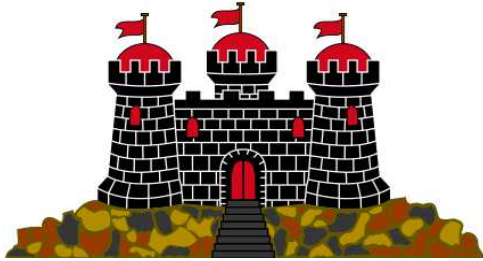


EDINBURGH– CARDIFF – BELFAST 12. – 22. AUGUST 2012

In August, we decided to take a trip to these three capitals within UK. We first traveled with Norwegian from Gardermoen August the 12th at 15:00 o'clock arriving at [Edinburgh Airport](#) at 15.55 o'clock. We stayed at the [Gilmore Guest House](#) outside the city center. We took a taxi from the airport into the city. After we had installed ourselves, we ate in the evening at an Indian restaurant at the end of the street, named Gilmore Place. The rest of the evening we relaxed at the hotel.

A LITTLE ABOUT EDINBURGH



Edinburgh's flag



Edinburgh's coat of arms



The Scottish flag.

It is believed that the first human group of hunter-gatherers came to Scotland around 11,000 years ago when the ice age receded. The first residents began building the first houses on Scottish soil around 9,500 years ago, and the first villages arose around 6000 years ago.

[Scotland](#) is a self-governing nation and one of the four that make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Kingdom of Scotland was an independent state until 1 May 1707 when Scotland entered into an incorporating political union with England to create the united Kingdom of Great Britain. The two countries had common monarch since the personal union in 1603, but had retained independent parliaments.

[Edinburgh](#) has been Scotland's capital since 1437, and is now the seat of the Scottish Parliament, which was restored in 1999 after a referendum. Both the old and the new town was included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage in 1995.

It appears that the name may derive from the Brythonic Din Eidyn, Eidyn's fort. This stems from the time when the area belonged to the kingdom of [Gododdin](#) in the early Middle Ages. After being taken by the Angles of the kingdom of [Bernicia](#), the name was changed to Edin Burh.



The Scottish coat of arm



Scotland's location in Europe



Edinburgh's location in Scotland



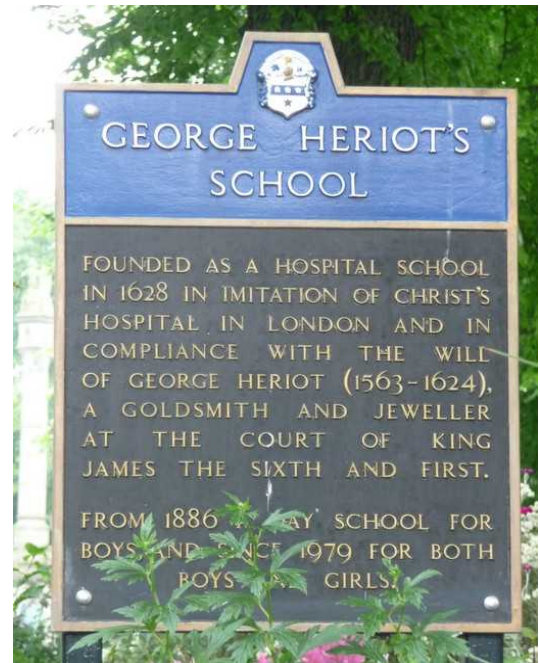
The next day we went into town via [The Meadows Park](#). Here we come to a school that looked to be old and venerable. It's called [George Heriot's School](#).



The school building is over 300 years old. See information board below.



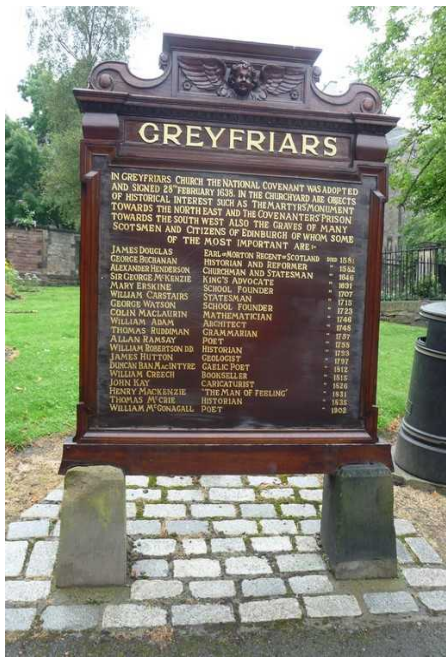
As shown in the poster there are tours of the school occasionally.



A part of [The Quatermile](#). Here is built offices and homes in an area where there was a hospital, [The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh](#). The clock tower in the former hospital has been left.



[Greyfriars Kirk](#). This is one of the oldest buildings, which was built outside old Edinburgh.



Here we are in Candlemakers Row and approaching Grassmarket.



In the end of Candlemaker Row. To the right is [Cowgate](#). Looking down Cowgate. George IV Bridge is crossing the street.



