

Adventures in Japan, Part 1; Norfolk- Nottingham- London-Paris (briefly!)- Tokyo

☐☐ Konnichiwa (Hi!) from Tokyo!!

We've made it to the furthest East we've ever travelled to, Tokyo, Japan and are about to embark on 1.5 weeks of cramming as much as we possibly can in!

We left Norfolk mid afternoon on Tuesday, and travelled North to Nottinghamshire, for a lovely evening with Dad and Jenny, celebrat-

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ing Jenny's birthday. Leaving our car on their
drive, Mum and Alec picked us up the next
day and we had a good, albeit eventful day
in Newark (guess who dropped their phone in
the the river Trent... Whoops!)

Wednesday afternoon was mainly spent
sourcing a replacement handset as all our
travel docs were now laying on the river bed
of the Trent (still cringing!) and the evening,
~~drowning my sorrows~~ re downloading all my
docs onto new handset. Never a dull mo-
ment.

Thursday arrived and it was FINALLY time to
get on our way, we were dropped at Newark
Northgate station ready for our first of many
train journeys of this trip, down to London

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Kings Cross.

*(Notice no pics up to this point, they are all
at the bottom of the river!)*

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Toasting finally being on our way!

On arrival at Kings Cross, we quickly dumped
our bags at the hotel, The Travelodge Kings

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Cross Royal Scot, cheap. Cheerful but perfect
location, and jumped on the tube to
Fenchurch Street, where we met up with Kei-
th's Dad for a pre booked, but free visit up
the **SkyGarden**



Panoramic London skyline from SkyGarden terrace

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having been up the Shard twice, i still adore the design of
the building, but must admit, the view from the SkyGar-
den WITH the Shard in is top notch. And free!



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Tower Bridge from The Sky Garden

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Tower Bridge, Mayors Office and HMS Belfast

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As the name suggests, inside there are gardens

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Tower of London

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We spent a good hour or so up there and enjoyed a glass of fizz overlooking The Shard.

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looking up from the bottom- the building is known as 'The
Walkie Talkie' Building

We really enjoyed our visit and highly recommend it. Tickets need to be booked online 3 weeks before you visit, but **are free** - amazing for London!

Next we wandered in the lovely sunshine

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past The Tower of London to St Katherine
Docks, one of my favourite, newly found
spots in London. You would be mistaken for
thinking we were in Monte Carlo (although
maybe the boats were a bit small compared
to there!) there are loads of restaurants and
bars overlooking the water. We chose the his-
torical Dickens Inn for a couple of pints and
then went on to Zizzis, also within the Docks
and overlooking the former warehouses.

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Old and New

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St Katherine's Docks

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Dickens Inn

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St Katherine's Docks by night

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The Shard and Tower of London by night

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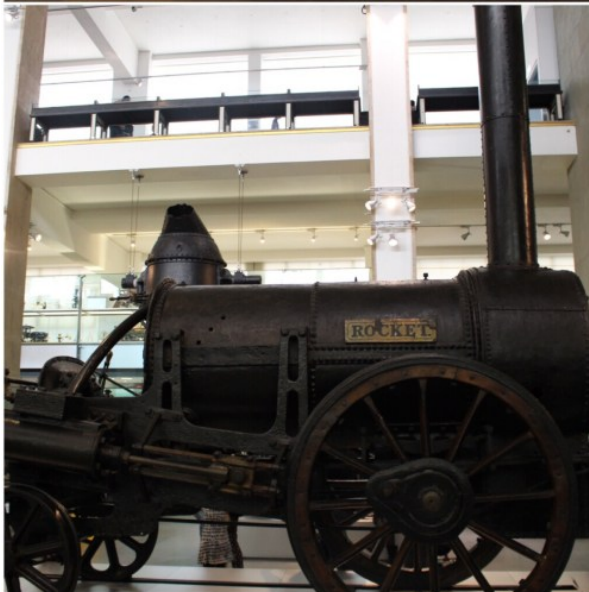
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Keith and his Dad ♥

