Venus de Milo as it is internationally famous as of her contra-posture. This is famous because the artist who designed the Venus de Milo could have created her standing up straight however the made her almost tilt to one side which makes her look more alive and realistic.



However, the sphinx looks almost wooden and the fact that it is staring straight ahead suggests it has no personality whereas the Venus de Milo is tilted and gives off more characteristics.



Next, we walked up the main royal staircase emblazoned with the crest and initials of King Henry and his mistress, Diana, whom he loved very much and wanted to honour. The entire ceiling was layered with symbols and writing devoted to his love of Diana.



Then we saw the Winged Venus. This was a special sculpture to me as it was an inspiration to so many things including my favourite film; the Titanic. It also inspired the Nike logo and Rolls Royce. Therefore, this sculpture clearly had an impact not just on me but on several different companies. The statue was partially broken as the head was not placed however you could still clearly see where several logos were inspired from. From the top of the neck then across the wing is where all these companies base their logos on. From what i saw, The Winged Venus looked so powerful, courageous and incredibly bold.



In addition, we made our way to 'The Dying Slave' while passing through many fascinating and immense rooms. The Dying Slave was actually made out of marble. It was carved between 1513-16 and they were clearly exceedingly old because there were numerous amounts of the body missing however this was not due to parts of the body falling off. It was because the statues were never able to be finished. This questioned many people because surely if a sculpture wasn't finished it shouldn't be displayed however oddly it was. The statue looked very dull and almost like there was a real person within the stone who was trying to escape. I thought this almost suggested imprisonment because he looked so desperate to escape the statue he was trapped in. He was also standing in an odd posture that made him look different to all the other statues nearby. This statue appears incredibly strong however maybe the artist was just trying to cover up the frail person he may have been.



After seeing most of the museum we finally ventured onto the main part of the Louvre. The Mona Lisa. This had fencing all round it and was placed on a high shelf with glass protecting it. It was so busy at this point because everyone was taking pictures and observing the Mona Lisa. It was painted by the incredible Leonardo da Vinci in 1503. The artwork is incredibly delicate and frail. It was a lot smaller than expected having the measurements of 77 cm vertical and 53cm horizontal. The Mona Lisa was

mysterious yet very intriguing seeing as wherever you were her eyes would always be looking at you.



We eventually reached the end of our tour and we thanked the guide and said goodbye as she was incredibly clear and informative when speaking.



Just before leaving The Louvre, we took a quick visit to the Code of Hammurabi which a large basalt stone that was engraved in 1792BC for King Hammurabi of the Babylonian Empire. The stone was found by french archaeologists in 1901 in Iran. At the top of the stone there are two people and the rest is covered in ancient Cuneiform writing on politics and administration laws for example 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. For more information refer to <http://www.ushistory.org/civ/4c.asp>



Lunch: Le Cafe Comedie

After experiencing the fantastic museum we made our way to a little cafe in the centre of Paris named Le Cafe Comedie. This was located about ¼ mile from The Louvre.



It was looking over a courtyard that had a vast water fountain in the centre. However, we had to sit inside which wasn't a problem seeing as the interior was very tranquil. We got our food within 20 minutes and were then went to look for a boat trip on the River Seine. We did not experience true french food hear but what we ordered and recieved was very scrumptious and appealing.



Afternoon: Boat Trip on the Seine



The fence enclosing the access to the boat jetty was covered in padlocks symbolising love forever. The boat trip was a highlight of the visit. We saw the Eiffel tower (designed by Gustav Eiffel in 1889), the original Statue of Liberty and Museo D'Orsay. Due to Paris being a competitor of hosting the 2024 Olympics, there was a floating olympic training track on the river for running trials, boxing, football and even tennis. There was also diving directly off the bridge and rowing. We had the best view from the boat! The Museo D'orsay was once again huge. The boat trip was so enticing. We entered the boat at 3pm and the trip lasted one hour. There was a young, french adult saying what was happening across the river and luckily she translated into english as well so that we understood it. She explained about all the monuments we visited including dates and designers.