This is [Grassmarket](#). It is a historic marketplace. It was one of the main markets for horses and cattle. There was also public executions here.

From Grassmarket goes the street [West Bow](#) up to the old city.



West Bow goes over in Victoria Street.



Victoria Street is ending in George IV Bridge. Here lies [Parliament House](#).



Here we can dress in kilt----



----before entering this cafe.



Down here we find the [The Edinburgh Dungeon](#).



[Tolbooth Kirk](#) with the highest tower in the town. The street to the right is called Castle Hill and leads up to Edinburgh Castle.



Right beside, in Johnston Terrace lies [St Columba's Free Church](#).



This is the sign outside a restaurant in Castle Hill, [The Witchery](#).



View down the Esplanade and further down Lawnmarket.



[Gladstone's Land](#) in Lawnmarket is a house, which is preserved from the 1700s.



The pig is made of plastic.



This street musician played so well that he got a pound.



I The Royal Mile lies [St. Giles' Cathedral](#).

The street musician is still playing.



A statue of the Scottish philosopher, historian, economist and writer [David Hume](#).



A war veteran is collecting money to sick children.



This week there are a lot of parades and spectacles and there are jesters out in the streets. A few pictures of these.





These must be from another planet?



A lot of people in the streets.



Here we are sitting to take a breather.



Further down the Royal Mile, we walk past [Museum of Edinburgh](#).



[Tolbooth](#) is now a museum



This is [Canongate Kirk](#).



[Canongate Mercat Cross](#) from 1128 at Canongate Kirk. A [Mercat Cross](#) is a symbol that shows that the town has the permission to hold a market.



Outside the church is this statue of the Scottish poet [Robert Ferguson](#).



The church yard behind Canongate Kirk.



[The Old Royal High School](#) at [Calton-høyden](#).



The [Nelson-monument](#) in memory of vise-admiral [Horatio Nelson](#). It was built in 1807 – 1815 to commemorate the victory over the French and Spanish fleet in the battle of [Trafalgar](#) in 1805.



[Political Martyr's Monument](#) is a 27 m high obelisk.



At the bottom of the Royal Mile.
To the right lies the [Palace of Holyroodhouse](#).



The palace lies behind these gates is one of the royal residences in Great Britain. It was originally an abbey, which was founded in 1128.



The unicorn, which is to be found in the Scottish coat of arms.



Here we are in [The Queen's Gallery](#). Inside the first exhibition hall, which we enter when we goes upstairs.



Various silver items.



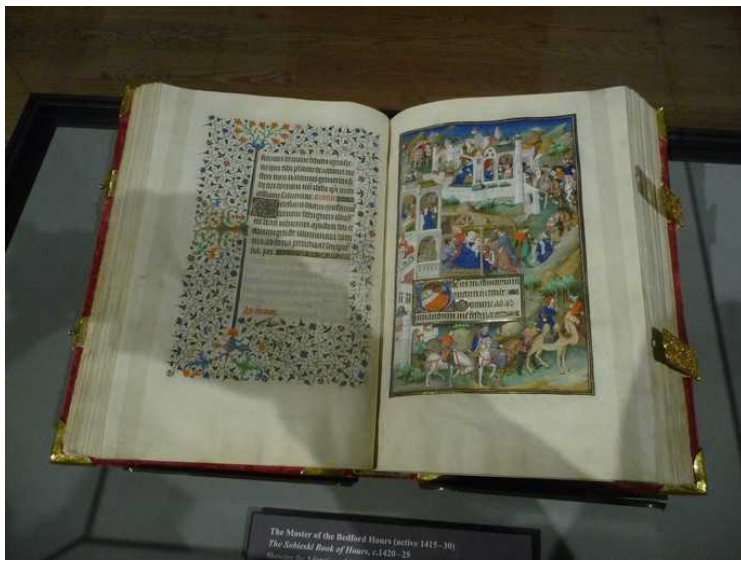
Pictures by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael.



Elaborately [watch](#).



[A Moorish servant](#).



The Sobieski Book of Hours



The Mainz Psalter. This is the second book, which was printed by using Gutenberg's method.



A golden crown from Ecuador.



Sables. The one to the left from Persia and the one to the right from Kashmir. In the middle a shield from India.



The crown of Bahadur Shah, which was the last mughal emperor in India.



Easter eggs.



Waterloo-stool made by Chippendale.



Oil paintings from Venecia.



Having a break in the cafe.



About to go through the gate into the palace.



Palace of Holyroodhouse



A fountain right after having gone through the gate.



