

## 1. Arrived in Glasgow

Finally got here around 9PM, met our friends, Susan and Ron Choy. For some reason my phone doesn't work, and we are having some trouble getting texting to work. Hopefully solved tomorrow. Good wifi in hotel at least.



Hotel Z in Glasgow  
with our friends Ron &  
Susan Choy

## 2. Glasgow Day 1

After a night-time arrival yesterday, today we took a bus tour thru the city. There are lots of cool buildings like the one with a ship on top, and we saw 3 Conservatories with cool plants plus many other buildings with glass roofs. It's cool with occasional sprinkles. We're having a good time with Ron & Susan.



Jane and the Kibble Palace,  
Royal Botanical Gardens



Weather vane, Glasgow

### 3. Glasgow Day 2

Lots of glass-roofed buildings in Glasgow! Today visited a museum about a cool local architect and went walking along the Clyde River past 5 bridges, including the 1880 railway bridge seen below. Now in Milngavie to start our hike tomorrow. Cold, cloudy and frequent sprinkles.



19th Century Gallery with wrought iron frame



Wrought iron bridge, Glasgow

### 4. West Highland Way Day 1

Bluebells, Green fields, newborn lambs, and lots of other walkers. We finished our 12 mile day at 3:30 today. Weather is very cold, with occasional sprinkles. Food is very good. A bit tired with sore feet, but all in all a good day.



Sign at start of West Highland Way



Sheep

## 5. WHW Day 3

Here's day 3 (no internet Day 2)- bluebells and more, some sunshine and some showers, beautiful views of Loch Lomond. Yesterday was "the hardest day"- very rocky trail.



Bluebells



Rain, Loch Levin

## 6. WHW Day 4

A shorter, easier day today, as we got into the highlands. Good weather, with sun and some clouds but no rain. Great views and snow on the peaks above 3000'. Fish and chips for dinner. First picture is Jane, Susan and Ron at the halfway point on the West Highland Way. Second is Scottish black face sheep farm with Ben More and Stob Binnein (both 3800') iced with snow.



Mid-way point,  
West Highland Way



Snow on Ben More and  
Stob Binnein

## 7. WHW Day 5

We had a layover day and went to Oban. We toured the Oban distillery (and took some home), had a great fresh seafood lunch, and visited the castle ruins of Susan's family, the MacDougals, and met the current Clan leader. All in all, a delightful day and enjoyed the sea air.



Oban Distillery, Oban



Jane and Susan in the MacDougal Castle, Oban

## 8. WHW Day 6

A short day today, with suntan lotion (!), walking on an old military road. We spent a leisurely afternoon watching a kayaker on the River Orchy under the Bridge of Orchy, napped, enjoyed a dram of Oban on the porch of our hotel, and had a good dinner watching evening on the hills.



Walking to Bridge of Orchy

## 9. WHW Day 7

Today was a long walk across the moors. Warm, sunny weather with great views. It would not be fun to walk where there is not a path, it's wet and marshy and tangled.

This marker marks the high spot of the West Highland Way. Just two days left.

Since we had an extra day (when we went to Oban) we're seeing a different group of people on the Way, and are missing our recent acquaintances.



Us at high point marker on  
Rannoch Moor (1500')

## 10. WHW Day 8

A long day, but one of the easier ones with good paths and not too much up and down. Picture of me in front of England's highest peak, Ben Nevis (4400'), and of all of us at the official end of the West Highland Way in downtown Fort William. We did it and we are done! Tomorrow we relax in Fort William, then off to Edinburgh.



## 11. Fort William

Today a rest and explore day - and more nice weather. Ft William is site of 2 key Scottish battles, hence the fort. It's also the end of the Caledonian Canal that follows a huge fault across Scotland from here to Inverness. A marvel of early 1800s engineering. We watched boats go thru "Neptune's Staircase- seven locks in a row. Then we visited Old Inverlochy castle which dates back to 1280. Tomorrow we take the train to Edinburgh.



Neptune's Staircase locks,  
Caledonian Canal

*West Highland Way, May 2019*



Old Inverlochy Castle and the  
castellated train bridge,  
Fort William

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## 12. Edinburgh

A rainy train trip back across the moors from Fort William to Glasgow then Edinburgh. We watched walkers on the West Highland Way in the rain and were thankful we had good weather — and were amazed at how far we had walked.

The first picture is the neighborhood of our B&B- tract houses from the 1880s. The second is the view out the window of our room. Our host is a very enthusiastic Australian transplanted to Edinburgh, and he already had an itinerary planned for us for tomorrow! A very good pub dinner with real local ale and the end of another day.

A bit of a shock to get off the train and be in the middle of a busy, loud, crowded big city!

It's beginning to feel like we've been gone for awhile and we missed friends and family.



### 13. Edinburgh Day 2

A day of 2 castles - Craigmillar, a 1400-1700 castle, abandoned around 1760. Mary Queen of Scots spent some time here in 1563. Then we walked the league (3 miles) to downtown via an old village with a Physic Garden and a pub established in 1360 (the current building dates from later), where we watched the guards march at Holyrood Palace (closed to visitors due to official residence) and walked along some of the Royal Mile between the palace and Edinburgh Castle. Most of the buildings date from the 1700s. We visited the City of Edinburgh Museum which gave us a deeper view into local history.

There was a cool exhibit called Humans of the Walk, with a picture and a brief paragraph about why they liked to walk from a diverse collection of people aged 8 to 83. Many had touching comments about how walking helped them deal with life's challenges.



Craigmillar Castle



Guard at Holyrood Palace

For you fans of the books or series "Outlander", we visited several locations including Jamie's printshop in Episode 3 – we were there!(For Harry Potter fans, there were also several Harry Potter sights in Edinburgh.)



#### 14. Edinburgh Day 3

Changing of the guards at Edinburgh Castle (and a lot more Scottish history lessons touring the castle), and statue of Adam Smith - Scots seem to like putting construction cones on statues of famous people.

Besides the castle, we walked thru old town, spent time in the Scottish National Museum and visited our wonderful trip planners at Alpine Exploratory. Now off for more pub food and local ale. Tomorrow—sun, heat and Greece!,

