

## Scotland

Going to the UK is one of my biggest dreams that I never thought I would accomplish so soon. Now, I can proudly say that it was truly an unforgettable experience I will probably be bragging about for eternity.

It all started last winter with me being introduced to this competition and hearing about the grand prize which, to be honest, I didn't believe at first. I and a couple of my friends decided to give the online competition a shot thinking nothing of it, then a couple of months later my English teacher comes into class one day with a big smile on his face congratulating me for moving on to the finals. Honestly, preparing for the speaking exercises wasn't my favorite thing to do, especially finding a good book segment to memorize. However, my mom and dad sure pulled through with some good recommendations. On the day of the competition, I was starting to get really nervous but it all went well in the end and I had a great time.

It's safe to say that going from Budapest to Edinburgh seemed scary in my head but it actually went very smoothly. This being my first official airplane



experience I had no idea what to expect but felt reassured when I went with people with similar concerns.

### DAY 1

Right after arriving, it was as if I had entered a different world, because of Scotland's smaller size, compared to Budapest it was really refreshing when we arrived at our hotel almost in the countryside. All we really did on the first day was take the tram to Princes Street and be in awe at the city's beautiful medieval architecture and the castle up on the hill and of course, we had a bite to eat and went to the supermarket for a few things. This day was truly great as we wandered around Edinburgh and got used to the heavy Scottish accent. Although what I found most shocking is that it didn't rain at all throughout the day but rather rained heavily on the next days to come.



## DAY 2

A funny thing was that getting ready to go to Glasgow on day 2 was difficult with two boys who had no intention of waking up in the morning. We took a 45-minute train ride to Glasgow and played some card games on the way, to pass the time but we also pondered at the scenery as it was very beautiful indeed. As soon as we arrived we went to look at George Square and then we had some free time for shopping and it was so much fun to look around but then it started absolutely pouring and I was the only person who had an umbrella. Then unfortunately we got a little lost since buses in Glasgow were a little complicated, but we ended up taking the smallest metro to Glasgow University where all of us were blown away. We ended up stumbling into the Hunterian museum which was free to view and it was absolutely gorgeous. Then as all of us started to feel very hungry we settled for lunch in a place where they were kind enough to let us pay separately for our food. The church we were supposed to go to meet people who knew much more about Jane Haining actually was a very wonderful experience as we got free cake and sandwiches and we even got the chance to listen to a live chorus which made us very emotional. When we went back to Edinburgh we had some free time to roam around and we made the major discovery of cheap British strawberries which tasted absolutely amazing then we went back to the hotel to rest because I'm sure everyone was just exhausted.



### DAY 3

The third day honestly might have been my favorite since we visited the Royal Mile and every important historic building along it. Our first stop was the St Giles Cathedral, which had so many stained glass windows I honestly lost count.



Then we visited John Knox's house where we even had the chance to dress up in his clothing. Next came Edinburgh castle where we watched the one o'clock gun and then got destroyed by rain and



wind. We also did this in separate groups. We also had a chance to look at the actual crown jewels, the Great Hall, Prisons of War, the War Memorial, and the stunning views. Then we went to the coolest fish and chips place that I have ever seen and stuffed our bellies full of delicious food. Finally, our last stop was the Palace of Holyroodhouse where we had audio guides guide us through the palace and its stunning paintings, furniture, and tapestries.

Thankfully we went just in time because the next day the Royal family had visited. Then we went back to Prince's Street and had some free time once again and we decided to buy strawberries again, after that we took a tram to the last stop to visit the seaside and it was so much fun, then we went back



to our hotel and we ordered some pizza to eat while watching a movie which was so much fun.

## DAY 4

I was honestly a bit sad to find myself on the last day of this wonderful trip but this day mainly gave us the opportunity to shop for souvenirs to give to family and friends. We were ecstatic to find an awesome record shop with many interesting items and merchandise. We also stumbled into a candy shop which was just unbelievable and of course we didn't leave empty-handed. We ended up having lunch at McDonald's and then went back to our hotel for the final time. We packed up and headed off to the airport. We went to check out a few more shops after going through security and almost having our belongings taken away, then we waited in line to board our plane.

Our seats were scattered throughout the back of the aircraft but I didn't have any worries since the trip to Scotland went so well. I was just watching a show on my phone when suddenly my ears really started hurting to the point where it felt like it was going to bleed. I took out my earphones but it didn't help at all. Then I started feeling nauseous and I was in rough shape. At that point, I'm very glad we soon landed and I was relieved to see my family again.

We said our goodbyes and promised to keep in touch then we went our separate ways.

Overall I would say that I'm quite happy that I didn't miss such an amazing opportunity and I'm thankful for this trip which made for a very fun experience.