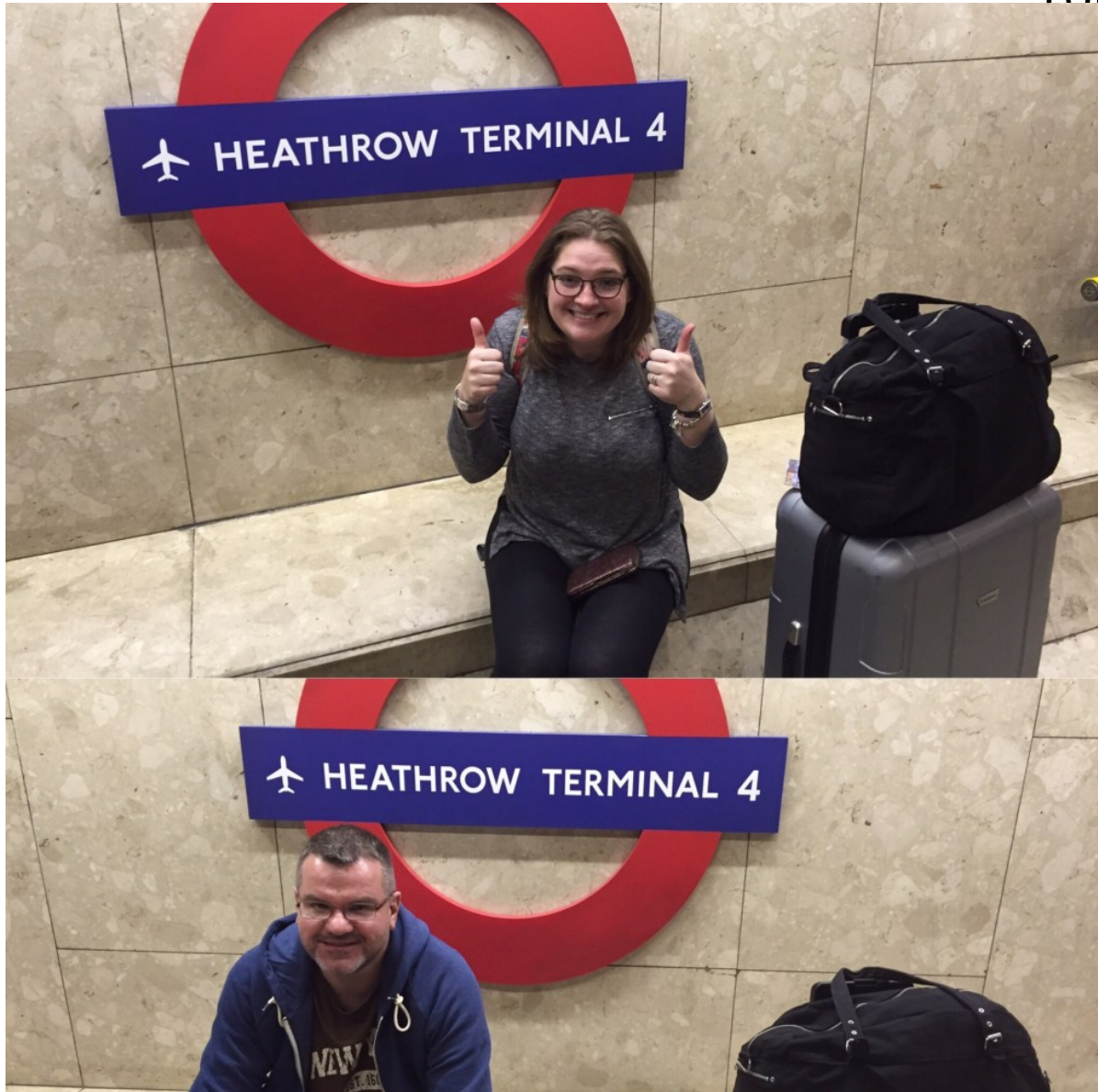
Friday dawned and we awoke early, with the usual sense of excitement and nerves expected when about to undertake 24 hours of travel. We had evening flights so spent the day in South Kensington, at the Science Museum (handy as there is left luggage for £4 a suitcase). Mid afternoon and we made our way to Heathrow, ready to meet up with our Great Rail Tour Manager and rest of the group. Amazingly, our tour manager is John Levick, who coincidentally took us across America last year- he is brilliant and we couldn't be happier to be in his hands once again.

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Science Museum

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Arriving at Heathrow

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Our flight took us on Air France to Paris, a
very short 40 min flight, crammed with com-
plimentary G&T and sandwich, before chang-
ing planes at CDG and continuing to Tokyo
Haneda, still with Air France for the main 12
hr flight.

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Landing at Paris, Le Tour de Eiffel just visible (iPhone
pic!)

It's true to say neither of us were looking forward to the journey, but Air France did a good job of making both flights comfortable. We were served champagne, Japanese Beef curry, Miso Soup, apple tarts, Camember for our main meal, followed by free drinks and then Eggs florentine for breakfast.

We arrived in Tokyo on Saturday evening (Sat lunch time UK time- We are currently 8 hours ahead) and were picked up by coach and met our Japaense guide who along with John will ensure our tour is fabulous, I'm

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sure.

We arrived in time for a cheeky cocktail on
our hotels roof bar, we are staying at the
AMAZing Keio Plaza Hotel.



View from hotel bar- Keio Plaza Hotel

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Cheers from the top of Tokyo

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It's now Sunday morning, so time to get up
and get exploring TOKYO!

Until next time,

Lx

PS- Japanese Loos..... Amazing! Heated seat-
s□□□□□□□ enough said....

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Mod con Loo!

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