

Life with a Scottish Accent: My Summer Studying Abroad Part Two

By Natalie Wallace

Wow, I can't believe that I am nearly halfway done with my study abroad experience. I feel like I have done so much since the last time I wrote.

First, we had a day trip to Glasgow. I honestly didn't know what to expect, but I had a blast. We went to a couple museums, did some shopping, and even had tea at the famous Willow Tea Rooms (which was delicious). It was also fun because Glasgow is hosting the Commonwealth Games this year, and they were setting things up and had merchandise everywhere.

My favorite part of the day had to be finding not one, but three police boxes (like the TARDIS from Doctor Who) and taking pictures with them, I was nerding out pretty hard to be honest. Another great part of the day was going to the Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis. I have never been in such a beautiful building in my life. Walking around the necropolis and looking at all of the graves was actually pretty cool, and not as creepy as it sounds, I swear! Oh, but the best moment for me was going into Waterstones bookstore and buying Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. It may not seem significant, but that day also happened to be the 17th anniversary of when the book was first published! Needless to say, it was a pretty magical moment for me.



Natalie Wallace with one of the police boxes in Glasgow

That same weekend, I went to Bannockburn Live, which was a celebration and festival commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, where the Scots beat the English and drove them out of Stirling. The activities included storytellers, music, food, ancestry tents, games, and even a re-enactment of the battle. The battle re-enactment was a lot of fun to watch; it was very well done. It was a really cool and

unforgettable experience. We spent nearly all day checking everything out; people from all over the world were there, and I even met some more American Wallaces!

I also went to Edinburgh on an excursion to see St. Giles Cathedral and Greyfriars Church and Kirkyard. The cathedral wasn't as large as the one in Glasgow, but still quite a sight to see. Then, we went down the road to Greyfriars Church, which also contains the Covenanters Prison in the graveyard, which is supposed to be one of the most haunted places in the UK. They keep it locked up and you can only get in with a tour guide; I didn't find it too creepy, but then again, I wasn't there in the dark either.

Also while in Edinburgh, we went to the Elephant House (café where J.K Rowling wrote some of Harry Potter), The National Museum of Scotland, and Edinburgh Castle. Most of the castle was closed off for a private event, which was disappointing until we realized that the Queen would be arriving to that event. So, we hung around and I actually saw the Queen of England!



The Queen of England arriving at Edinburgh Castle.

From Edinburgh, a group of us took a train to London, where we would be spending the weekend. It was my first time on a train, so I was pretty excited, but eventually my exhaustion took over and I slept most of the way until we arrived at Kings Cross Station. After going to the wrong hotel and realizing that our reservations were for the wrong weekend, we eventually found a hotel with vacancies and got some much needed sleep. The next day (which also happened to be the Fourth of July) we did a lot. We went to Buckingham Palace and saw the changing of the guard, went and saw 'Titus Andronicus' at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, rode the London Eye (my personal favorite - the views were amazing), saw Parliament and Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street, and Trafalgar Square. It was amazing to see all of these landmarks in person; it finally hit me that we were actually in London when I saw Big Ben all lit up



The re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn.

as we were walking around that evening.

The next day, we took a day trip to Cardiff to go to the Doctor Who Experience. They had a huge exhibition of costumes, props, monsters, and even some sets to look at from the show. It was really surreal to see all of the things I have watched on TV in person.

Overall, these past couple of weeks have been jammed packed with trips and sightseeing, I don't want to miss any



Natalie at the London Eye on July 4th.

opportunities while I am here. My classes are coming to a close, which means that I start my internship as a research assistant here at the University of Stirling soon. I can't wait to share that experience with you as well. Until next time, cheers!



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