2019 Summer Trip

outline

Hotels

London, Rembrandt, solidly acceptable
Moscow, metropole, excellent
Minsk, renaissance, small room located out of town
Kiev, park inn, room too small, ugly location, things broken TV, safe
Brasov, Aro palace, good location, beds too small
Bucharest, grand continental, beds perfect
Edinburgh, Radisson Blu

Guides

marianna, excellent, Moscow
camilla, excellent, Minsk
Natalia Kaitan, excellent Kiev
Daniel Dorba/Dorda (?) excellent, romania

Culture

London, sweat play
Moscow, carmen ballet, bolshoi
Moscow, Russian National Dance Show
Minsk, cinderella ballet
Kiev, sleeping beauty ballet,
London, Starry Messenger, play
London, 9-to-5 The Musical play
London, Midsummers nights dream
London, Lehman Trilogy play
Edinburgh, Edinburgh string quartet, McEwan Hall
Edinburgh, visit to Scone Palace
London, School of Rock

Synagogues

Moscow choral Synagogue, Jewish museum
Minsk, monument in Slutsk
Minsk sculpture memorial in Jewish Ghetto
Kiev, Chabad Brodsky synagogue
Bucharest, Choral Synagogue, Jewish Museum

Heading to Oxford for Emily's Graduation











Oxford – Emily Graduates Oxford Brookes













Streets of London













Traditional English Dinner with Clines













Monument to 1951 exposition

Moscow Bolshoi Theatre









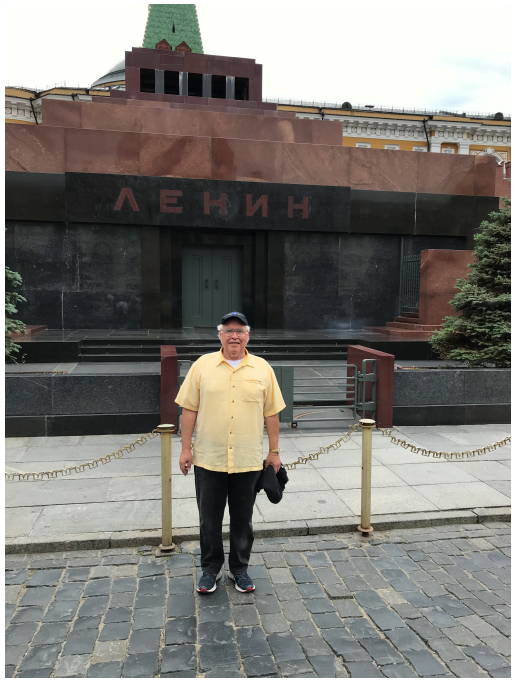


Moscow Red Square











Touring the Kremlin in Moscow



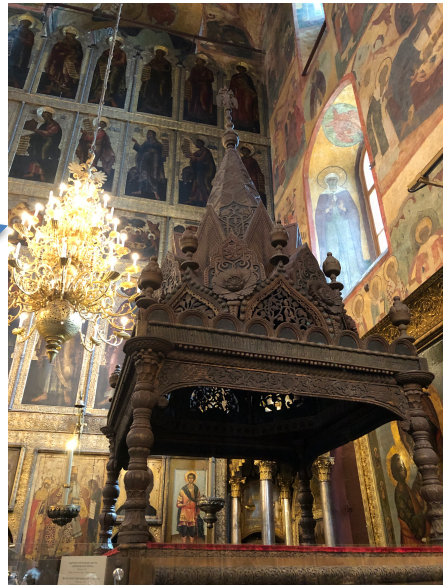






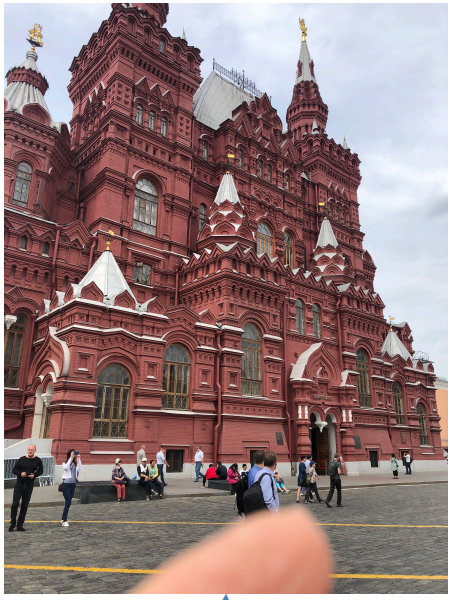
Largest bell in the world

Inside Church of Assumption

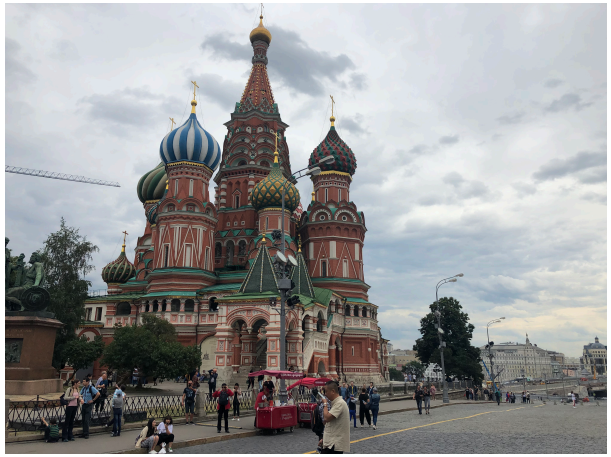


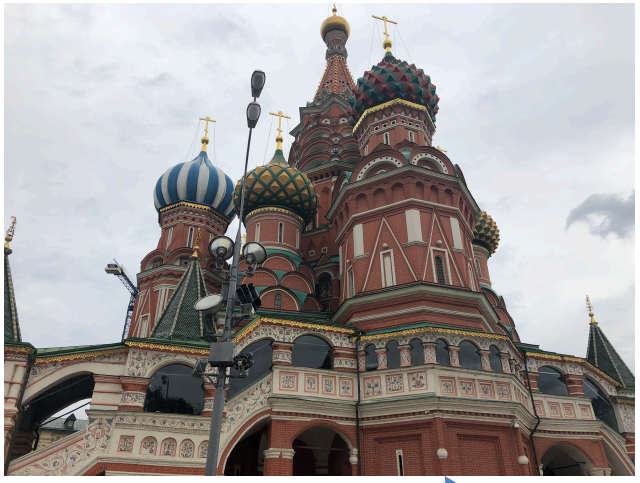


