

# Switzerland trip 5th -11th April 2015

By Charlotte Vernon-Stroud, 2<sup>nd</sup> Buckingham Guides



## Day 1: Travelling.

I had to get up really early for a long drive to Heathrow airport. We were all excited but nervous. Finally we got through check-in and were ready for the departure of our Swiss Air flight to Zurich.

From Zurich we then got two trains to get to Fruitigen. The journey was quite long and boring. But while on the train, we started to see some pretty Swiss mountain scenery. Finally we saw some snow!

We got off the train and started the last part of our journey to Adelboden by bus.

Arriving at Our Chalet - We had a tiring walk up the hill to Our Chalet but on the way up we had some amazing views of the countryside.

Luckily our big rucksacks were taken up in a mini-bus and we only had to carry our day bags. It was a very long and tiring day, but it was worth all the effort.



## Day 2: Our Chalet

In the morning we had an opening ceremony held around the flag pole, with the ground covered in deep snow! After the ceremony, we had a presentation about the history of Our Chalet and were given a short tour.

That day, we did some on site activities: - Sledging down baby chalet hill was great fun. Then we warmed up with a fire building challenge.

Before dinner we did some of our 'free being me' activities.

After dinner, we had a Swiss Night; three people came in and played an Alpine Horn, we enjoyed a chocolate fondue, and we had a quiz about Switzerland.

## Day 3: Cross Country Skiing

In the morning we walked to the local ski shop to collect our skis then we got the bus to the gondolas.

When we got up the mountain, we learnt how to cross country ski. It was a little difficult (I fell over 10 times) and hard work at first, but once we got the hang of it, it was really fun and soon we were off! That evening we went to bed quite early because we were all tired from the long day.

It was strange weather up on the mountain because it was really hot, but there was lots of snow.

#### Day 4: Hiking and lots more

Today we walked all the way to the gondolas. When we got there, we had a Barbeque in the snow. On our hike, we visited a Frozen Waterfall.

Once we finished our BBQ lunch, we went snow tubing. Snow tubing is like sledging but in a rubber ring. It was really fun.

After our snow tubing, went to visit the Fondue-Iglu. In the igloo it was really cold and quite dark and everything was made of ice.



#### Day 5: Wood carvers

We had a long walk to the local wood carvers. We watched the carver busy at work. There were some really pretty and intricate wood carvings along with some more simple, fun souvenirs.

I bought a personalised wooden woggle and we were all treated to a wooden trefoil badge with our name on it.

The ceiling was covered in thousands of badges from all the visitors. I spotted our county banner amongst the many other badges on display.



#### Day 6: Snow Shoeing

We went to a different mountain from when we went skiing, this time we tried snow shoeing. This was a great, fun activity and we had a lovely sunny day.

When we got back, we all packed our bags ready for tomorrow's trip home. We couldn't believe the week was nearly over.

In the evening there was a closing ceremony around the campfire.

#### Day 7: Travelling home

We left Our Chalet at 10:30 to get the bus to the train station. We took two trains again back to the airport.

We arrived at the airport with lots of time to spare, so we had a lot of waiting around before we could get our plane.

We finally got back to Heathrow at half past 7 at night. Another long day, but lots of lovely memories from a wonderful trip.

I just want to say a big 'Thank You!' for giving me a grant to help towards my amazing trip to Switzerland. I had a really great time and made lots of friends and I hope I can go on another international in the near future.

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