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The highlight, and at the same time, the end of our English lessons is the study trip to Edinburgh in Scotland. Every Geomatics class can go to Edinburgh for 2-3 days or more at the end of the 3rd semester. Our trip started on 6 January at the Euro Airport in Basel. We then flew to Paris from where we would get on our connecting flight to Edinburgh. Due to delays, we missed the connecting flight and then had a 12-hour layover in Paris. In the evening, we finally had our flight to Edinburgh and could check in to our accommodation at the Cowgate Hostel.

On Sunday, we visited the Nelson Monument on Calton Hill and did some other sightseeing. The Monday morning started with meeting our teachers and then going together on the Hop-on Hop-off tour through Edinburgh.

In the afternoon, we visited the University of Edinburgh. Once there, we heard a variety of presentations ranging from lion distribution to searching for the best place for tranquillity. A

highlight was the presentation by Dr. William A. Mackaness about using Augmented Reality for sightseeing. He and a PhD student created an application which gives information about certain POI's as the user passes by them.

On Tuesday, we met up at the Waverly train station and took the train to Glasgow. During the day, we visited the University of Glasgow, and two PhD students presented their projects. For example, a Malaysian student created a GIS about the bus lines in Malaysia. Before this project, you had no opportunity to look up independently where you could take a bus; you always had to ask the bus driver. The other presenter talked about how you could improve the utilization of soil in South America. With these improvements, the farmers could produce more meat.

In the afternoon, we were free to explore Glasgow, so we visited the most impressive traffic pylon in the world which is located on (the statue of) the Duke of Wellington's head. Unfortunately, no one had the courage to steal the pylon.

On our last day of our interesting field excursion, we only had a few plans. Our plan was to check out and visit Edinburgh Castle

(with the museums inside). After a nice Scottish breakfast, we walked up to the castle and started our visit.

Due to the size of our group, we split up and enjoyed our time in the castle, in smaller groups. From the castle, we had a magnificent view over the city of Edinburgh. After 1.5 to 2 hours, we had finished our tour and decided to visit the Camera Obscura, which was fascinating.

When lunchtime arrived, we went once more to a pub and got some nice fish and chips with a cold pint of beer.

After we mopped up our plates, we headed to Waverley Bridge where we took the bus to the airport. We then flew home with a short layover in Amsterdam.



Comments: