

## Blog Edinburgh trip 2020

### food and drink

The first thing we noticed was the huge selection of different beer brands and types. In Switzerland in a bar you ask your friends who wants a beer and then you order it. In the pubs of Edinburgh, everybody went to the bar and chose their own beer; after all, you had to test many of them! The food was as expected, quite greasy and meaty. Some tried the traditional dish, haggis, but many were deterred by the offal. A good alternative was the meat-filled pies. After a lot of fast food like burgers, fries and fish and chips, everybody had to take a break and went to a healthy Italian restaurant in between.

Scotland is known by most for its fine whiskeys. But what many people don't know is that the best gins in the world also come from Scotland. For this reason, we visited the Edinburgh Gin distillery. We got an exciting insight into the history and the preparation of gin. At the end we enjoyed a tasting.



*Figure 1: A Pie in the front, Fish and Chips in the back and beer*

### culture

When I learned on the trip to Edinburgh, was that I don't know anything about the Scottish capital. I've heard about other capitals around the world and knew things about cities I've never even visited. After the stay in Edinburgh I have to say that it's not rectified. I liked Edinburgh a lot. Even though the city makes kind of a dark and grim, not to say spooky, impression. That is especially noticeable in the evenings and in the famous Scottish weather which we luckily didn't see too often. The narrow streets and tiny alleys – which are called “closes” by the way – and the old, dark buildings give the city its unique, ancient look. There are loads of grim historical places where people were hanged, and

crime took place, but also venerable places like estates of kings, and of course, the mighty castle high over the city. From the castle, you have fantastic views over the city and its surroundings.



*Figure 2: View of an Edinburgh Street at night, the nicely illuminated castle in the Background*

We highly enjoyed strolling through the streets, climbing the many stairs of the closes and reading all the signs and boards that hold many interesting stories. I would recommend the city to all travelers because any taste can be satisfied in the capital of Scotland.

### mandatory program

The program that Catherine had organized for the class was very interesting and varied. My personal favourite was the Sherlock homes tour. Although the weather was quite bad, the tour was very informative. The tour guide made the whole tour very funny.

At the university, various professors and students provided us with insights into different subject areas. Amongst others, we were presented with individual doctoral theses which offered an incentive for future work.

From visiting ESRI, especially the GIS lovers profited. They explained to us the concept of the company and which career paths one can pursue. The excursion to the library showed how to combine old cartography with modern technology and how to use it.