

My Trip to Our Chalet Switzerland

30th July-7th August 13

Eleven guides were selected from Buckinghamshire to attend a trip to Switzerland with 3 leaders.

Day 1: Tuesday 30th July

Travellers Day:

I left home at 4.00am and arrived at Luton airport at 5.15am. We set off at 7.10pm and the flight was approximately 1 hour 20 minutes.

We arrived in Switzerland at 9.30 (one hour time difference.) We then had a one hour train journey and then we changed and got on another train which took about 2 hours. This train was a double decker train which none of us had seen before, so that was exciting. Finally we then got a bus to Adelboden which took about 30 minutes. A mini bus came and took our luggage up to the Chalet and we walked for about 20 minutes to the Chalet. We finally arrived at the campsite at around 2:30 which was earlier than expected.

We then got given our tents which were jamboree tents and one of the staff members helped us set these up. We had dinner at about 6:30 and then got given a tour of our chalet which was really nice and also we met our pen pals who were from Canada. We went to bed at about 10:00 as we were all exhausted from the travelling.



Day 2: Wednesday 31st July

We were woken at 7.30am where we got changed and then helped set the table for breakfast. Breakfast was at 8 as we had to be down at 9 for the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony was really nice, we got introduced to all the staff members, all the countries, got given the Our Chalet pin badge and got told what we were doing that day. It was Our Chalet's 81st birthday so there were lots of party games and activities organised for the day. These included; making party hats, traditional party games, photo booth, scavenger hunt, Swiss crafts, water slide and much more. For lunch we then had a BBQ which was prepared by Our Chalet. In the afternoon these activities continued plus more like; water balloon volley ball, face painting and Swiss fire lighting. Before dinner we had an Alpine Horn show which is the national instrument in Switzerland. It was really interesting to hear and see it being played.

After dinner there was an international evening which was really great fun.

We then went to bed at about 10:30.



Day 3: Thursday 1st August

We had to wake up at 7:30 again today as we were going to the adventure park. We were all very excited as we knew we would be doing some activities we had never done before. It was a one hour long hike to the adventure park and we arrived just after 10:00. We got our harnesses on which took quite a long time. We

then went on a mini zip wire where our instructor taught us how to do it and how to attach ourselves.

We then went to the big zip wires. There were 5 of them which all ran underneath a bridge. It

was so much fun (even when I got stuck in the middle of the zip wire). We then did a high ropes course which was again underneath the bridge. It was such a great experience but I was absolutely petrified. We then had lunch and then had about a 15 minute walk to a natural rock face where we did rock climbing. This was so difficult but so much fun. We then walked back and got back to Our Chalet at around 5:30. It was Swiss national day so in the evening we sat with the Canadians at the campsite and watched all the spectacular fireworks.



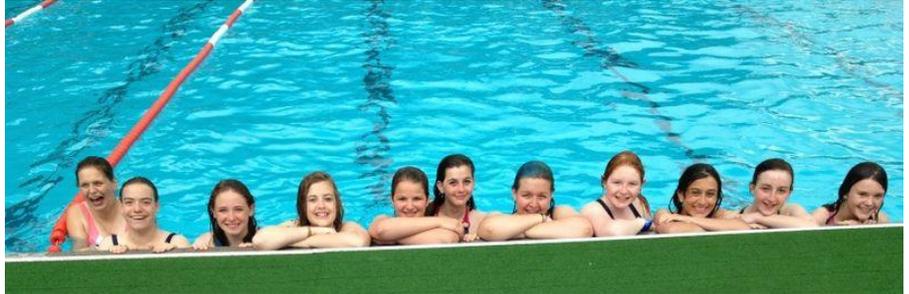
Day 4: Friday 2nd August

We woke up at 7:30 again as we had to be by the flagpole at 9:00. Today we were going up a mountain on a cable car. We got a coach to the bottom of the mountain, this took about 30 minutes and then we went on the cable car to the top of the mountain. It took about 20 minutes to get to the top of the mountain. At the top of the mountain it was beautiful and the view was stunning. We then got the cable car back down the mountain and had our lunch by a lake. We then went on a boat ride which took us to Thun. Here we went shopping and bought some of our souvenirs. We then got the coach back to the Chalet. After dinner some of us went on a twilight hike to a waterfall. It was a really nice walk and the waterfalls were lovely. We got back to the Chalet at about 10:30 and went straight to bed.



