



07-09-2012 Okay, okay ... this is not London. We had to get a picture of the Atomium, in Belgium, built for the 1958 World Fair.

Below Joyce, Ja-Deen and the boys in a flower garden behind the Atomium.



7-10-2012 ... Now on to London!



Of course we had to have a picture of Big Ben. We were glad we experienced London ... but it was not our favorite place. It was way too crowded for us. Masses of people and motor vehicles everywhere you went. We arrived early in the morning and immediately purchased a 2 day bus/boat tour pass. We wore ourselves out on the first day. It takes the buses forever to

get from point A to point B. Once you are at point B you are fighting the crowd ... oh well, that is London. I suppose nearing the Olympic time frame doesn't help matters much.



We road the bus most of the morning to get a feel for what we wanted to visit. Above, we ride by Westminster Abbey.



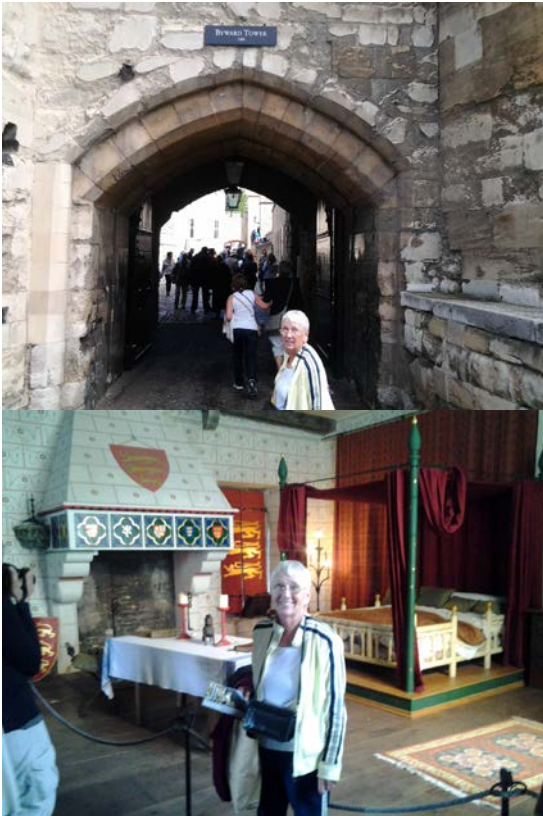
Later, we board the tour boat at the London Eye Pier. Above we cruise toward the Tower Bridge, heading for the Tower of London.



Once inside the Tower of London we were entertained by the "Beefeaters" captivating tales from the Tower. We didn't watch the Beefeaters long, since this is a huge place and we had limited time. Plus Joyce was disappointed ... she thought she was going to be able to buy Beefeaters gin:-)



There are many towers (White tower, prisoners tower, etc.) so we were up and down many curved stairsteps.



Above Joyce stands in the bedroom of Henry III and and later Edward I. Off this bedroom was a little private chapel.



We also went through the White Tower below viewing stunning displays of the Crown Jewels and other treasures.



07-11-2012 We are still in London with two bus tour passes ... that we are going to forget. We think we must have walked 20 miles (not exaggerating) and want to relax. This morning we went down to our hotel's (Hotel Cavendish) breakfast room and enjoyed a British breakfast. Eggs, sausage, ham, baked beans and cooked tomato. Fruit, toast and coffee included. Different, but good.

Hopping a train back to Belgium at 5pm tonight ... and then back to the good ole USA on Thursday.