

## My Best School Trip

In the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> February, our long-awaited trip began. We arrived at Heathrow at 2am; anxiously awaiting our 8.20am flight by playing card games, fuelled by coffee. Thrilled to arrive at JFK later that afternoon and after a quick pit-stop at our Broadway hotel, we took a stroll through Central Park, overwhelmed by the sights, to Times Square for shopping among the illuminated billboards

Day 2. We indulged in traditional pancakes before heading to visit the stunning Lady Liberty and Immigration Museum. The views from the island were so picturesque, and definitely one of my favourites from the trip. We then visited Ground Zero, which although was haunting, was a moving experience being such recent history. After a walk of Manhattan, passing Chinatown, Little Italy, Wall Street and Brooklyn Bridge, we saw Wicked on Broadway – which was phenomenal. To end a busy day, we headed 86 floors up to see the city by night at the Empire State – freezing but beautiful nonetheless.

Day 3. We visited Grand Central and had a tour of the UN building – which I found incredibly interesting. We also saw NYC by day at the Rockefeller, where we were blessed with clear skies. After a quirky 'Bubba Gump' meal, we headed to Brooklyn for an NBA match – an exhilarating experience.

Our next stop on our adventure took us to Philadelphia, where we admired Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. We were also met with a lively protest, before heading on to D.C., where we had a meal at Hard Rock Cafe.

Day 5. A walk of the Mall in the sunshine – we saw the Lincoln, Washington and various memorials, visited the Museum of American History and even stood where Martin Luther King delivered the 'I have a dream' speech – I was incredibly inspired, having learnt about this in a classroom 5,000 miles away. We then went bowling and had our last meal as what our amazing teachers named us – 'The Fabulous Forty Five'.

On our last day, we visited the Capitol and had free time for exploring the shops and museums. As the evening drew closer, our time was coming to a close, and we caught the coach from the hotel to airport for our flight home from what we all truly believe to be the trip of a life time.

Ella Cooper

Word Count: 399