

Great Britain, The Country of Scotland

Jim and Emmy's Travel Journal

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We arrived in Germany on May 9, visited Germany, France, Andorra, a speck of Spain, Monaco, Italy, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, San Marino, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. After another visit to Germany and France, we crossed Belgium and rode a ferry to England. We drove to Wales, a ferry to and from Ireland, then we arrived in Scotland from England.

Drove into Glasgow, and since it's Sunday, can look around without problems. But we see no reason to spend much time here. Visited the Cathedral (Glasgow), then just drove around the city awhile. Seems to be a very dirty place, and we didn't find any part of the city that might appeal to the tourist. It appeared they are trying to clean up some of the area.

We drove to Edinburgh and found a very nice campsite on the southern edge of the city. Again as in many times in the past, when we stopped in a gas station to ask for information about the Edinburgh campsite, a customer said, "follow me." There is a laundromat in the campsite, and electricity!

GB, Edinburgh, Sept 15 Mon - 103 - 290 - 13,376

Left at 8:30 to drive into Edinburgh. A very nice city, but not in the class with Stockholm, Paris, London and Budapest, but more interesting than Helsinki, Oslo, Dublin, and Glasgow. The main street is Princes Street. On one side of the street are the best department stores. On the other side is a park that drops into a deep ravine, then raises steeply up a high hill, crowned by the Edinburgh castle, which overlooks the city.

We toured the Holyrood House, where the Queen spends part of each year. It's beautifully kept, and has been refurbished. They told all kinds of stories as they took us through the place. There are secret passageways, at Holyrood House, and they told stories that this one killed that one, another slept with someone's somebody, and all those kind of things. One of the ceilings of molded plaster took 10 years to complete.

Drove on to Perth and shopped a bit, and found some of Mrs. Thornton's Special Toffee, and still had room to stop at a little restaurant for some fish and chips. A nice old gentlemen sat with us and we had an lively conversation. We also saw some brown and white spotted sheep today.

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GB, Edinburgh, Sept 16, Tue - 104 - 89 - 13,465

We are looking for some woolen mills in the area, and as expected in sheep country, they are famous for their woolen material. We went to Blairgowrie, then on to Dunkeld, and to three other places that might have what Emmy wants, but of course even she doesn't know until she sees it. During the drive we have passed lakes, forests, sheep and cattle. Not spectacular scenery, but colorful. Still drizzling, but the wind has stopped.

Bought meat and groceries, including two ears of corn (which we threw away, uneatable), in the town of Crieff, but found no woolen mill. In Scotland, and in Ireland, it's obvious the people really like the TV program "Dallas." In Scotland they had coffee cups for sale saying "I shot JR." Jim saw the words, "I love JR," written on the wall in a phone booth in the wilds of Ireland.

Stopped at Sturart Glass Co. to see their operation. Their second quality products were almost as expensive as Waterford's firsts. The label says England, and not Scotland. We have not figured out what is England, Wales, Scotland, Great Britain, and whatever, but people in this area will not be called English.

The tourist office in Crieff said the summer has been awful, but in April and May they had a heat wave with the temperature in the 80's, warmer than Spain. There are a lot of slate roofs in the area. Sky is now getting lighter, maybe it will stop raining.

When we returned to Edinburgh it was a really sunny day. Emmy dressed in heels and a skirt and went shopping on Princes Street for a pretty suit. Found one she liked, but the price scared her away.

In one woolen mill we had seen a nice skirt for Emmy, but it was not in the material with the special design, we both preferred. The cost for the skirt was 29 £, plus 9 £ more for the pleats Emmy wants in front. We finally wrote them a letter with all the instructions and our Visa Card number. (It worked, we received the skirt from Scotland a couple of months later, and it's very nice.)

GB, Edinburgh, Sept 17, Wed - 105 - 110 - 13,575

Called Linda today, on her birthday. In Great Britain we can call Linda from a phone booth at the side of the road.

On the mainland, we usually must go to the Post Office or some other special office, and sometimes it takes a couple of hours just to get a line. At other times, a phone booth could be used, but it would be impossible to put money in fast enough to keep the telephone line open, if we did get the call completed.

We called and tried to talk to the lady we met in Morocco last year. She had given us her phone number and asked us to call. She said she owned a small hotel in this area. Jim was told she now lives in Glasgow, but when he called that number, never reached her. When we last saw her, a year ago in Tangiers, she was on her way to meet some British Army Officers, so who knows where she might be by now!

We left Edinburgh, headed south, and stopped at Jedburgh to see the ruin of the Jedburgh Abbey. When we see how beautiful the ruin is, we wonder what the original must have looked like. We were told the Jedburgh Abbey ruin, and

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others we have seen, resulted from a religious conflict, and are not as a result of a political war.

It's a beautiful sunny day, and at the Scotland/England border there was a man dressed in a "uniform" of kilts with a bagpipe, waiting for tourists to take his picture and give him a tip. We saw a couple of men wearing kilts, one in a store, another in a restaurant, during the last couple of days.

Spent more time in England, then by ferry to The Netherlands. Crossed West/East Germany to West/East Berlin, then to Mettlach, Germany. After a couple of days showing Hannah and Toni a bit of the Alsace, France, we returned to Germany.

On October 26, we returned to the US .