

Gabrielle (Gabby) Reiff, age 22, Exploring Entertainment & Events in Europe, Short Term Study Abroad – Summer 2018

My name is Gabrielle Reiff, everyone calls me Gabby. I am currently a senior double majoring in hospitality and event management. I am 22 years old and I was born in Orlando, Florida. I have had the privilege to travel outside the US before this study abroad program.



Gabby in Geneva, Switzerland

What made you choose this Study Abroad program?

It took me some time to figure out which study abroad program to choose. I was between studying abroad for a whole semester in England or a short-term study abroad program. I talked to past students who studied abroad and advisors, but ultimately chose a short-term program because it worked best with my schedule. Out of all the all the short-term programs, this one interested me the most. Also, I was sold on visiting Wimbledon, which was on the original itinerary. I am a tennis fan and I am in the Professional Tennis Management track.

What was your family's reaction?

My family was very happy for me. I was inspired to study abroad because my mom had the opportunity to do this when she was studying in college. She actually got to see Princess Diana get married on her trip. Also, my mom was a little nervous, so I think she was relieved I chose a short-term program. In the end, everyone in my family was excited for me and knew it would be a once in a lifetime experience.

What did you pack that was helpful? What didn't you pack that you could have used?

One thing that I packed that was helpful was these fashionable sneakers. From past experience from traveling out of the country you can walk a lot. Therefore, I brought these fashionable sneakers that went with plenty of my outfits and were comfy to wear as well. Another thing that I was glad I packed was clothing I could layer. We traveled to four different countries in about 18 days. Therefore, the weather varied in each of these countries, so I was glad I had the proper clothing.



What was your first impression when you arrived in Europe?

The first country I arrived in was Geneva, Switzerland. I was just in awe of its beauty. The architecture and the landscaping are gorgeous in Switzerland.

Best Experience? Worst Experience?

The best experience was visiting Wimbledon. This was an activity originally on our itinerary, but then got canceled. However, another girl and I on our trip, during our free time were able to take a quick trip to Wimbledon. I am so happy we got to do this side adventure. Wimbledon is gorgeous and I fell in love with the suburb area of London. I definitely would love to go back. Also, another great experience was our spontaneous trip to Disneyland Paris. Furthermore, I would not say I had a worst experience. However, it is good to know that some hotels in Europe do not have air conditioning.



Gabby in the pressroom at Wimbledon

The Gates to Disneyland Paris



Did you ever get homesick/or miss anything about home and if you did what did you do about it?

Since this was a short-term study abroad program, I did not get homesick much. If I ever did, there was Wi-Fi at most places in Europe, so I just gave my family a quick call or texted them to keep them updated with my many adventures.



Paleo Festival



What's the biggest lesson you learned?

The biggest lesson I learned from this study abroad trip is actually from a quote I saw on the popular Graffiti Tunnel in London, England. The quote reads, "To live the life you love, you must love the life you live." I felt very fortunate to go on this trip of a lifetime and I felt I was loving my life on this trip.



If you had the opportunity to do this again, would you? Why or Why Not?

Yes, I would definitely do this trip again if I had the opportunity to. From the music festivals, to walking tours, food and friendships. This truly is a once and a lifetime type of trip. There are no words to describe this experience except to go on a study abroad trip yourself.



Fringe Festival in Scotland

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