
Edinburgh Study Trip Report

On our first day, we met in a coffee shop to get ready for the day. Everyone had arrived and was ready to visit the capital of Scotland. The Hop-On, Hop-Off tour gave us a great opportunity to see the city. On the tour, we saw the contrast between the beautiful old buildings and the newer ones. The decision to be seated on the upper and open part of the bus was not so smart since the weather was rather cold. In the afternoon, we had a chance to visit the University of Edinburgh. After the welcome, we had several presentations, mainly held by PhD students. There were presentations on the melting poles, a survey of tranquillity and a project about fire management in Belize. The presentations were really good! But they were mostly focused on GIS usage. Still, it was impressive to see what could be done with data from drones, knowledge of citizens and other sources. The day finished in a pub with nice conversations with students.

On our second day in Scotland, we met at 8:15 am inside the Edinburgh Waverley Station to leave Edinburgh by train and to travel to the University of Glasgow. The journey with the train was very comfortable; there we could rest after a night with a couple of stops in different pubs. At the University of Glasgow, we had some lectures at the School of Geosciences. The main themes were public transport mapping, a bus system in Malaysia and classifying the different mapping systems. After the lectures, we had a guided tour of the campus of the university. The buildings looked a lot like Hogwarts from the Harry Potter movies.



In the afternoon, we had some free time to visit Glasgow. Some of us went to do a little bit of shopping. We could plan the rest of the day on our own. But we had to return the same day since we had a return ticket.



On the last day, we had time for something cultural. We visited Edinburgh Castle. After individual meals, we met at 09:30. On Monday, on the Hop-on, Hop-off bus tour, we had already seen the centrally located Castle, but did not have the chance to be inside/ on top of the hill. The Castle is considered one of Scotland's major attractions. The Castle Rock is the basalt cone of an extinct volcano. From the elevated location, you have an impressive overview of Edinburgh. Everyone had the chance to go on self-guided audiotours in the area behind the castle walls. In the afternoon, we did not have a fixed program, so we used the time to prepare for the trip home. At 16:30, we flew back to Basel, stopping in Amsterdam.

All in all, the short trip was a great opportunity to explore Edinburgh and many historic places, to listen to presentations and to meet up with the presenters.