

My Trip to Scotland

Memories, places and experiences I will remember

When I first found out that I would have the chance to travel to Scotland, I was really excited, but I did not quite know what to expect. I had seen pictures of Edinburgh and Scottish landscapes before, but being there was completely different. During the trip, I realised how much more memorable a place becomes when you can actually walk through its streets, hear the language around you and see the things you have previously only read about.

Wednesday – Edinburgh

Our journey began early in the morning when we met at the airport and got ready for our flight to Scotland. After the flight, we arrived in Edinburgh and made our way into the city. Even though we were tired from travelling, we were excited to start exploring and make the most of our first day.

Our first major stop was the Royal Yacht Britannia. Walking through the yacht gave us a fascinating glimpse into the life of the British royal family and the people who worked on board. The rooms and personal belongings made it feel almost like stepping back in time. I especially liked seeing how the yacht combined something very grand with details that still made it feel like a real home.

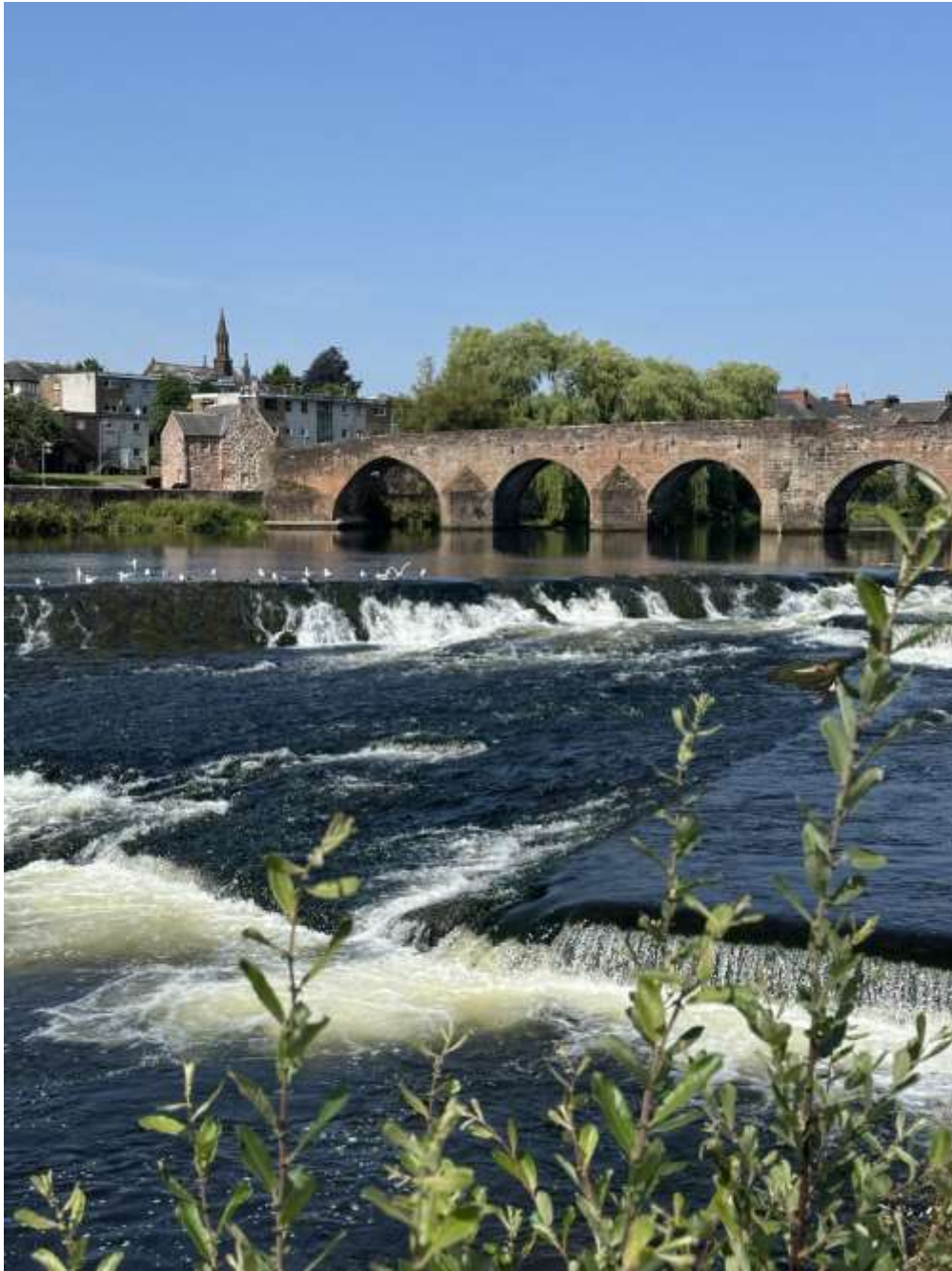


One of the interiors we saw during our visit.

