

# AROUND THE WORLD

As part of the summer travel program, Dragons explore locations across the globe with trips to England, Iceland and Japan.  
Story by Kaylan Lessen

Over the summer, Drake hosted trips for interested students to Iceland, Japan, and London where travelers had experiences of a lifetime.

Iceland was a destination for beautiful hikes and scenery that will be imprinted in students' minds for a long time. "The best thing that we did in Iceland was when we visited Gullfoss, and we hiked on a glacier. It was one of the prettiest things I've ever seen," Sydney Stocker (8) said.

The majority of students brought back memorable souvenirs. "I got a bracelet from the Icelandic version of Five Below, and I have worn it every day since," Ian Boeckman (8) said. London was the most popular choice between the three trips with all 42 available spots filling quickly. Most of the activities were connected to the world of either Shakespeare or Harry Potter, but there was time to explore the major city sites, too.

"I loved when we went on the London Eye because we got to see the whole city from up high, and it was so pretty," Bailey Williams (8) said.

Fans of J.K. Rowling's book series were excited about the city's dedicated Potter Museum. "We went to the Harry Potter museum one day, and it was really big and there was so much to look at," Carter Synder (8) said.

The third trip to Japan was a long time coming, having been postponed due to COVID last year. The culture was vastly different from the United States, and the students had a great time. "We had a lot of weird candy there that I had never had before, and it was really good," Addison Gothard (8) said.

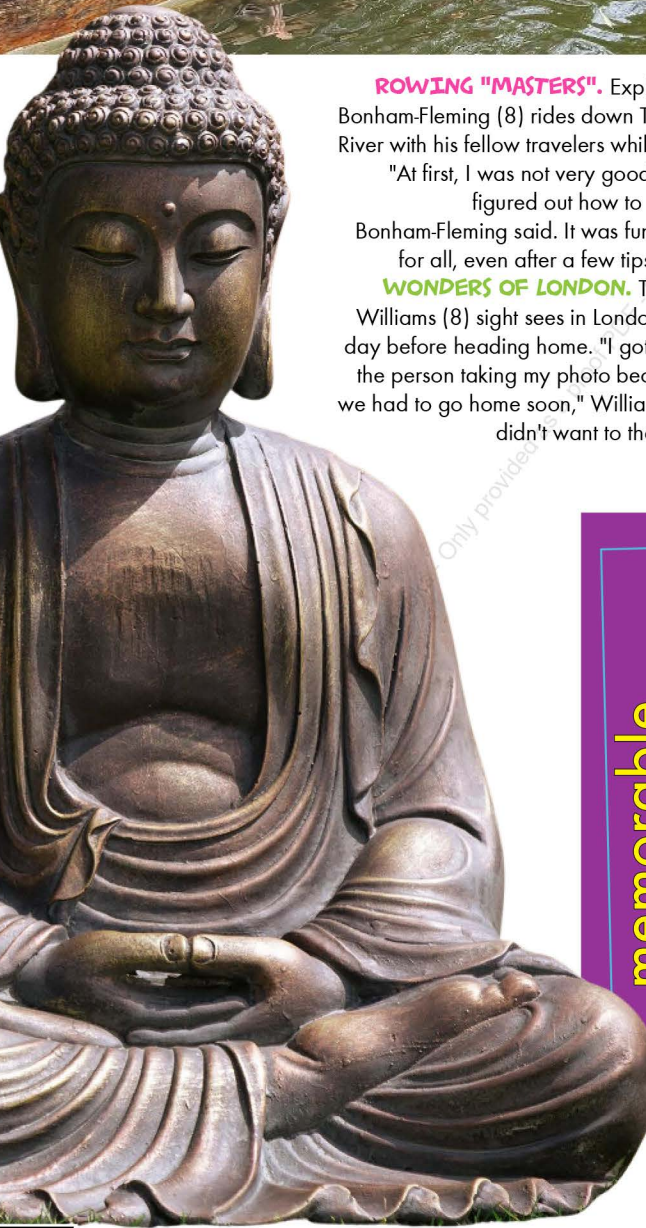
The incredible sites in Japan also took students' and teachers' breath away. "My favorite part of the trip was that we got to go to the top of a really tall building, and you could see everything," Jackson Backenec (8) said.

Overall, all students had a really good time, and they all had nothing but good things to say about it. "I would 100% recommend these trips for future students that have the opportunity. It is something that you will only get to experience once, and it is fully worth it," Sydney Stocker (8) said.



**ROWING "MASTERS".** Explorer Charlie Bonham-Fleming (8) rides down The Cherwell River with his fellow travelers while in London. "At first, I was not very good at all, but I figured out how to do it better," Bonham-Fleming said. It was fun experience for all, even after a few tips overboard.

**WONDERS OF LONDON.** Tourist Bailey Williams (8) sight sees in London on the last day before heading home. "I got annoyed at the person taking my photo because I knew we had to go home soon," Williams said. She didn't want to the trip to end.



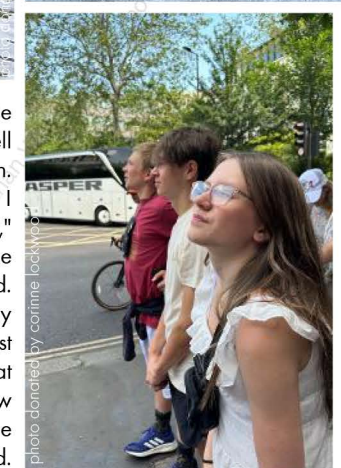
**HORSE HAIRSTYLIST.** Riley Christensen (8) pets a horse while at a local horse stable in Iceland. "I was saying hi because I thought the horse was very cute, and it seemed to like me as well," Christensen said. Before leaving that day, Christensen ensured that all the horses sported a new middle part hairstyle.



**GOOD GRANNY.** While in Tokyo, Jack Bakanec (8) takes a photo with his traveling peers. "It was very fun on the last night because we all spent time together and even talked to a local grandma," Bakanec said. Making friends with a local and trying to communicate made Bakanec's trip.



**GOODNESS GLACIERS.** Ice climber Clara Trujillo (8) explores a glacier in Iceland with fellow travelers Owen Earl (8) and Scarlett Hewitt (8). "We were kicking around and even drank glacier water. It was the best water I have ever had," Trujillo said. According to Clara, it was beautiful and such a good experience for everyone.



memorable  
MOMENTS  
Students from the Japan, Iceland and England trips share favorite treasured memories from their travels.



"In London, the most exciting things we saw were the castle and Big Ben. The food we ate was super good and fun to try."



"When I went to Iceland, my favorite thing was walking on the glaciers we saw because the view was really pretty. The rocks and other sites at the glacier were also very interesting to learn about."



"My favorite part about going to Japan was going to the top of this really tall building. I liked it because the view from the top was gorgeous."