

## Scotland Trip report

I wouldn't have imagined that I would be traveling to Scotland this summer. Winning the competition felt like a dream come true. The trip was more than just a journey, it was a chance to explore the Scottish culture, history, and the story of Jane Haining.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, we set off for Scotland at around 4pm. After landing in Glasgow, we used public transport to get to our destination - the Ibis hotel in the City Centre. There was a little walk between the bus station and the hotel, which turned out to be fantastic. It gave us a bit of time to explore what streets we are going to

walk through and on every day. The weather was fine (at least for me) - a bit rainy and cool, just as I imagined Scotland would be.

After arriving at the hotel, we unpacked our bags, got some food and headed to sleep.

### Day 2

We started our day with breakfast at the hotel. We had some basic breakfast food and coffee to keep us energized throughout the day. Our next destination was the Glasgow Cathedral (St. Mungo's Cathedral) and the nearby cemetery, which we visited at around 9:30 a.m. As we approached, I was stunned by the Gothic architecture – dark stone walls, pointed arches. It made me feel like something out of a medieval story.





Inside the cathedral, the view was breathtaking. High vaulted ceilings and stone arches. What caught my attention the most were the stained-glass windows above the altar. Each one painted with vivid colors, creating a peaceful atmosphere.



The cemetery had quite and eerie feeling, but the view was nice.



Later on day 2, we had some free time to explore Buchanan Street before heading to the Tenement house. We passed many Scottish souvenir shops, as well as fast-food places and cafés that we do not have in Hungary. However, most big clothing shops were quite familiar – the same brands we can find back home.



In the Tenement house, I managed to get a glimpse of the past on how people used to live in Glasgow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It almost felt like a step back in time. The rooms were nicely preserved with old furniture, and old everyday items and products from the past.

Next, we headed to Kelvingrove Park and Museum. I'm not usually a big fan of museums, but I genuinely enjoyed every part of it. The museum had a wide range of

exhibits, from art and history to nature and science, so there was something interesting around every corner. Plus, the building itself was impressive — both inside and out.

Next, we headed to Kelvingrove park and Museum. I am not a big fan of museums, but I still enjoyed every part of it. The museum had a wide range of exhibits, from art to history to wildlife and science.

### Day 3



Our first stop was Dumfries Academy, a school closely connected to Jane Haining, who once studied there. We had a chance to talk with the students and teachers, and they were incredibly welcoming. After that we took a short trip to Dunscore, another village known for its connection to Jane – it's where she was born and spent her early years.

In Dunscore we were warmly received by the local community. We shared a delicious meal and had conversations with residents who were curious about our everyday lives in Hungary. We were also given a short tour of the village, including a visit to Dunscore Church and Jane Haining's memorial. It was a meaningful moment to reflect on the bravery and legacy she left behind.



**Day 4**



Our fourth day took us to the historic and lively city of Edinburgh. We began exploring the famous Edinburgh castle, which was just stunning both inside and out. While exploring the castle, I even met some Hungarians who were visiting, which made the experience feel a bit more familiar. If you ever have the chance, I would definitely recommend visiting this place!

After the castle, we made our way down the Royal Mile, a street full of shops. We browsed through souvenir shops, clothing stores and a few Harry Potter-themed shops as well. For lunch we had classic fish and chips, and to my surprise, it was absolutely delicious.

To end the day, we hopped on a double-decker sightseeing bus that took us around Edinburgh. It was a fun and relaxing way to discover more about the city's landmarks.



Day 5



Our final day in Scotland began with a quick trip to Queen's Park and Govanhill area, where we met members of the local community who are dedicated to preserving Jane Haining's memory. They shared stories of her life and legacy, and we had the chance to talk to them and learn more about the church on how it worked and works currently. We also had some delicious sandwiches to keep us full throughout our journey.

In the early afternoon, we had some free time to explore the city a bit more, grab a coffee, and enjoy the atmosphere before heading back to the hotel.

After a shared farewell dinner, we returned to the hotel to collect our luggage and headed to the airport around 8 p.m. There was still time to walk around the duty-free zone before departure, where we picked up last-minute souvenirs and snacks. It was the perfect calm ending to an unforgettable trip.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who supported me throughout this experience. From my parents to teachers to the judges who selected my entry. I'm grateful to the Scottish people for being so welcoming and kind during our stay. A big thank-you to everyone who helped organize this trip and made it all possible. I'd also like to thank the other 4 winners who shared this trip with me. This journey was unforgettable.

