

A Dream Turned Reality: My Scotland Odyssey Thus Far

Home Country: Canada
Program: Student Exchange
University: University of Northern British Columbia
Location: Glasgow, Scotland
Story Faculty: Dr. Jennifer L. Jones
Studies: International Studies

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When COVID hit back in 2019 I was attending Langara College and preparing to go to Italy for a field school. I was heartbroken when the trip had to be canceled and I moved forward with my graduation before the trip could be replanned. When I transferred to SFU I knew that despite having never been off the North American continent my dream to study abroad was something I was determined to make a reality. So I worked hard; I kept up GPA up, I applied on time, and I expressed my ambitions for furthering my education through an exchange experience.

When I got accepted I was ecstatic. Then the planning process started, and five months felt like all the time in the world to prepare for my trip. Staying on top of everything and advocating for what I needed while away, like Disability Services at my Host Institution, applying StudentAid,

"downtown", and exploring the natural landscape on my own became less daunting and became more exciting. The loneliness for family and friends back home is still there, but it feels less like an emptiness and more like just missing familiar connections. Finding friends in a new place can feel like middle school all over again but I've learned that the chances are the people around you are just as nervous about making the first move. Finding connections with other exchange students from all over the world has

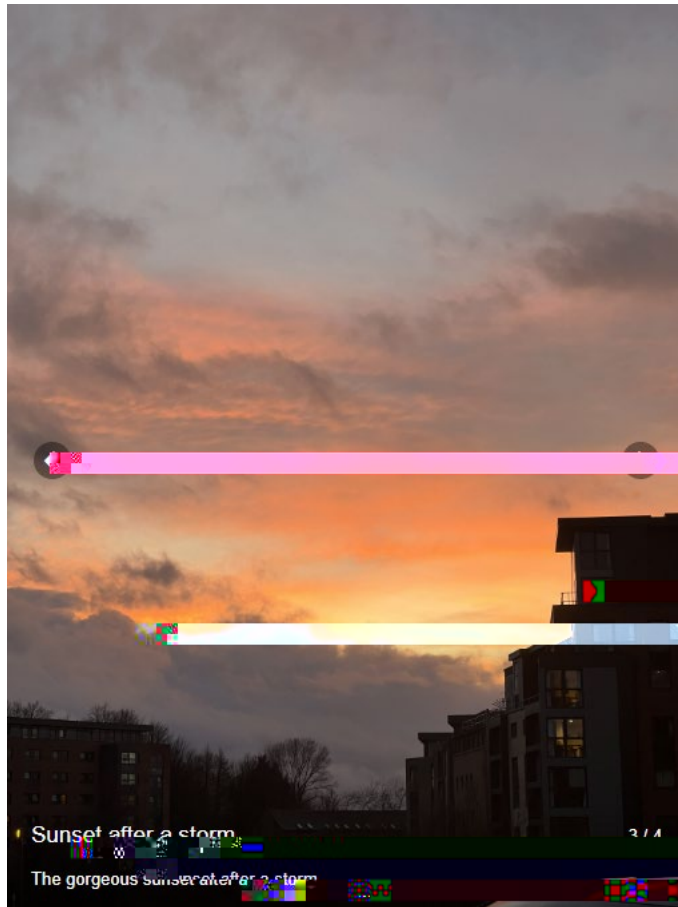


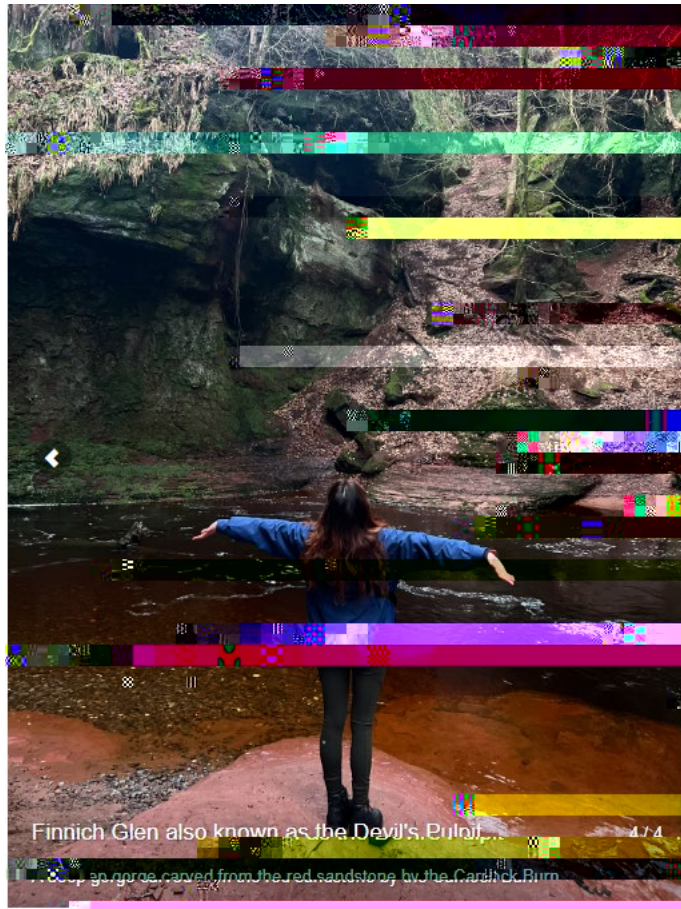
Parnassus
columns

National Monument of Scotland in Edinburgh



University Glasgow v Main building she
magnificent Gothic revival architecto
University Glasgow Main Building





Finnich Glen also known as the Devil's Pulpit, ... 4/4
... an gorge carved from the red sandstone by the Carrick Burn