Moscow and Red Square

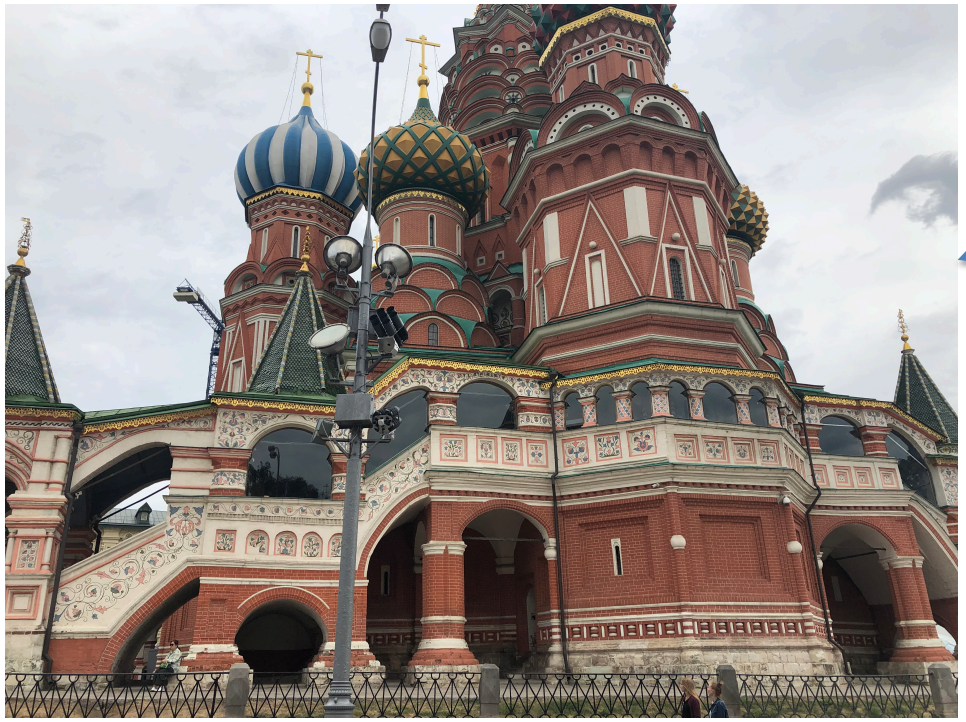


History Museum





St. Basil's Cathedral



Tolstoy House







Moscow Choral Synagogue







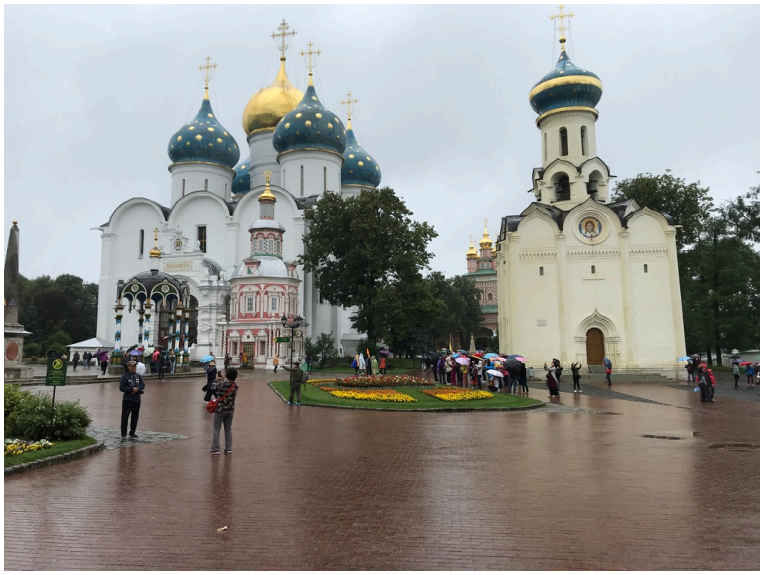




Moscow/Sergiev Prasad (Headquarters Russian Orthodox Church)

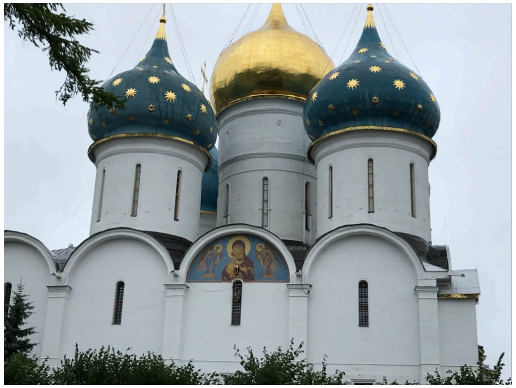


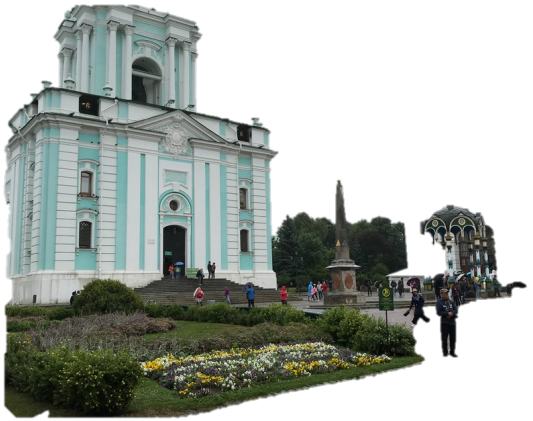




One hour drive from Moscow
Many czars dedicated churches and monasteries







Moscow Subway Stations/Social Realist Art













More on Moscow



Chagall painting of a Jew struggling whether to join The Russian Revolution



Breakfast at the Metropole Hotel





Bolshoi backstage tour guide





Minsk, Belarus

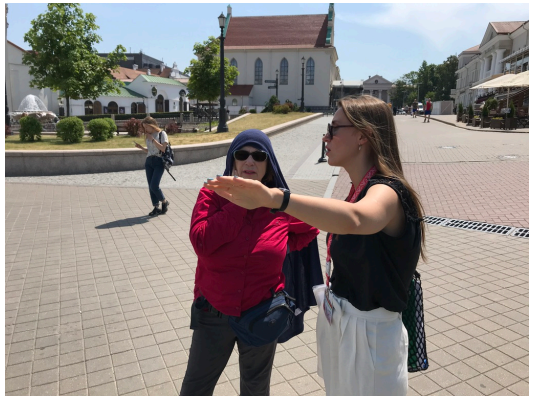






Statue of Lenin on Independence Ave







Historical scence on central sq.

