

Day 6. 19th June, Monday.

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Gretna Green and Hadrian's Wall Although it was supposed to be considerably colder and damper than the rest of the week, fortunately on the last day of our stay the nice weather persisted. Our last stop in Scotland on our way to Newcastle, from which our ferry to Amsterdam was leaving, was the picturesque town of Gretna Green. Our guide Thomas told us that this small town is historically known as a place where young couples escape/run off to get married. The tradition of marrying here survived from the days when it was prohibited by the law to get married without the agreement of both couple's parents if both in the couple were under 21 years old. This law existed in England and Wales. However, these rules did not apply in Scotland and as Gretna Green was one of the nearest towns to the border with England, young people fled here. Afterwards, we stopped at the border itself specifically at the famous Hadrian's Wall. We saw the remains of the ancient Roman defence system including the remains and foundations of the fortress. Towards the evening we boarded the ferry and while we were saying our final goodbyes to the island of UK we set sail for our way home.



Exploring Gretna Green and Hadrian's Wall

As our Scottish adventure drew to a close, we have paid a visit to the charming town of Gretna Green. Steeped in history, this grotesque town had a unique reputation as a haven for young couples seeking to escape societal restrictions and marry themselves. Our knowledgeable guide, Thomas, shared with us the interesting story about 12 year old being married there. In the past, strict laws in England and Wales demanded parental consent for couples under the age of 21 to marry while Scotland didn't have those rules. That is why this place, situated on the border of Scotland and England, became ideal for young couples. Leaving behind the enchanting village, we continued our journey and made a stop at the famous Hadrian's Wall. Standing before the remnants of this ancient Roman defense system, we marveled at its architectural grandeur. The remains of the foundation told us tales of a bygone era, as well as Thomas, where the wall served as a border between Caledonia and Roman part of England. It might be due to its importance that Hadrian's Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After those two stops, we have continued our journey to the ferry and later that day we have bid our farewells to the UK and embarked on our voyage to Amsterdam.

