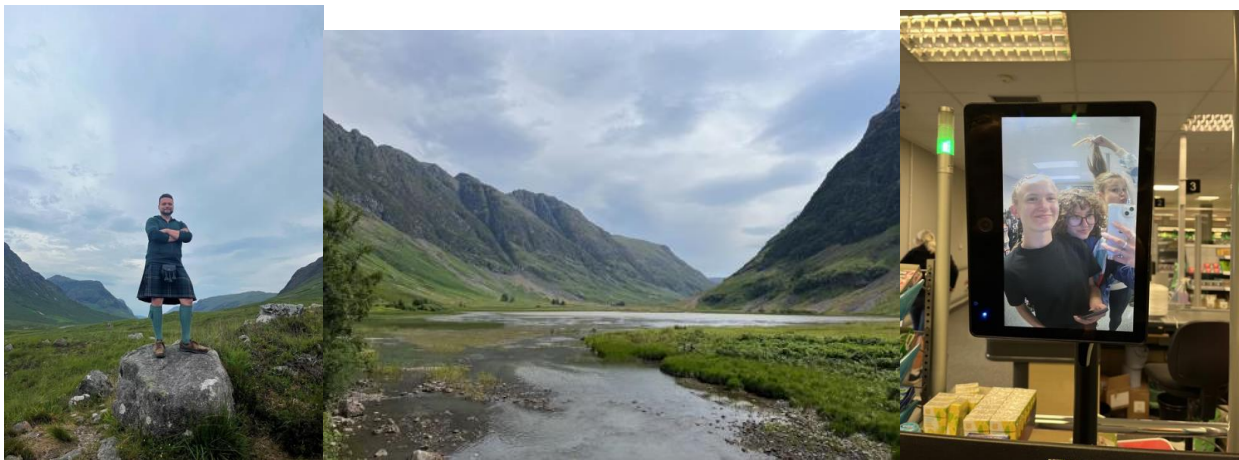


Day 4. 17th June, Saturday.

Julie Smejkalova

The whole class was brought up to the meeting place after having breakfast in individual host families. By eight in the morning, we have been at the start of our three hour drive to probably the most famous loch (lake in Scottish) in the world. From the 134 kilometers long pilgrimage in Highlands, we slept through most of it and only walked a small part consisting of four kilometers. After our great arrival to the lake, we jumped on a boat and followed an emotional presentation of one of the local coordinators. While the lake was truly an exceptional place to visit, unfortunately, we weren't able to see any evidence of an emerging beast. Even though water has an average temperature of five degrees, there was The Magnificent Seven from our classes that managed to dive into the water. Fortunately all of them returned safely back to the bus. The journey was indeed very long so we had to take a small break in Pitlochry, where we filled our supplies with BBQ XXL marshmallows. The game called "chubby bunny challenge" followed right after we sat back into our seats. After the arrival to our host families, some of us were more intrigued to be there than others.



Marketa Mallatova, Marketa Mallatova

The whole day started by us having to get up earlier than ever to get ready for our long journey. But it was worth it, since upon arrival at the meeting point we were greeted by Tomáš wearing an extremely stylish kilt and we knew we were in for a great day. We listened to Tomáš talking about history as the coach crawled up north. The Scottish Highlands mesmerised us with its inspiring natural beauty. Vast expanses of hills, mountains, lochs, cows and little cottages ... basically a picturesque panorama at every turn. The wilderness and dramatic scenery provided us a sense of tranquility, making it an ideal retreat for our stressed heads after a whole school year tight with exams. At the first stop we went for a short hike on the West Highland Way, long distance route. Which let us get a taste of the experience that this trail offers. One of the awaited highlights of our trip was the exploration of Loch Ness, famous for its mysterious creature, the Loch Ness monster, affectionately called Nessie. We embarked on a boat trip, gliding through the waters of Loch Ness. The lake's deep black hues created a captivating atmosphere. We got seated in front of two sonar screens and watched the waters as we listened to a silly goofy presentation from the boat guide. Our calm ride was suddenly interrupted by a strange, unsettling sound from underneath the boat. We couldn't help but notice the look of fear that came over the guide's face as the sonar showed the image. The ship started to rock back and forth and as we looked out at the lake, which seemed as if it was boiling, we got to see her eye to eye. I still remember that day fondly. The last time I ever saw sunlight. I'm not sure if this report will upload properly, since the signal in Nessie's belly is not the best. But if you do get this message, Mr Švorc, please tell our families we love them.

