

Jackie, Peggy, and Kim at Spean Bridge Highlands, Scotland



The SUAA group landed in Glasgow and visited Stirling Castle where the freedom fighter William Wallace (Braveheart) defended his country. The group also visited Inverness and St Andrew (the birthplace of golf). Edinburgh was the last stop on the trip where they enjoyed the historic city, Edinburgh Castle and the unique architecture and neighborhoods of the new and old city.

Other highlights noted by **Peggy**: Three things I came away with that I found interesting: the Scots love of whiskey, the weather, and Greyfriars Bobby. Greyfriar's Bobby is a very sweet story of a dog who would not leave its owner even in death. There is a statue of Bobby in

Edinburgh and it's said to bring good luck if you rub his nose. Disney made a movie about Bobby and the dog that played him is buried next to Bobby and his owner.

On Halloween night we stopped at a local pub to taste the Scottish whiskey, our tour director, Dominic, informed us that it is custom to put a drop of whisky in your morning porridge. I didn't try whiskey but I did have porridge. The weather for the most part was cool and windy, some days heavy rain. In Scotland they call it "fresh" I thought they were kidding until I watched the morning forecast and sure enough their Tom Skilling said the weather would be fresh.

Well, it was **Kim's** birthday during the trip, so she did try the whiskey in the porridge:

Kim: Let me start off by saying my birthday is the day after Halloween. We were in Inverness & there was a beautiful breakfast buffet available. Right next to the porridge was whiskey. I say when in Rome... or Scotland, you must appreciate customs! I put a healthy dollop of whiskey in it! Best birthday breakfast I ever had!!

At Stirling Castle there was a beautiful garden. I never knew there were palm trees in Scotland. It's called a Cabbage Palm.

On the way to Inverness from Glasgow we were treated to a beautiful, sunny day. We drove by Loch Ness. No Nessie, but Loch Ness is a beautiful loch with stunning surrounding scenery. It's 23 miles long & not even the longest loch in Scotland!

Edinburgh was beautiful and the Castle amazing. There was a little garden/cemetery for the dogs that served their master's during battles. Also St Margaret's Chapel that is only tended to by women named Margaret.

Jackie added: We attended a 'Ceremony of the Haggis', Scotland's unique national dish that we were able to sample. There was music, dancing and storytelling.

Dawn Hughes created Scotland 2023 to share with everyone [Scotland 2023](#).