Minsk/Monument to Jews Murdered During WWII











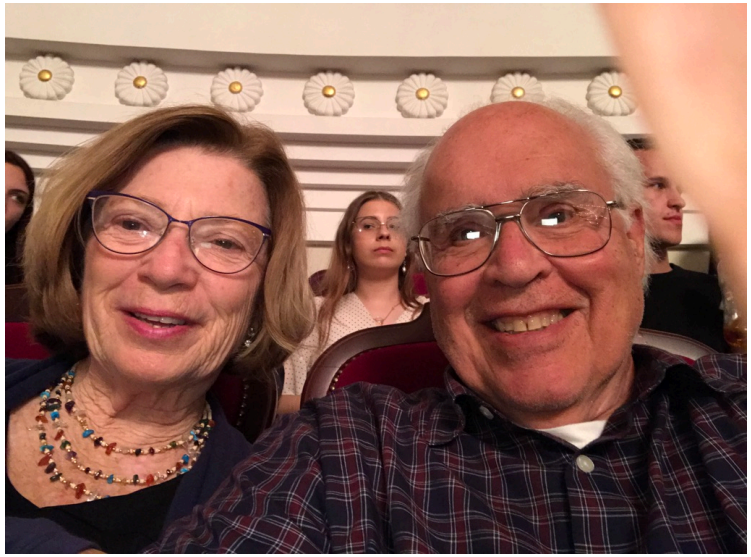
Tour guides discuss Jewish life in Slutsk; To depart Slutsk for the US, one had to use the river from Slutsk to Minsk which connected to a train to Warsaw; a perilous journey

House from 19th Century in Minsk

Minsk/Cinderella Ballet









On to Kiev


NF
EMBRAER
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HOTEL


НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ
МЕМОРІАЛЬНИЙ КОМПЛЕКС
ГЕРОЇВ НЕБЕСНОЇ СОТНІ –
МУЗЕЙ РЕВОЛЮЦІЇ ГІДНОСТІ
www.maidanmuseum.org



Kiev, Ukraine/Brodsky Synagogue



Protests in front of the New Presidents office, Zelenksy







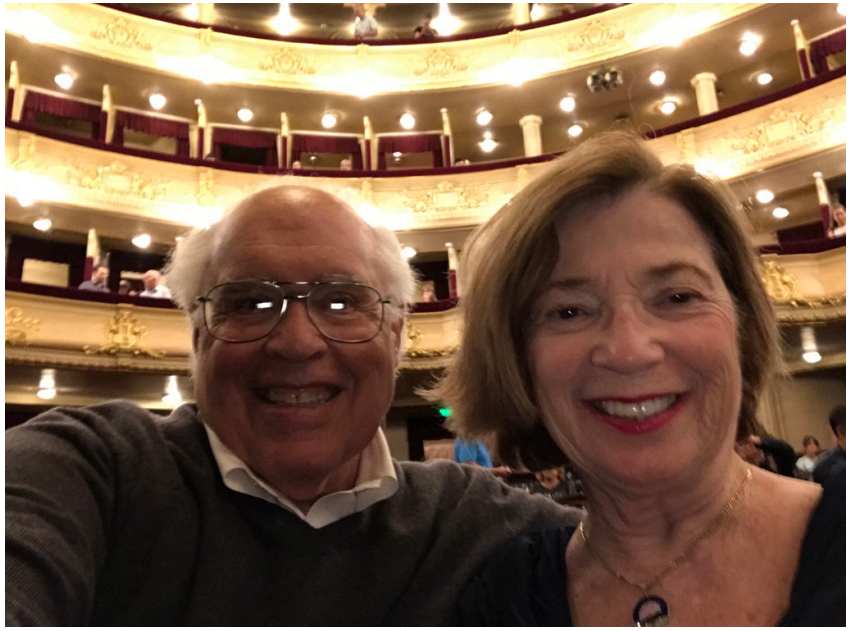
Historical village with Community center in Log cabin, cemented white





