

Our Europe Trip



1st Spruce Grove Pathfinder and Ranger Unit went on a trip to Europe this summer from July 4th to July 19th. The group had fundraised over the past 2 1/2 years doing bottle drives, other fundraisers and selling lots of cookies so it was great to finally see the results of all that hard work. We landed in London on the July 5th and had a quick walking tour of some sites. Over the next few days we visited the Tower of London, saw the Crown Jewels, visited Warner Studios Harry Potter exhibit, took in Windsor Castle and Buckingham Place, partook in a river cruise and visited Pax Lodge for a pinning ceremony. Some of us even managed to try 'authentic fish and chips'.

Next we boarded the Eurostar for a very fast train ride to Paris. In Paris we had crepes and French macarons. We visited the Mona Lisa at the Louvre and saw the Eiffel Tower up close. We took a day to visit with Euro Disney and also did a river cruise on the Seign.

Next we were off to Switzerland - there was another pinning ceremony at Our Chalet, some hikes to beautiful waterfalls. We did a trolley ride up Mount Pilateus and then came down the other side on a very steep train ride. We ended this excursion with a relaxing boat ride back to meet up with the bus. There was an authentic evening in Lucerne with yodeling and square dancing and lots of fun. Our leaders were taken up

on the stage to do participate in a yodeling, horn playing and square dancing contest.

Finally we were off to Italy for the last part of our trip. There we ate a lot of good pizza and yummy Gelato. We climb the Leaning Tower of Pisa and we toured Florence and did some fresco painting. Our tour finished off in Rome where we saw the Vatican, the Coliseum, and visited catacombs. We also saw the Trevi Fountain and of course made a wish.

There was lots of walking, and shopping on our trip. Pax Lodge and Our Chalet were great to visit. We talk about them each guiding year and it was nice to see the guiding houses first hand. Now they are not just a picture on a page because we visited and toured thru the locations. All in all we saw a lot of history, walked lots, ate great food, toured with some other girl guides from Red Deer and made some new friends. There was lots of fun and of course a whole lot of memories made to think about in days to come.