

Edinburgh – How to...

How to fly without any complications:

First, we took the train to Geneva. A few weeks before the trip started, we bought a cheap flight with EasyJet. The advantage is that they fly directly to our destination, Edinburgh. That means no being lost in Paris, like the class one year ago. If you take this advice, make sure that you don't have too much luggage with you. You're only allowed to take one piece of hand luggage with you. That means, leave as many clothes at home as you can, take only 100ml of liquids with you and don't forget to leave your pocket knife at home. When you've done all these things, don't forget your identity card. I said ID, not passport. Both of them work, but with your identity card, maybe you'll be faster at customs. If you want to know more about that, feel free to ask. With that part of the trip, we also get our first impression of the Scottish people (at least the police officers). They don't like to talk, and if they do talk, it's hard to understand them.



Anyway, we arrived in Edinburgh without any complications.

How to take non-standard photos:

Make sure that you have a person on your trip who likes to take photos. They often don't like to be in a picture. Now try to take as many pictures as possible where this person is in them. If possible, try also to have a nice landscape in the background.

It's also very important not to forget your charger cable or your external charger. Even shops which sell your camera may not have your cable or your charger, so you won't be able to rebuy it.



How to drive on the wrong side:

In the UK, they drive on the wrong (left) side of the street, and so it could be a good idea to do it as well. While you're driving on the roads, it isn't really a problem, but after you've

started your engine and want to drive away, it's easy to drive on the wrong side. With time, you'll get more and more comfortable with the road in Scotland and start to enjoy the driving.

There are some very interesting road signs along the streets, which warn you about oncoming vehicles in the middle of the road or tell you to brake now, and before every corner, there is SLOW marked on the pavement. Every time you drive into a town, they politely ask you to drive carefully, and when you leave, they say thank you. Sometimes it's a bit hard to know which lane you should use to drive around a roundabout, and knowing how fast you legally can drive is often a bit like gambling.



After you get used to your car and driving on the wrong side, you really start to like cruising through the beautiful Scottish Highlands on curvy roads. It really is a lovely experience. But please remember to drive on the correct side of the road!

And how was the more official part of the trip?

The first activity with the whole class was an interesting guided city tour with a lot of information about Edinburgh. In the afternoon, we had the chance to listen to five different talks at the University of Edinburgh. The talks had a wide range. So, we heard a talk about satellites with LIDAR for forest measurement, and in the other hand, how to use GIS in developing countries.

On Tuesday, we visited ESRI UK. We heard also very interesting talks there. We learned how the company is structured, what they do in the UK, and heard from different employees what they do. The talks were very informative. In the afternoon, we visited the map collections of the national library. The presenter was very enthusiastic and had a lot of interesting information.

On the last day in Edinburgh, we did a gin tasting tour. The tour guide had a lot of funny information about the history of gin. So, it was a little history lesson. And sure, in the end, there was a little sampling of gin.

And then, it was over. We flew back to Switzerland and were more or less ready for the normal school days.