Kiev/Sleeping Beauty Ballet







The cast



The stars

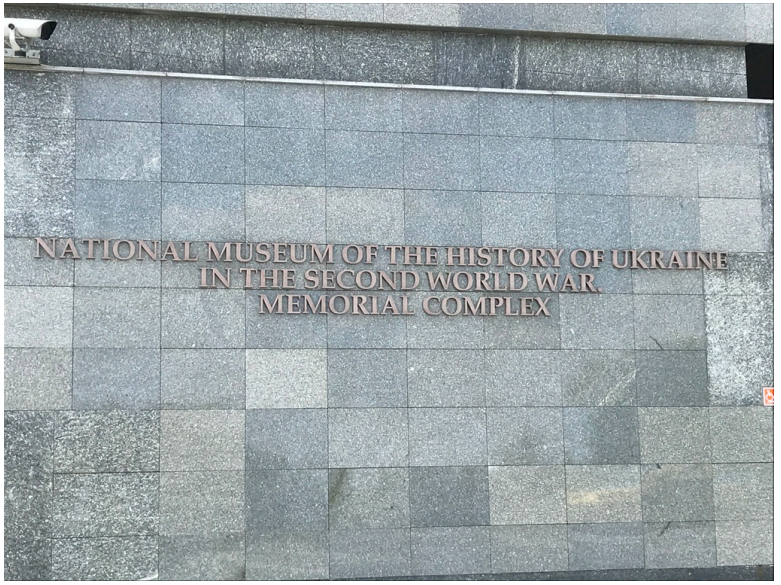


The Wicked Witch

Still in Kiev/Monument to the Victory over the Nazis







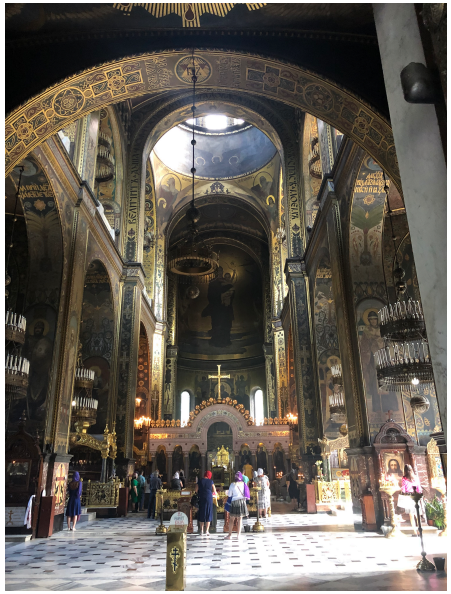


Motherland Monument of Ukraine, WWII Museum inside Statue commemorating Kiev residents crossing a river to defend the city



