

WE were told about all of the famous people who traveled on the Grand Tour and how it made boys into men and men into more cultured men. I felt connected to those people and like I was getting an opportunity to participate in a program that had not been offered for years and years. It felt like a revival of something sacred.

I learned to laugh as I walked down the streets of Rome, realizing this is one of the most special times in my life. To be young and travel is honestly one of the most beautiful and incredible opportunities a person can take. At the young age of twenty, our minds are like sponges. The learning and seeing I did on this trip was more than I could have experienced ever at UGA.

In the past, I never would have visited an art gallery. I did not see the importance of it. I was one of those Americans who was fine with just watching football and living my life in my own world; however, when standing inside the National Gallery in London, it finally hit me after almost fifteen days on the trip that how can I ever learn more, if I do not reach out to what I know little about? It was time to start respecting what I thought I did not care about in order to improve my life for the future.

Going on the UGA Grand Tour was an amazing recreation of the educational rite of passage that was the original Grand tour

This trip left me incredibly blessed to have walked in the same places that so many amazing people of history have walked.

I'm so thankful for the memories and friends I made, but I am even more thankful for the person this trip has helped me become. I'm more traveled, more aware, more outgoing,, and much more appreciative than I've ever been. Thank you guys so much! NAILED IT1!

You see, this trip changed me. Years ago, I used to be adventurous. I wanted to move far away. I wanted to travel. I wanted to do it all. After a bad experience my freshmen year of college, that adventurous spirit died. I had hated moving away-obviously the exploration life was not for me. I put those dreams away. Going on the Art and Garden Tour reawakened that adventurous spirit in me. It gave me a thirst for knowledge that I cannot get inside a classroom. The Art and Garden Tour taught me about the importance of traveling. you cannot learn how others live if you do not experience it. (This tour) helps you reach beyond your comfort zone, step over the limitations for the classroom, and truly learn.

EVERY college student must find the time in their class schedule to study abroad. It is a life changing experience and you will learn life lessons that you would never be able to pick up from a textbook or a classroom.

I have seen the greatest works of art and gardens that man can feasibly create-awesome; most every site moved me to awe and breathlessness.

Created by the educated mythology enthusiast Ian Hamilton Finally, this garden was among the most unique we visited. It was inspired by war, the disillusionment of society, the desensitization of man toward violence, the beauty and wildness of nature, the wonder of sprawling grassy fields, the play of colors, an acknowledgment to the past and future, and a love of poetry...It was so quirky and, at times, hokey and disjointed that I did not relax to enjoy its aesthetic quality, but I enjoyed the mystery it presented.

Little Sparta reminded me that we do not all think the same in this world and being an arrogant conservative from Forsyth, Georgia, that was hard to swallow. It helped me open my eyes to the little things that I may have been missing in the past due to my cultural blindness.

People see gardens differently, because people are different. People see the world differently, because people are different. Even though prior to the trip I thought I had all the right answers, I was humbled to see the different views of the world and my classmates. We live in a fascinating place, and maybe I should open my eyes a little more around me. Maybe places like Little Sparta were meant to help that happen. Little Sparta was a captivating place and full of surprises, just like the planet we live on each and every day of our lives.

Visiting the different cultures across Europe gave me a new idea of the world. It opened my eyes to things I had never seen before. It allowed me to start thinking about the world in a new manner, including my own country. It gave me a new sense of respect for people who are not just like me.

I expected to learn valuable academic information, but I had no idea the amount of life lessons I would learn from taking such a trip

This not only offered me the opportunity to meet new friends, but to learn that I can be independent

I learned to step outside of my comfort zone and experience things I have never tried before. For example trying rabbit was a first for me, and quite out of character, but I actually enjoyed it very much.

I learned to navigate through unfamiliar cities, communicate with people who spoke different languages, and to simply open up my mind to new experiences.

This trip ended up being so much more than a chance to see the world. It was a chance to learn, grow, live, and evolve.

When people ask about my trip, I tell them about all the surreal, magical places I came too.

I learned just because people and things are different does not make them wrong

We are so close -minded in America, as most of us are raised to believe that our way of thinking is the only way, the right way and that we are the 'norm" In Europe, I hardly ever had wifi, and though it was nice to contact my parents every once in awhile, I found that I was much more aware without it. I was noticeably more social, remember more of what I saw and experienced , and surprised to find the non-electronic sources of fun we found when we had free time.

.. It does give me a new appreciation for the artwork because I know where the inspiration came from.

Findlay has taken a diary and turned it into a garden. Here are his thoughts, his poems, his memories, all spelled out with various garden structures and plants.

I am stickler for a stringent routine. If things do not go according to plan, the anxiety is too much for me. However, this trip helped me so much with that. Life is far too short to be caught up on such strict details that really, at the end of the day, do not even matter all that much. Traveling to a different city every two to three days forced me to be flexible.

Travel is one expense that makes you richer

Push yourself. Push yourself outside of your comfort zone. Push yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally. Dare yourself to try new things, meet new people, and to continue even when you are exhausted.

At this point, I start to fully understand the concept of copying and tweaking others' ideas and designs instead of trying to invent your won. This was obviously the simple philosophy of many artists who came before us.

I was thankful to learn the history behind the monuments and gardens we were touring, instead of staring blankly at them thinking that's really petty, but I'm clueless as to why it's so significant.

All along the way, the more I was learning, the more I was growing. My depth of knowledge, ideas, opinions, and self was expanding.

The professors overwhelmed me with information and detail and provoked me to reevaluate my understanding of a garden, of life, really. To appreciate that everything has a story, a purpose, and that every detail (noticeable or not) has an inordinate amount of power behind it.

Rousham - I went away from the noisy group, and I explored the space on my own. I felt that I was traversing old, secret areas. I felt that the garden and I had a hushed, personal relationship together. It was marvelous.

That, perhaps is what most impacted me.. Walking face to face with the front of the cold, stone building and feeling its power surround me as I approached

Studying abroad taught me much more about myself than about gardens or classical art and history.

This trip has been the most impacting and important three weeks of my life.

I also learned the value of other cultures and that being exposed to those is vital in understanding myself and my culture. I can relate to others and understand them because I can understand myself. This trip was truly an adventure of self-discovery. Once I set foot back on American soil, I was already planning my next adventure out of the country.

I learned that sometimes it is necessary to go out of your comfort zone and try new things. Not everywhere in the world has sweet tea, Fox News, or Sports Center and on the Grand Tour it is important to branch out a little in order to improve your life.

Little sparta . I also think that being in this new group would have been awkward if we were not in the setting we were in. The garden allowed us to make conversation and have a medium to socialize about.