

# Our trip to Edinburgh,

## a summary of the Jane Haining Competition winners' trip

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Filled with fascinating historical monuments, breathtaking landscapes, and an infinite amount of possibilities to discover, the capital of Scotland, Edinburgh waited for the group of winners to be visited by. Starting our trip on June 17th, the six winners, Flóra, Kiara, Rebeka, Peti, Zénó, and I alongside the teacher, Maria and her daughter, Karolina stayed in Edinburgh until June 20th. Our trip was filled programs where we could have the most learning outcomes possible by filling all events with fun and exciting teaching.



## First day in Scotland

Even though us, the winners, met for the first time at the airport, we probably already had something in common by that morning. We all had to get up rather early for our flight from Budapest, since we met up with Maria and Karolina at the airport at 9:30 AM. Sparkling with joy and a bit of sleepiness, we encountered our first difficulty at the airport, where our tickets seemed to be unable to pass the validation! However, we managed to solve the problem with the help of the airport's staff, and soon were waiting inside the terminal for our flight to Edinburgh.

After approximately 4 hours of flying, we finally arrived. Fortunately, the place where we were staying was rather close to the airport. It took us just one tram to reach our hotel, which was located near Gyle Avenue. After a short nap, we decided to discover the surrounding area, and also took a quick trip to Gyle Centre.



Our first trip to the city centre took place the first day, right after we inspected Gyle Avenue. Going by tram, we arrived at St. Andrew's Square in just half an hour. Even though the square itself is a beautiful garden, there is a column-like monument standing in the middle, completely dominating the scenery. This is the Melville Monument, which is dedicated to a famous Scottish politician of the 19th century, Henry Dundas.



After sitting around in the park of St. Andrew's Square, we decided to visit the Nelson Monument. It must be noted as a tourist, that even during summer, wind is extreme in Scotland, and when visiting something even slightly higher than sea-level, it is more than handy to bring an extra sweater with yourself. The Nelson Monument, dedicated to Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson is located on the top of Calton Hill. Calton Hill consists of many other monuments, but we specifically got to hear about the Nelson Monument. Commemorating a historically famous battle, you can read about the Battle of Trafalgar at the bottom of the building. Managing to defeat the French and Spanish navies, even though the combined armada had more ships, Admiral Nelson portrayed a perfect role model to the Scots by crafting a smart plan, and executing it victoriously. The monument, other than being educational, is quite beautiful to look at.



## A day in Glasgow

At the very beginning of our second day in Scotland, we took a bus to Glasgow. The bus ride took approximately two times two hours from our day, but by 10:30 AM, we were already exploring Glasgow. On this day, we got to know the Jane Haining Project Group members and the Queen's Park Govanhill Church's members, which Jane Haining herself would belong to. Beautiful memoirs to Jane Haining were shown to us in both places, and we even got to have traditional lunch with the Jane Haining group project members. This day was probably more oriented around Jane Haining than any others. After lunch, we took a quick trip to the city centre, where we could roam the shopping streets for a bit of time, and soon after we got on the bus towards Edinburgh.

By the time our day has come to an end, even though we were tired, us girls decided to stay together in a hotel room, and play card games. Kiara taught Flóra, Rebeka, and I how to play a well-known game. Soon, unstoppable laughter filled the room as we started becoming friends.

## Sightseeing and culture, our third day

On our third day we visited many cultural sights. After a quick breakfast at our hotel, we got on a double-decker sightseeing bus. Our trip began at St. Andrew's Square, and went as far as the Palace of Holyrood. On the sightseeing bus, we got to enjoy scenery alongside an audio guide, so that everything can be perceived with necessary knowledge. The bus trip itself was wonderful, and we got off at the furthest stop, the Holyrood Palace. It is the official



the map of the sightseeing tour

residence of the British monarch in Scotland. The Palace is open for



The visit at Holyrood Palace offers exceptional entering. 17 rooms are open to the public with a wide variety of types, such as State Apartments, The Royal Dining Room, The Queen's Bedroom and so on. Furthermore, gardens can also be accessed.

visitors alongside offering audio guides. Personally, this was one of the most interesting places visited in Scotland. The length of the audio guide was perfectly balanced, sights were mesmerising, and in my opinion, the whole visit was more than interesting. It may also be mentioned, that as it is compulsory for visitors of Scotland, this day we tried haggis.



After visiting Holyrood Palace, we had plans of seeing the National Museum of Scotland. However, we could only grasp little of what this museum is actually like, since we arrived half an hour before closing. Later this day, our little group of winners enjoyed dinner together followed by long hours of the freshly mastered card game.





## Our final day in Scotland

On our last day, we took a trip to Edinburgh Castle, and we spent half of our day there. As soon as we entered the castle, we came across many informational signs. Because of this, it could be felt that this was going to be a more quiet visit, possibly spend with reading signs. Even though it may not sound as exciting as it could be, the Edinburgh Castle had a really good way of portraying information. The text on the signs were short, fun, and informative. Other than that, many small museum-



like places were accessible, which made the visit even more intriguing. Overall, Edinburgh Castle was not just interesting, but fun. We got to see historical places, such as St. Margaret's Chapel, medieval weapons, like Mons Meg and many more.

In the afternoon, we quickly got our luggage from the hotel and went straight to the airport. By the time we arrived home, the lack of sleep and everyday fun of our past days reached us all. Even though I was not completely sure about how making friends would be easy on such a trip, I must admit, I happily disappointed myself. We waved goodbye to Scotland and each other with enormous smiles on our face.