On to Bucharest

More on Kiev







Above palaces and churches in Kiev
Versus log cabins in earlier century





Brasov Romania/Transylvania/Jewish Presence

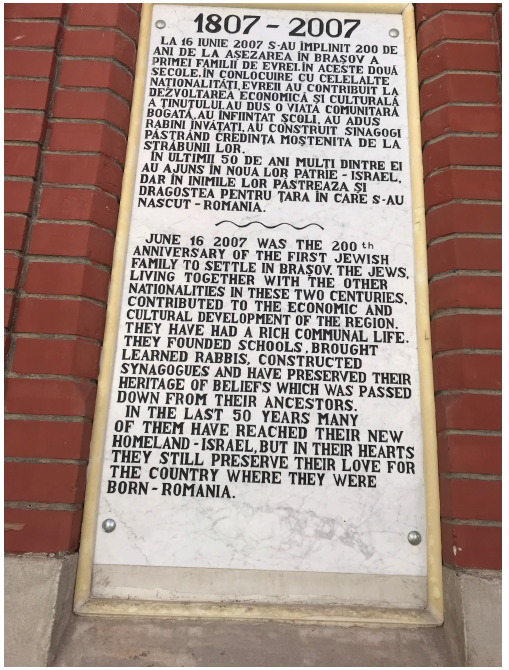












Brasov





Walk up to the Bran castle with guide



Climbing the Bell Tower





Head Sculpture Of Vlad/Dracula

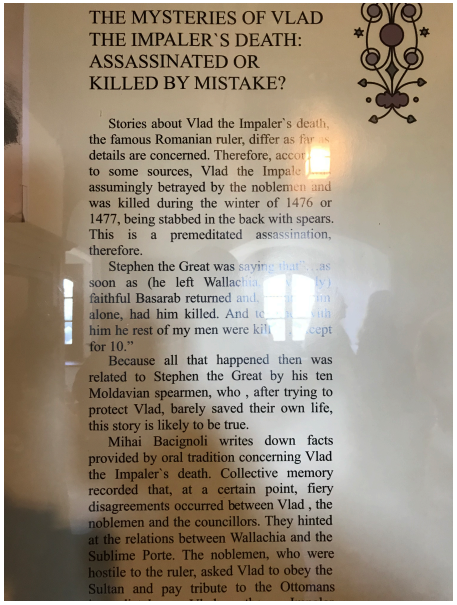
Dracula's Castle (aka Bran Castle)









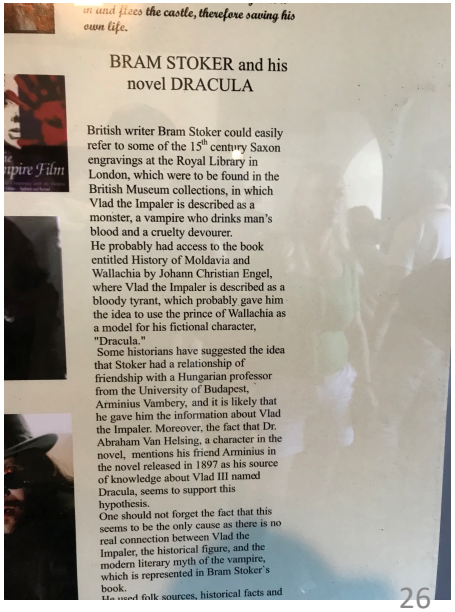

THE MYSTERIES OF VLAD THE IMPALER`S DEATH: ASSASSINATED OR KILLED BY MISTAKE?

Stories about Vlad the Impaler's death, the famous Romanian ruler, differ as far as details are concerned. Therefore, accor to some sources, Vlad the Impale assumingly betrayed by the noblemen and was killed during the winter of 1476 or 1477, being stabbed in the back with spears. This is a premeditated assassination, therefore.

Stephen the Great was saying that as soon as (he left Wallachia faithful Basarab returned and alone, had him killed. And him he rest of my men were kil for 10."

Because all that happened then was related to Stephen the Great by his ten Moldavian spearmen, who , after trying to protect Vlad, barely saved their own life, this story is likely to be true.

Mihai Bacignoli writes down facts provided by oral tradition concerning Vlad the Impaler`s death. Collective memory recorded that, at a certain point, fiery disagreements occurred between Vlad , the noblemen and the councillors. They hinted at the relations between Wallachia and the Sublime Porte. The noblemen, who were hostile to the ruler, asked Vlad to obey the Sultan and pay tribute to the Ottomans


and flees the castle, therefore saving his own life.

BRAM STOKER and his novel DRACULA

British writer Bram Stoker could easily refer to some of the 15th century Saxon engravings at the Royal Library in London, which were to be found in the British Museum collections, in which Vlad the Impaler is described as a monster, a vampire who drinks man's blood and a cruelty devourer.
He probably had access to the book entitled History of Moldavia and Wallachia by Johann Christian Engel, where Vlad the Impaler is described as a bloody tyrant, which probably gave him the idea to use the prince of Wallachia as a model for his fictional character, "Dracula."
Some historians have suggested the idea that Stoker had a relationship of friendship with a Hungarian professor from the University of Budapest, Arminius Vambery, and it is likely that he gave him the information about Vlad the Impaler. Moreover, the fact that Dr. Abraham Van Helsing, a character in the novel, mentions his friend Arminius in the novel released in 1897 as his source of knowledge about Vlad III named Dracula, seems to support this hypothesis.
One should not forget the fact that this seems to be the only cause as there is no real connection between Vlad the Impaler, the historical figure, and the modern literary myth of the vampire, which is represented in Bram Stoker`s book.

