

June 17

We arrived at the airport with my mom, anxiously waiting to meet Miss Sápi and the others. It was going to be my first time flying, and I was terrified. Soon the group started to form, six kids with their parents and Miss Sápi with her daughter Karolina. We went through a not very eventful but more and more stressful security and passport check, and were flying to Edinburgh. After a three hour flight we arrived at the cloudy land of Scotland.



As soon as we set foot on the ground, the cold wind almost blew me away and I was very glad I was wearing layers. We bought tram tickets and went to the hotel to get some rest.

The group met up in the common room shortly, and after a cup of instant coffee, we decided to get something to eat. We went to the nearest mall and had a sandwich, then while eating we decided to go sightseeing a little. so we got on the tram again, this time going to the city centre. I smiled at the sight of the stereotypical long rows of identical houses and familiar shops, then got off at Princes street. One can see Edinburgh castle from the tram stop, but craving to see more we walked up Calton hill up ahead.

At the top we could see the whole of Edinburgh as well as the sea and the hills surrounding it. We tried to go up the Nelson monument, but sadly it was closed. Soon we rode the tram back to the hotel and tucked ourselves into the bed for our first night on this foreign land.



June 18

First morning in Scotland, I felt very tired but had a pleasant breakfast of coffee and baked snacks at the hotel. Our small team got on the tram again, but this time we went to the bus station. I enjoyed a ride on the double-decker to Glasgow, taking in the Scottish landscape for as long as I could.



At Glasgow station the group met up with a lady from the Jane Haining memorial association. We hopped into a taxi and drove to the Queen's park church with two stained glass windows in honor of Jane Haining. Next to a cup of tea and juice, we got introduced to the other members of the memorial group. It was my first time trying capri sun, since it's not sold in Hungary. After a lovely chat, we hopped into their cars. To my surprise, the steering wheel was on the left!

Our hosts drove us to Miss Morag's house, and for another shocking Scottish custom, she asked us not to worry about taking our shoes off. We sat down and talked in the living room and were soon invited to the dining table. It took a little bit of time to get used to our inviters' accents, but soon we had a wonderful conversation about all the things we wanted to know about each other next to the meal. Our lunch was similar to Hungarian Easter lunches, salads, eggs, ham, tiger bread and cooked chicken.



When the feast was over, one of the ladies got out her violin, and we sang Hungarian songs together, and also listened to some Scottish ones! We soon moved on, taking the bus to the inner city, saying our goodbyes, and then walking to a plaza where we had drinks.

It was time that we went back to Edinburgh, had another bus and tram ride and this time we decided to stop at the nearby mall, buying some snacks.

We enjoyed a pizza in the hotel, then played cards until late at night. We slept like babies today, exhausted after a long day in Glasgow.

June 19.



On this lovely Sunday morning, we could sleep a little bit longer, and felt a lot better since we went sightseeing. After the same breakfast as yesterday, we rode the tram to the city centre again.

We discussed which hop-on-hop-off bus we should take, then “hopped on” the one we chose. With the earbuds we got, we listened to the audio guide while going a full circle. We saw the castle

once again, the Scottish Parliament, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. We decided to go back to the starting stop, then walk to High Street to have lunch.

We craved for fish and chips at this point, so our team went to a really Scottish restaurant called The Pipers Rest. I ordered a *wee* plate of fish bites coated in beer crumbs and some chips. It was really good! We also found a scottish dictionary on one of the pages of the menu and read it out laughing.



After the tasty lunch, we decided to walk to Holyrood Palace. Miss Sapi already bought the tickets, so after entering we immediately grabbed our audio guides and started our walk in the palace. Entering countless numbers of huge rooms and corridors, I listened to the history of the place and the royal family’s interviews about their experience there. It was really fascinating how they described the 3-story palace as “feels like home” and “cozy”. I enjoyed a walk in the huge gardens, took the stairs to Queen Mary’s tower, and i was shocked to see that the infamous murder in the palace happened on my birthday!

Outside the Palace gates, we met up with Judy, a lovely woman honoring the memory of Jane Haining. She could speak Hungarian very well too, but we decided to talk in english. She told us about why she was working for the memory of Holocaust heroes and we also shared our stories and journey.



After a short walk in Edinburgh, we said our goodbyes to Judy, then walked back to Princes street, where we had dinner at the mall. When we left the mall, outside we took some minutes to appreciate some bagpipe music on the streets, then took a walk in the Princes street gardens. After this

long day we played cards again, and I slept really well under my huge blanket.

June 20.

When I woke up on Monday, I felt really sad knowing it was my last morning in Scotland. After the usual breakfast, we packed our bags and got ready for the last day. We took the tram to Princes street again, and walked up to the castle on the hill.



Entering the historical buildings, the group decided we would rather explore the castle on our own, rather than having an audioguide. We spent a few hours there, wandering in and out of exhibitions. I went to see the Scottish crown jewels, the Scottish National War Museum, St. Mary's Chapel and a lot more.

The small team walked back to our favorite tram stop, Princes Street and had a plate of fish and chips. I waved goodbye to the city centre in my imagination while riding the tram, and we strolled to the hotel for our suitcases. It was time for our second and last visit at Edinburgh airport.



After we went through security and passport check we made a horrifying realisation: our plane was at least an hour late! Miss Sápi was fuming, the others were sitting on the airport floor, and started playing cards once more. We had a nice dinner in Burger King, and after many hours of waiting and souvenir shopping, we finally had our gate! Miss Sápi calmed down after we boarded the plane, and I got a window seat again. The flight seemed like an eternity and my ears hurt a lot, but after a nice landing we were finally home.

Collecting some thoughts



I am incredibly grateful for the amazing trip I had. It inspired me to get to know the world more, and know more cultures. I am highly thankful for my travelling companions too, and I wish to still be on good terms after we depart. Thank you for this opportunity, and this experience!