

Trip to Edinburgh 6. - 10. January 2018

Our class decided to extend our study trip to Edinburgh. Therefore, we took a flight on Saturday, 6 January instead of on Monday. This Saturday was not a day like every usual Saturday because it was the “Three-Kings” holy day (Epiphany). Manuela brought a Three Kings cake to the airport; Nadine was the glamorous winner of the crown; and she could wear it all day. Unfortunately, we missed our connecting flight in Paris to Edinburgh. Ultimately, we had to split our class into two groups. One group spent the night in Paris and the other could fly on at 9.30 pm to Edinburgh. During the stay, we could explore the city of Paris to take a picture of the class with the Eiffel Tower in the background. On Sunday evening, the rest of the class arrived in Edinburgh, and we had dinner together. Afterwards, we grabbed a beer in a traditional Scottish pub and enjoyed some live music.



Figure 1 picture of the class with the Eiffel Tower in the background

On Monday morning, the official part of our trip started, and we also met the staff team. We explored the city on a Hop on Hop off tour which gave us a good overview of Edinburgh. In the afternoon, we were invited to the University of Edinburgh, where we heard different presentations by lecturers and students from the university. One of these presenters spoke about a project where they developed a AR city sightseeing guide, which was very interesting. The next day we met a little earlier at the train station because we went to the University of Glasgow. We enjoyed several presentations about the university itself and its history. In addition to the themes of remote sensing and public transport, we learned various details about the educational possibilities at the university. After lunch, we received a guided tour through the main part of the campus. The university was founded in the fifteenth century and appropriately is built in the Renaissance style. Interestingly, it is similar to the fictional school of “Hogwarts,” well-known due to the “Harry Potter” films.

In the afternoon, we still had enough time to go to the centre of Glasgow. We visited the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington which has an amusing story. It has become a traditional practice in the city to cap the statue with a traffic cone, which is supposed to represent the humour of the local citizens. It is believed that this tradition started in the first half of the 1980s, if not before. Although the practice is discouraged by Glasgow City Council and the police, it still continues to this very day. The statue is one of the city's most iconic sights, and it is on the list of the "top ten most bizarre monuments on Earth".



Figure 2 Equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington

Our last day of the trip included a visit to Edinburgh Castle, which is a historic fortress dominating the skyline of the city of Edinburgh. The castle was first mentioned in the 12th century and survived 26 sieges to finally become the most-visited tourist attraction and most recognisable symbol of Edinburgh and of Scotland.

In the end, we will remember the trip to Edinburgh as an exciting, recommendable and inspiring journey.