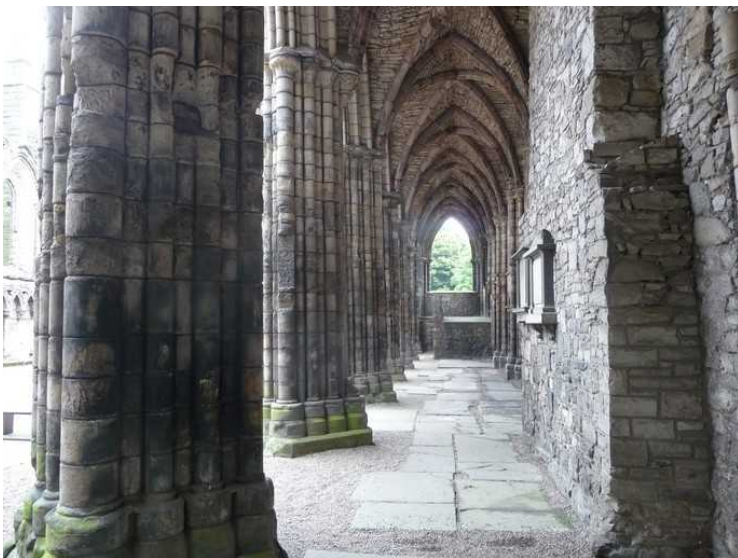
The entrance to the palace.



Looking back towards the gate.



The palace is built around a large open square. It is not allowed to take pictures inside the palace.



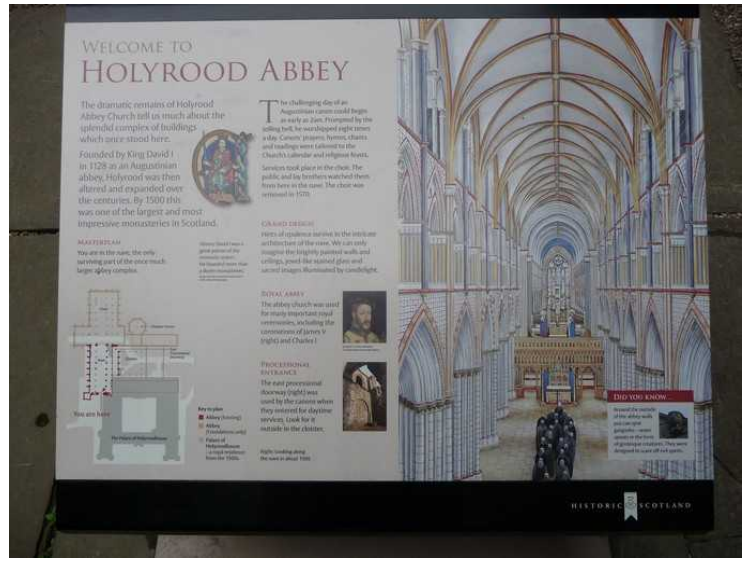
Out again, in the [abbey ruins](#).



The walls are still impressive.



This was the nave in the abbey.



To the right a sketch that shows how the abbey once probably looked like.



Out in the abbey garden.



The abbey seen from the garden.





Foxglove.



Violin player.



A lot ov vegetation in the garden.



On our way back to the abbey ruins.



Probably foundations of old buildings.



View towards [Holyrood Park](#).



Kjell is standing guard.
The umbrella is not much good in defending himself.



The abbey seen from outside.



At the back of the palace.



Nice bush.



The flowers on the bush.



Flowerbed.



Out again on the forecourt.



This is the [Scottish Parliament Building](#).



The parliament building with [Salisbury Crags](#) in the background.



Here we can also see the roof of [Our Dynamic Earth](#) behind the parliament building.



Along the street there are mounted slabs in the wall of the parliament built, where there is written quotes from famous Scottish persons.



Now we are back again to [Canongate Tolbooth](#).



In Jeffrey Street we are looking towards [North Bridge](#) in the front and [Waverley Station](#) to the right.



The [Scott Monument](#) lies at the north side of Waverley Bridge. It was erected in memory of [Sir Walter Scott](#).



Stout bagpipe blower.



A small sales booth at [Princes Street](#).



In the pedestrian street, [Rose Street](#).



A break in Frederic Street at a cocktail bar called [Amicus Apple](#). We had white wine and shrimps.



From this street we have a view up towards [Edinburgh Castle](#).



Here we also are at Princes Street, but with another angle of view of Edinburgh Castle.



Sausage wagon at Princes Street.



Next to the sausage wagon this guy is sitting, blowing in a [didgeridoo](#), an Australian wind instrument.



Looking back along Princes Street in direction of Calton Hill.



[Church of St John the Evangelist](#), which lies in the end of Princes Street.



[Caledonian Hotel](#).



Recipe on how to dismember a cow.



Both of them are eye catchers of [Kylee Restaurant & Grill](#).



Another glimpse of Edinburgh Castle.



On the way along Atholl Crescent, where there are mainly apartments.



At [The Spiders Web](#).

Behind the bar counter is Peter Cruikshank, who Kjell met many years ago at Rhodes. He runs the pub together with his father.



There were only a couple of guests there when we were there.



A couple of decorations from the pub.



Peter's father is a truly Beatles fan. The pub is dotted with pictures of Beatles. Beatles music is played all the time.



Anne Berit, Peter and Kjell.
We had to have a picture of all three together.



After we had been at The Spiders Web, we had to have something to eat. We went to the nearest dining venue.

There was a pub right next door, [Nicholson Pub Haymarket](#), which had good food. We ate [haggis](#) with “neeps and tatties”.