Day 5: Saturday 3rd August

Today we had a free day where we were allowed to do whatever we liked. We were allowed to lie in until 9:30 and we had a leisurely morning. After lunch we went swimming which was really nice however, unfortunately it was our coldest day there. We then came back to the Chalet and had a quiet evening where we just chilled and then went to bed at about 10:00.



Day 6: Sunday 4th August

We woke up at 7:30 again as we had to be down at the flag pole at 9:00. We were going to a mountain where we would have the chance to swim in a mountain lake. It was about a two hour walk to the cable car which we then took up to the top of the mountain. We then had about a 5 minute walk to get to the lake. It was so beautiful and the lake was so clear. We were not allowed to swim in it as there was no life guard so we just paddled. We were there for about 3 hours and we just had our lunch and it was really pleasant. We then had to walk back down the mountain at about 2:30. This took us about 1 hour 30 minutes to walk down. At the bottom was a coach waiting for us which then took us back to Our Chalet. In the evening there was a WAGGS evening which was organised by the staff and it was great fun. We did not go to bed until about 11:00 on this day as there was a thunderstorm so we were not allowed in our tents until it had cleared.



Day 7: Monday 5th August

We went to the town Interlaken where we visited a chocolatier and were allowed to go shopping. We got a coach to some waterfalls first. Here there were 10 different waterfalls all in the caves which we walked around and saw. It was really fascinating. After lunch we then went on the coach which was about 15 minutes away to the town. Here we visited a chocolatier and got shown how chocolate was made and got to try some. It was so nice however, no one bought any chocolate here as it was so expensive. We then had the chance to go shopping and buy more of our souvenirs and go to a chocolate shop where the chocolate was much cheaper. We all then went back to the park where the coach was waiting to pick us all up. We arrived back to camp at about 5:30. In the evening there was a pirate themed evening which unfortunately we did not partake in because there had just been a thunderstorm so we were trying to make sure our tents were dry and everything was clean. We went to bed at around 10:00.

Day 8: Tuesday 6th August:

It was our last full day!! We woke up at 7:00 and met at the flag pole at 9:00. We had a 1 hour 30 minute walk to a gorge which we then abseiled down. This was an amazing experience however, so frightening at the same time. We then had a further 15 minute walk to the woodcarvers. Here we got to buy lots of souvenirs which were really nice however, everything was quite expensive. When we were walking back a thunderstorm started which we got stuck in and got soaked. The hail was so big!! We got back at around 5:00 and all dried off and had hot chocolate to warm us up. We had a campfire at 7:00 which the staff at Our Chalet had organised and it was really nice to learn new songs. We all had a chance to teach countries a new song which was nice. We had to say goodbye to everyone at this point as they were all leaving at 10:00. It was really sad (especially saying goodbye to our Canadian friends). We went to bed at around 10:00 as we were all shattered.



Day 9: Wednesday 7th August:

We woke up at 8:00 as we didn't have to leave until 2:30. We cleared up all our tents, packed our final things, cleaned the bathrooms and kitchen and got ready to leave. We did not have to put our tents down as there was a thunderstorm in the night so all the tents were still very wet. We left at just after 2:00 and walked down the hill. We caught the bus at 2:30 and then the two trains and arrived at the airport at around 7:00. We checked in and had a look around the shops, ate our tea and then had to get on the plane. The plane left at 9:30 and we arrived back at 9:55 which was 20 minutes earlier than expected.

Overall:

Switzerland was an amazing trip where I made many friends and have many memories which will stay with me forever.

Overall I had a wonderful time and this truly is an experience I will remember forever.

