Travel & Tourism students make a splash in Boston

Imagine taking a bus tour through the streets of Boston when, suddenly, your tour guide decides to drive straight into the Charles River! That’s what Sullivan Travel & Tourism students experienced on the first day of their trip to Boston and New York this spring. They took the popular “Duck Tour” to visit the exciting sites of Boston in an authentic World War II amphibious vehicle. Students were thrilled with the tour of the Boston cityscape, and even took turns sitting in the driver’s seat! Students spent the evening relaxing at Fire and Ice, an all-you-can-eat Mongolian barbecue restaurant after a busy day of traveling and touring.

Next stop: New York

Friday morning, the students walked the Freedom Trail and toured Boston Common, the first city park in the nation. The Trail ended at Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market. While there, they had a meal of traditional New England fare including lobster rolls and a high-speed Acela train for the trip to New York, where they checked into their hotel located in dazzling Times Square. They spent the evening taking in the sights and sounds of the city and sampling some of the famous New York-style pizza and cheesecake! Saturday morning, students toured the “The Big Apple” with stops at the Empire State Building, SoHo, Chinatown, Greenwich Village, etc. Chinatown was especially interesting because items were being sold right on the streets. You could bargain for everything from fresh fish, to knockoff designer purses, to live frogs! After stopping at Ground Zero and seeing the proposed memorial to the victims of 9/11, the group stopped for lunch at South Street Seaport, a very lively complex of shopping, dining, and entertainment.

NBC and Broadway beckoned

After lunch, students toured the NBC studios and saw the sets of Dateline, Late Night with Conan O’Brien, and the NBC Evening News with Brian Williams. The highlight of the tour was going on the Saturday Night Live set and watching Kevin Spacey, the guest host, rehearse his skit. Students really enjoyed this and had lots of questions for the NBC guide. That evening, it was on to Planet Hollywood for a pre-theater dinner before attending the Broadway show, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. This evening was the highlight of the trip for most of the students!

On Sunday, the first stop was the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where the group spent a few hours behind-the-scenes, touring the ballrooms, hotel club, and business offices. They also made sure to make a stop in the hotel kitchens for a sampling of pastries and finger foods. The centerpiece of the hotel tour was the famous Presidential Suite. The tour guide received special clearance to show students the “White House of New York,” the beautiful seven-room suite on the top floor of the Waldorf-Astoria, where the President of the United States, prominent dignitaries and royalty stay while in New York.

The day completed with a meal at Grand Central Station and a plane flight home to Lexington. Everyone gave the non-stop tourism experience rave reviews and agreed the lack of sleep and aching feet were well worth it!