Evening: Gay Pride March - unscheduled!

This happened at roughly 4pm. We were walking back to the hotel when suddenly we heard several shouts and blasting loud music and we weren't sure what was happening. It ended up to be the celebration of Gay Pride and it went on for hours. The parade was blocking our way home so we decided to stop for a coffee at another little cafe. We were not aware of what was going at first. Then, the managers told us that it was Gay Pride and that it happens every year. We were very intrigued by this as there were hundreds of different floats representing different charities and everyone had all the colours of the rainbow on. It was very noisy but great fun! We did not join in this parade however we observed for several hours. The parade was packed with people and the music was so loud and the floats were designed and customised incredibly.

After two hours we finally made it back to the hotel for some much need sleep. While walking back we noticed several beautiful apartment blocks such as the one on the right. As these sort of hotels were located everywhere it almost felt like you were enclosed however it wasn't a bad feeling. It felt comforting and safe. On most of the streets there were these grand hotels and on the bottom floor there were several shops and cafes that were very cosy. Eventually we made it back to our hotel in order to relax and endure some french television.



Day 3 25/06/17 Exploring Paris

Morning: Pompidou Centre and David Hockney Exhibition

Today was for walking around Les Halles (the 'bohemian' area we were staying in) and absorbing the Paris culture. We started at the Pompidou Centre designed by architects Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano in 1977. It is a controversial building which some people like and some don't because it displays all its 'guts' on the outside like air conditioning units, water pipes etc. There were lots of street artists there and the views going up the escalator were amazing. Inside the David Hockney Exhibition



the Californian swimming pool pictures were the my favourite because they explored different ways of painting water and reflections. This was one of the views from the top of the Pompidou which, although was slightly terrifying, was unbelievable to see how much there actually was where we were staying. From this view we saw places such as MontMartre and the Eiffel Tower as well as boulevards of Paris.

As you can see, there are several pipes displayed outside of the Pompidou centre. These suggest that the monument may not actually be complete in construction which is what questioned so many people. On the front of the centre appeared a large escalator coloured in red. Each pause was a different floor which had varied exhibitions and artwork. At the top of this staircase was where we indulged this spacious view of Paris. Within the centre there was ; a play area for children, the David Hockney exhibition, the Walker Evans exhibition and a gift shop where we bought some postcards including my favourite David Hockney painting displayed on the front. The painting is of a swimming pool and a diving board. The pool contains a large splash and suggests someone has just jumped off of the diving board into the pool.



Afternoon: Les Halles and Beaubourg

We walked around the the area close to our hotel, saw the Defender of Time Clock which unfortunately was not working - the dragon fights the air earth and water represented by the bird. The dragon, man, earth and bird were all made of brass however made to look like pure gold. After this we ventured on to a little cafe opposite the Pompidou Centre. We sat here for about half an hour and had a coke and admired the view of Pompidou and other shops and statues too. We then made our



way to the Paris shopping centre. This was immense and it contained so many different shops. The ceiling of the shopping centre was similar to the Louvre. It let light in and looked like they were diamonds on the roof. It was stunning. The day drew to an end and we journeyed back to the hotel



where we gathered our belongings and caught the shuttle bus back to the airport. The shuttle bus took around 45 minutes which was perfect for us and a lot quicker then getting the train then a taxi which is what we did to get there. We also approached a vast fruit market.



It was full of colour and it was beautiful and so enticing. The market was located between our hotel and the cafe we sat at. It was on a cobbled street and all the fruit looked so fresh and delicious.

