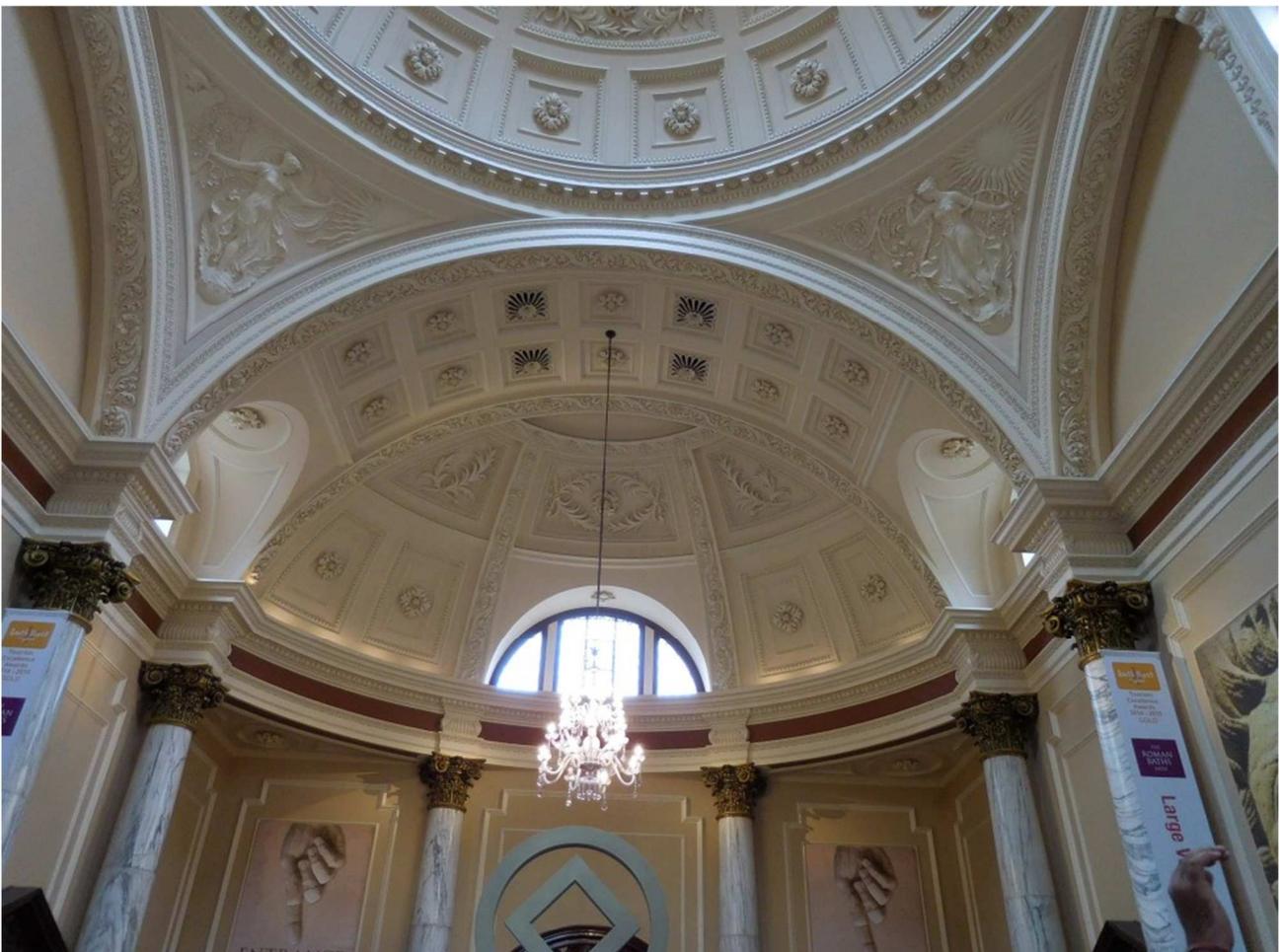


Bath, an incredible old city !

Thursday, it is under beautiful skies that we continue our (quick) discovery of the city by attacking the monument that gives it its name: the Roman baths. Classified as World Heritage by Unesco, these were built by the Romans at the time of the conquest of Brittany. Unlike most of these bath sets found in all Roman cities, those of Bath have this particularity that they had a religious dimension: indeed, a natural hot spring (46 °) springs from the bowels of the earth at a very sustained flow, and the source was dedicated to Minerva Sulis (hence the name Aquae Sulis Bath bore)



The baths are accessed by the building built around the 19th century, when the spa has enjoyed a resurgence of popularity, and that Bath has become a tourist destination. As in all these places, the audioguide is the law and, scalded by the misadventure of Schönbrunn, we took it. Except that we do not have to follow him to understand something, so that the handsets remained in our pockets during the visit.





After a presentation of the old layout of the place, the museum presents a lot of objects found in the baths, thus illuminating the daily life of the inhabitants and visitors - the city of *Aquae Sulis* was a place of pilgrimage. Given the religious function of the source, many Romans had erected stone altars (my epigraphy lessons were remembered to my good memory) and throwing objects as "*ex voto*". You can admire beautiful things: remains of mosaics, jewels, glassware (my cute sin), but also a skeleton and explanations of funeral rites.

Among my favorite objects were the curses: small rolls on which people cursed those who had harmed them (robberies, in particular). These were written in terms that were both pictorial and hardly confusing!

But the highlight of the visit is undoubtedly the central basin adorned with columns, and the "reservoir" from which you can see the water rise to the surface, with a lot of bubbles and steam. Since both ponds are open and rainy, the effect was really striking.



By stepping over the channel that feeds the central basin with water, we could feel the heat that emanated from it, it was quite impressive! Then, the visit becomes more "classic" with the traditional warm, warm and cold rooms, the large pool where we were going to swim and ... the souvenir shop. In total, and without hanging out, we spent more than an hour and a half in the baths, completely in love. This is a must visit, and rightly so.