Top three are at Bran Castle/Bottom three at Aro Palace













Bucharest, Romania



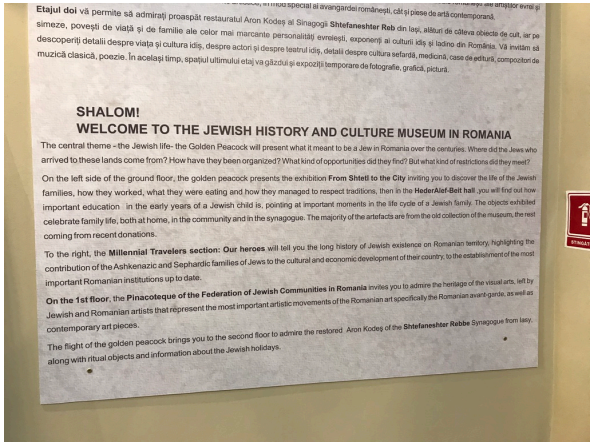
In front of the Athenaeum
Holding Palisades Post



Large palace/parliament building



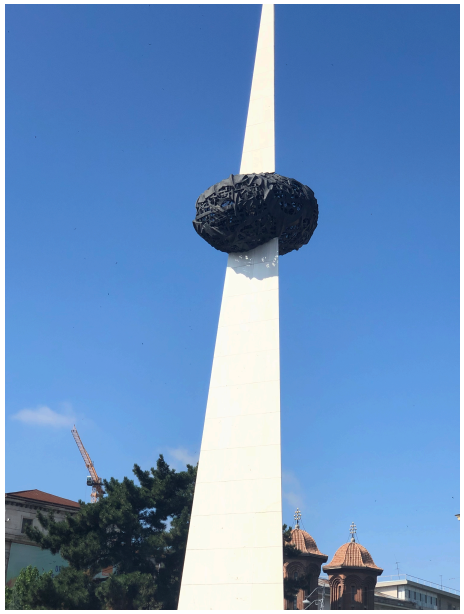
Our Kiev guide







Bucharest







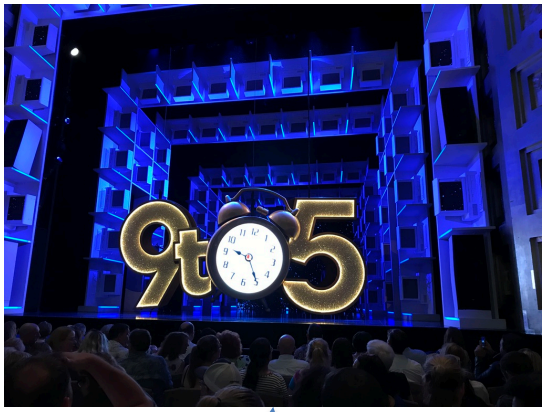
Sculptures in Bucharest

Back to London, July 10



Emily and Rose turn 23





Seeing another play in London

Chris and Charlotte at a local pub

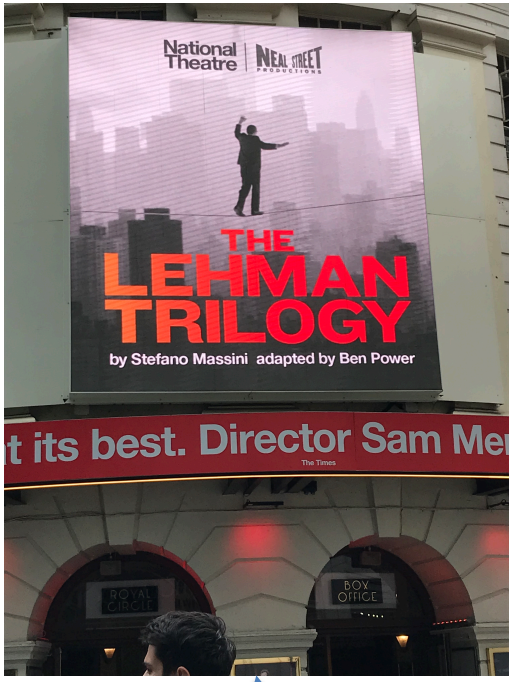




London Skyline/Midsummer Night's Dream at the Globe









Shakespeare at the Globe Midsummer Night's Dream

Another play in London



Dining with Chris and Charlotte

Miscellaneous Shots in London



Trajan's column
Copy in the V&A Museum;
The Dalmaian army is celebrated in the column







On to Edinburgh









John Knox House



Trip to Scone Castle













Replica of Stone used in monarch coronations

More on Edinburgh









Final Meeting at the Rembrandt



Ellis, Alex, Hal, Jules, Charlotte, Chris and Maryanne