Evening: Back to Cambridge

Eventually we entered the Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. Our flight back was at 9:55pm. Therefore, we had roughly 2 hours to wait and go through security which was ok. While we were waiting there was a red piano stating "PLAY ME". Suddenly, a group of spanish men started singing and their friend went and played the piano along to the rhythm. This immediately made everyone feel so happy and elated. Next, they began the Conga and forced me and my mum to join in however this was not bad



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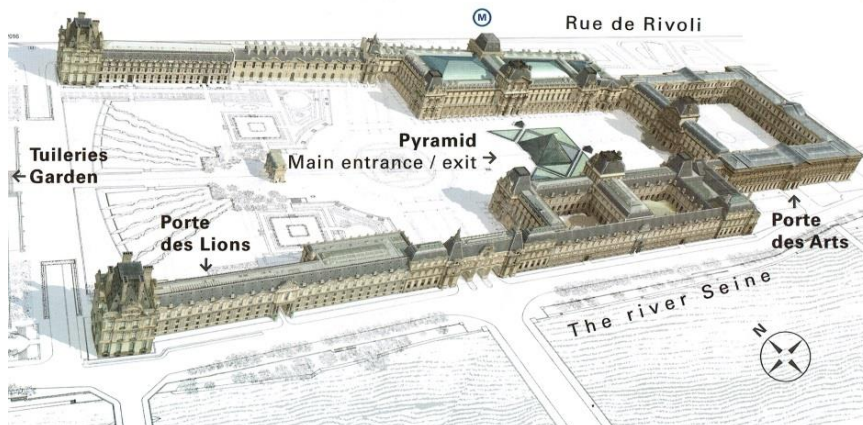
all. It was so much fun and the airport went from a dull, antisocial place to an enlightened jolly place. Unfortunately, our plane was delayed for another half an hour but after waiting about 3 hours, we boarded our plane and took off. The flight was smooth and exactly as planned. It took about 1 hour to get back to Luton airport. Once we landed we swiftly claimed our luggage and walked to our

car. Finally, we set back off to Cambridge and approached our house at about 1am and went to sleep.

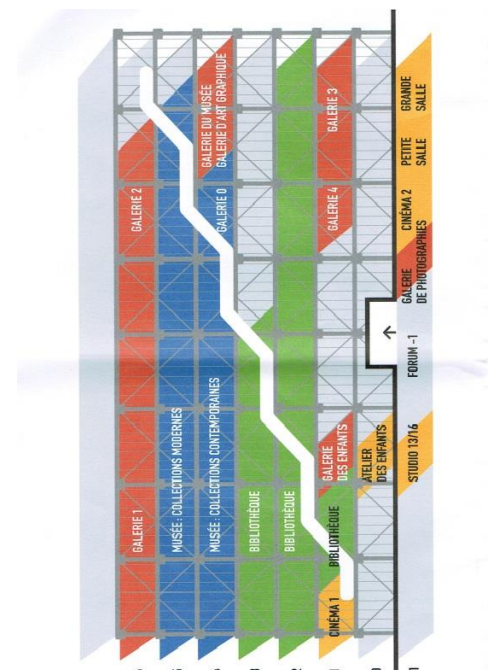
I would just like to thank the Henry Morris TRust Fund for this fantastic opportunity to go to Paris and see some of its most famous places. It was an incredible trip and i assure you the the money you lent to me was spent well and all used for educational reasons. I learnt an obscene amount over those couple of days and from writing this report up I learnt even more. Thank you so much and I am glad I was a candidate of the Henry Morris Trust Fund. I will definitely be recommending this to many others but anyway Thank you!



Appendix of tickets, leaflets, receipts and postcards



MAP





COMPTOIR DU LOUVRE
MUSEE LOUVRE
Les restaurants du musée du Louvre
Musée du Louvre 75058 Paris Cedex 01
RCS Nanterre 319 640 587 TVA FR46319640587

FLAMMARION POMPIDOU
Centre Georges Pompidou 19 rue Beaubourg
75004 PARIS CEDEX
Tel: 0144784322 Fax: 0142771129

Ticket: 35 du 25/06/2017 12:16:34
Poste: 18 - Clonare 143 - Caisserie: 6

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1 CAFE CRENE 20CL	3.40
1 THE	3.05
1 CROISSANT	1.80
1 COOKIE CHOCOLAT LAIT NOIS	2.80
TOTAL	11.05

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TVA 10.00%	4.36	0.24	4.60
	5.36	0.59	5.95
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RENDU	-8.95		

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