

Day 3. 16th June, Friday.

Lucie Hocková, Nicole Pásztorová, Teodor Marchenko, Tereza Ulrichová

Friday was dedicated to getting to know the ins and outs of Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland. First off we set out on a short hike to Arthur's Seat, an ancient volcano in Holyrood Park. The route itself was just as wonderful as the view of the coast from the peak. Next we headed east to the city centre. We saw the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Scottish Parliament, St Giles' Cathedral and many other important buildings as we made our way to Edinburgh castle. We got inside just in time for the One O'Clock Gun, a time signal established for ships in the harbour in the 19th century. The sound was so loud that Filip even got a nosebleed. After the situation was sorted we were free to explore the city on our own. Our group specifically started off on Princes Street, where a kind postwoman exchanged our old banknotes for the new plastic ones. Then we relaxed for a while at the Princes Street Gardens. Well rested we left the New Town and went down to a neighbourhood called Stockbridge, a friendly place filled with Georgian and Victorian houses which was originally a small village. Here we visited many charity shops and enjoyed the atmosphere of a part of the city away from the tourists. On our way back we strolled through the beautiful Dean Gardens along the river Water of Leith. At six o'clock we met up and returned to Stirling, where some of us met up with our host families for the first time.



Agáta Kubičková, Evelína Zafarová, Julie Tittelbachová

Edinburgh

Friday was an exciting day filled with exploration and adventure in the city of Edinburgh. Our group arrived at around 10:00 in the morning, ready for a day of discovery. Our first destination was Arthur's Seat, a hill located right beside the centre of the city.

We started a mini hike to reach the top of Arthur's Seat. Along the way, we were enjoying the beautiful views of the city. However, coming back down from the hill proved to be challenging. Some of us had allergies, while others slipped and twisted their ankles. But we made it down and continued to see the Scottish Parliament. There, we decided to take a much-needed break at a nearby café. We enjoyed some refreshments and rested before heading to our next destination, the Edinburgh Castle.

While walking towards the castle, we came for example across the statue of Adam Smith, Scottish economist and philosopher, known for his influential work on capitalism and free markets.

Arriving at the castle, we were just in time to witness the One O'clock Gun, a tradition where a cannon is fired every day at one o'clock. Unfortunately, Filip experienced a nosebleed from the sudden bang noise, but he eventually recovered.

After the castle visit, our group split into mini groups to explore Edinburgh at our own pace. Our group decided to explore the beautiful gardens below the castle. We also did some shopping mainly on Princess Street, but because of the searching for different shops also at different places, we covered almost every part of Edinburgh, and although we experienced a little sunburn and fatigue from all the walking, it was truly a day filled with new experiences and memories.

