

Holidays in Scotland

A: Hi Tessa, what's going on?

T: Anna, it's been a week! Why didn't you call me earlier? ... However, what is it like out there? Are you having fun?

A: Yes, it was quite interesting although I didn't believe it at first. We did a lot of sightseeing, for example we visited Edinburgh Castle. It's really huge and you've got a fantastic view over the city. And there is a big gun at the roof that's fired off every day at exactly one o'clock.

T: Why? Isn't it a bit silly? I mean, everyone has got a watch, haven't they?

A: Of course they have, but it's a tradition and nowadays it's a tourist attraction, too. In the past it was for the sailors, so they knew when it was one o'clock.

T: Why one o'clock?

A: I don't know. But the shot could be heard about 3km. Isn't that cool? But today it's another gun which is not that loud. A pity, but I think it would be quite chaotic if it was.

T: Do you have something less historical to tell me?

A: Hm, what about the crown jewels?

T: They've got some in Scotland? I thought just the British have some.

A: No, they are just not used since the unification with England. They've got a sword and a sceptre which were gifts from the pope. And there is of course a crown with lots of jewels.

T: That's nice. I love beautiful jewellery. What else?

A: We spent almost the whole day in this castle and in the evening we saw the show of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

T: What's that?

A: It's something like a concert, but...

T: Cool!

A: No, Tessa, listen! I said something like a concert, in fact it's the biggest music festival of Scotland. They're playing a lot of military and traditional music and most of the participants are part of the British army.

T: So, it's just soldiers playing bagpipes, drums and so on? Do they all wear kilts?

A: Some do, but the majority wears a uniform. And no, there are also some dance and singing performances. It's quite nice, you can watch it on TV too or on YouTube. Try it, Tessa, you'll like it!

T: I don't think so, is it really that interesting?

A: Yes, per show there are 8,600 viewers. You have to buy your tickets months before the show to get some!

T: OK, OK. The show was great. I got it.

A: Yes, and in the end there was a mass performance of all participants, you can't imagine what it looks like when more than a thousand people perform together!

T: No, but it sounds really interesting.

A: I got something else for you that is really interesting. Well, before we went down south to Edinburgh, we visited ... Loch Ness..

T: Cool! So did you get to see Nessie?

A: No, unfortunately not.

T: Do you really believe in it? It's just another thing like Bigfoot or the Yeti.

A: I'm not sure. But there has to be something, because they mentioned it 1,500 years ago.

T: I think, it's a phantasm anyway. But didn't they say also it's something like a...I don't know, ... some sort of extinct dinosaur?

A: Yes, but it has to breathe, so they must have been seen more often. And the lake isn't able to keep them alive. It could also be a sturgeon. There are lots of theories what it can really be: looming, swimming deer or specific wave design, because Loch Ness is known for standing waves.

T: So, we get to know: There's nothing behind the story.

A: But there could be something big living in the lake. – Let's talk about something else. What's going on at home?

T: Oh, not much. The week was quite boring, but on Saturday there will be a huge party at Mikey's!

A: And I'm not there! What a pity! You'll have to tell me about it afterwards. So I'll call you again on Sunday?

T: Yes, do that. See you.

A: Bye.