

## **The first ever France Music Tour!**

Fantastic. Exquisite. Extraordinary. These are just a few words that can describe the France trip. What an experience. It was like being at the England game where Bellingham scored the last minute bicycle kick. That's how good it was. The magic atmosphere of the Lisieux theatre concert, to the historic richness of the French architecture. It was all awe-inspiring. This five day trip was amazing.

The first day was a bus journey. Now people would usually think a full day of riding on a bus would be absolutely horrible and the worst experience ever but it wasn't. In fact, it was one of the best! The frequent stops at service stations mixed with the calm atmosphere in the bus was brilliant. And we can't forget about the ferry ride. Being able to explore a ship and have some more time outside experiencing fresh air was just the thing we needed and it came at the perfect time. All the border crossing went smoothly and the first day of the trip was near perfect.

Day two was a day of laughter and joy. We began the day by exploring the vast and intricate market of Lisieux. It was a lively market with many stalls of clothes, delicious local food and even fake Pokémon cards. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the market, and soon afterwards we walked to the Lisieux gardens to busk on the band stand. Unfortunately, we couldn't get electricity but luckily Chris, our tour manager, pulled through with a battery powered piano to save the day. The Choir did a brilliant job and Benny and Elian did some fantastic playing. After this we went to perform at a beautiful theatre with a group of young children in a choir and a band. The venue, the music, the atmosphere. It was a tremendous experience which was made even better with tea from an amazing pizza restaurant!

Day three was a day of learning. After a great concert in the keep of a medieval castle, we were taken for a fascinating tour. The second tour of the day of the famous Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux. Both tours were great but the basilica tour was especially awe striking. It was such a magnificent building and even intimidating at times when we were up at the top taking in the incredible view. The interior of the cathedral was also nothing short of breathtaking. Later that evening, we went to the lake beach to witness a beautiful sunset. As well as this, some of us watched the England game, which had its ups and downs but ultimately we won, even if it was very close.

Our final full day in France was a day of both joy and learning. We firstly went to a cheese museum, full of rich and interesting history (and, most importantly, had the chance to try 4 types of local cheese). Afterwards, we went to a hypermarket, where we bought food to eat at the second castle we would explore later that day. The mediaeval architecture was amazing, we found ourselves asking, 'chat, is this real?'. We ended the day with a relaxed evening before we would wave France goodbye.

Finally, a smooth and safe bus ride, bridged with another exciting ferry journey, concluded our French music tour. It was a trip of laughter, talent and fun-filled enjoyment. If you ever have an opportunity to go on a trip like this one, go! You will not regret it.