

London 2007

The day we arrived in London we dropped off our luggage at my Uncle's house and then took a train to central London. I took Keeb to my favourite haunts. When we got to Trafalgar Square, I casually pointed out the National Gallery, but having visited it on my own, I did not press him to go into it. The weather was good and when we walked to Covent Garden, it was bustling with overflowing outdoor cafés and several street performers. Two young girls danced a flamenco inside while a clown juggled white balls on the street. There was also a magic show going on. After we watched some of the activity going on around us, we had dinner. Our waitress, whom we figured was from an Eastern European country, had never heard of Trinidad.

We then trekked across the Thames and toward the London Eye. We saw life sized rusting sculptures of men standing atop the buildings, as if they were sentinels. We then saw one on the street. My cousins later told us that they had been part of an exhibition and the pieces had first been left in the sea. Keeb felt they were perfect to fit with cameras to monitor the city. When we walked past the Eye, I stopped to take photos of the Salvador Dalí bronzes just outside a museum dedicated to his work on film. As we walked past the Tower Clock, Big Ben started chiming, as if to say, "Jo's here".

Plays

We went to "Boeing Boeing" which was very funny. I recognized one of the actors who was the lead in a movie "Angels and Insects". He was subtle but got some big laughs.

We also went to "Equus" on our last night in London. I enjoyed the evening so much. We first had dinner at a good Indian restaurant near the theatre. The play was fascinating and Keeb felt the guys playing the horses were excellent. Before we went, Keeb kept ribbing me that I was only going to "see Harry Potter's wand". I found it interesting that in the 1970's when the play was first performed, the English audiences were horrified by the young man blinding the horses, for which he is in therapy. However, the American audiences were appalled to see the psychiatrist question what he does to "make his patients better".

Adventures in Transport

After seeing "Boeing Boeing", we in the tube train around 10:30 PM intending to return to my Uncle's house. There was an announcement saying there were delays ahead and that we were advised to take the bus instead. We discovered we had to wait for a night bus and the first one would be by at 12:16 so we window shopped until it came and climbed on board. I was worried but Keeb advised me to look on it as an adventure and we would get a tour of London in the night.

From our vantage point at the top of the double decker bus, we marveled at how alive the city was after midnight on a Monday night. We became concerned when the time to reach our stop came and went and we were nowhere near familiar territory.

London 2007 continued

Adventures in Transport continued

We went down to the lower bus level to investigate. That is when we heard the bus driver say in her Nigerian accent that she was lost and was taking the bus back to the station. An English woman standing near the driver said she was willing to guide her and implored her not to go to the station. Just as we were hoping the bus driver would listen to her, an Asian man (either Indian or Middle Eastern) walked up to the driver and told her that she should not be driving a bus and she should be a housewife. There was a shocked silence before driver yelled "WHAT DID YOU SAY?" and I was sure it was all over. However, the English woman kept saying softly that she could guide the bus and eventually the driver followed her directions and we made it to our stop. So Keeb and I got 4 hours sleep before setting off for our train to Paris that morning. But that is another story...