

Our class trip to Edinburgh

Dear students,

perhaps you have already heard about our great trip to Edinburgh or more about the little misfortune with our legendary bus driver.



But first of all we started the trip at 6 o'clock in the morning. Our plan: to get to the ferry in the Netherlands in about 7-8 hours by bus.

Because the UK isn't a part of the EU anymore we all had to organize a passport but as if it's a miracle nobody left it at home. But one person wasn't checked and as we arrived at the ferry, we sadly noticed it was too late.

Our bus driver, who already turned in the wrong street the first 30 meters, had forgot his passport. That was definitely a shock for everyone, especially for the teachers who planned to take the bus with all included backpacks with us to Scotland, but without his passport we had nobody to drive the bus onto the ferry. After what felt like an hour the solution was to take our backpacks with us. That didn't make any big trouble, but the cabins were very small, so the already tiny space became even smaller. However, most time we just explored the huge ship till night's rest, so I guess nobody was bothered.

The ferry was quite large and the possibility of getting lost in that symmetrical complex wasn't very unlikely. Still, after a few hours wandering around you will definitely get the way to your rooms or wherever you want to go.

The next day, Monday, we arrived in Newcastle around noon and luckily our missing bus was replaced, and I think our original bus with another driver followed later.

It wasn't a long trip to our hostel in Grassmarket, in the center of Edinburgh, and arriving in Scotland, the bus driver stopped at the sign "Welcome to Scotland"¹. We took a few class pictures and as we continued driving, he started playing the Scottish hymn, which was indeed a breathtaking moment.



After arriving at our hostels² we all moved to our rooms and explored the city till the evening because the few planned activities – which would have started on Monday – were rearranged which was a following from the missing bus.

The hostel rooms were pretty nice, especially our room which was at the corner of the building which looked



like a little tower which gave extra space and a small window pane with a little bench where you could look directly onto the marketplace, the restaurants and almost the fancy shopping streets.

The older architecture style – of course especially restored for the tourists – just looked amazing. Because we were directly in the center of Edinburgh everything you needed was nearby within walking distance.



For the next days everyone was able to choose from different activities. For example, you could vote to visit the National Gallery, the National Museum of Scotland, a boat tour, a cemetery tour, a Whiskey museum, a ghost walk and much more and of course the priceless free time. That meant everyone was free to vote on what they wanted to do which – in my experience – wasn't that typical for a school trip. But still there were tours such as the visit of the Edinburgh Castle and a city tour which were planned for everyone.



So in the end it depended on you how much stuff you wanted to do and if you chose as much as I did, you did not have that much free time anymore but it was still possible to do stuff such as exploring the city with friends, going out to eat or hiking on Arthur's Seat which I can highly recommend – the view from there is really amazing, especially during dawn. You can see the whole city, a 360° view, slowly coming to life. And not to forget the evenings in the hostel when we mostly played games like Uno and billiards till night's rest.



For me, these evenings with friends were one of the best things about the whole trip.

So, my activities for the four days were visiting the Museum of Scotland on Monday which was really a huge building with so many things to see. On Tuesday the whole grade had a city tour and visited the Edinburgh Castle which you could already see from our hostel. The last planned activities were on Wednesday because we already had to check out on Thursday at around 10 am. But we still found time there to hike up Arthur's Seat even if that meant less sleep which was really worth it.



And then we already took the ferry back to Amsterdam and again sat the bus for way too long.

In the end it was a really cool last trip with the whole grade but unfortunately, like any good trip, it was way too short.

So maybe you think about visiting Edinburgh on your next trip.

Till then, have a nice day.

Narvinja Kropp, 12d

Links

¹ that should be the position of the sign:

55°48'24.7"N 2°02'34.1"W

² here you will find the link to our hostel:

<https://kickasshostels.co.uk/kick-ass-grassmarket/>