Afterwards, we stopped for lunch before continuing to Edinburgh Castle. We explored the castle and its historic rooms, learning more about Scotland's past. Later, we visited Camera Obscura & The World of Illusions. It was a fun change of pace, with plenty of unusual illusions and interactive activities. In the evening, we headed to the train station and travelled to Glasgow.

Thursday – Dumfries and Dunscore

After breakfast, we travelled by train to Dumfries. When we arrived at the station, Pam and Colin were there to greet us. They welcomed us so warmly that we immediately felt comfortable. It was lovely to meet people who were so connected to the area and to Jane Haining's story.



A view from the Dumfries area.

Pam took us around the area by car, and we continued to Dunscore. Dunscore is closely connected with Jane Haining and her family, so being there made her story feel much more personal. We visited the Haining family grave and the local church, and we learned more about her childhood, her faith and the work she later devoted herself to.



Visiting the Haining family grave in Dunscore.

Jane Haining was born and grew up in this area. She went to school locally and attended the church here before eventually going to Budapest, where she worked as a matron caring for Jewish and Christian girls. When the situation became dangerous, she refused to abandon the children in her care. She was later arrested, deported to Auschwitz and killed in 1944. Standing in Dunscore and seeing places connected to her childhood made this part of the trip especially meaningful.



The quieter Scottish countryside around Dunscore.

After our visit, Pam and Colin welcomed us with delicious tea and treats. We spent time together talking, sharing stories and hearing more about the area. Their kindness and hospitality made the visit particularly special. It did not feel like we were simply being shown around; it felt much more personal, like being welcomed into a community that still cares deeply about Jane Haining's memory.



The historic church we visited in the Dunscore area.

After lunch, we said goodbye and made our way back towards Dumfries. Before leaving, we had another look at the Haining family cottage and the church they used to visit. We then returned to Glasgow, where we spent the evening walking through Pollock Country Park.

Friday – Exploring Glasgow

After breakfast, we visited Queen's Park Govanhill Church. We were warmly welcomed by members of the parish, who shared more about the Jane Haining memorial and her connection with the community. They also prepared a small lunch for us, with sandwiches, crisps, cakes and, of course, tea.

We then continued our exploration of Glasgow. We walked around the city centre, including St George Square and Buchanan Street, where we had time to look around and buy souvenirs. We also visited the Glasgow Science Centre and later Glasgow Cathedral and the Necropolis.



One of the colourful stained-glass windows we saw in Scotland.

Glasgow felt different from Edinburgh. It was lively and modern, but it also had plenty of history. I enjoyed the less formal parts of the day because they gave us a chance to relax, talk and experience the city at our own pace.

Saturday – Edinburgh and Home

Saturday was our last day in Scotland. We returned to Edinburgh and visited St Giles' Cathedral. I really enjoyed looking at the architecture and all the small details inside. We also had some time to walk around, buy souvenirs and enjoy our final few hours before heading to the airport.

After lunch, we made our way to the airport. There was a little delay, but eventually we boarded our plane and headed back to Budapest. By the time we landed, I was tired, but I was also very happy that I had been able to experience so much in such a short time.

What I will take home with me

Looking back, it is difficult to choose just one favourite moment. Edinburgh was amazing because of its history, Glasgow was interesting because of its atmosphere and the people we met, and the countryside showed me a much quieter side of Scotland.

But what I will probably remember most are the little things: travelling by train, laughing and talking with the others, looking out of the bus or car window at the landscape, taking photos, trying different food and hearing English everywhere around us. Meeting Pam and Colin, drinking the delicious tea they prepared for us and learning about Jane Haining in the places connected to her life made the trip feel especially personal.

The trip also helped me become more confident using English outside the classroom. We used English at train stations, in shops, restaurants and when talking to people. Sometimes I did not understand everything, especially when someone spoke quickly or had a strong Scottish accent, but I gradually became more confident. I realised that making mistakes is not something to be afraid of. The important thing is being able to communicate.

I am very grateful that I could be part of this journey. It gave me the chance to see places I had never seen before, learn more about Jane Haining, practise English and spend time with people who shared the same experience. I came home tired, but with a lot of stories, photographs and memories. If I had the opportunity to go back to Scotland one day, I would definitely take it.