



Beautiful Days in Edinburgh

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What do you think of when you think of Scotland? Would a piper wearing his kilt and blowing his bagpipes come to your mind? How about the military tattoo performance, the Loch Ness Monster, or the wildlife in the Highlands? They are all special and interesting, but what attracted me most in my trip to Scotland last summer was the ambience of her capital.

When I first arrived in Edinburgh, I was stunned by the city's elegance and beauty. The capital of Scotland is surprisingly small. Walking is a good way to discover the city. Throughout my three-week stay, I hung around the whole city and relished a taste of the Scottish life at an easy pace. It was charming. It was refreshing. Edinburgh, known as Athens of the North, was so friendly that I could relax in her embrace.

Summer is the high season of Edinburgh when tourists flood to the city for various world-famous festivals. Exciting events are held not only in the theatres, but also on the streets. When I strolled along the Royal Miles in the Old Town, I saw many amateur performers show their talents before the crowds. Their passion for the arts permeated their high-standard performances. Some presented a short drama, while others formed a mini orchestra or staged an acrobatic display. Some sketched portraits, while others painted their own bodies like sculptures. Each had his own characteristics, adding colour to this artistic and historic city.



After having fun out of the on-street performances, I turned to the Princes Street Gardens, the central park of the city. There were free open-air live music shows all day long. I spent wonderful evenings sitting in the Gardens, enchanted by the sweet singing of folk songs and Scottish songs. While enjoying the gentle summer breeze, I admired the magnificent view of the Old Town. It was really a delight to gaze at the Edinburgh Castle standing high on the hill, gilded by the setting sun. At some moments, I found the music grow fainter and fainter, leaving me in a state of complete tranquillity. Time was brought to a standstill. I drank in the beauty of the scenery and my soul was flying high. How amazing it was! I was not willing to leave until around nine o'clock in the evening when the daylight ebbed away.



Yes, this is Edinburgh. It is such a special city that you can easily get a glimpse of different styles of Scottish life at different corners. In the city's museums and galleries, you can learn more about her history and culture, and appreciate the remarkable achievements of the Scottish people. Scotland has her distinctive character and a way of life that is very different from the rest of Europe's.

Farewell Edinburgh, farewell Scotland! The trip is over, but those memorable scenes will always stay in my mind.



萬水千山走遍

徐霞客事略

在中國遊記文學史上，着重科學考察的遊記是一個重要的分支，其中《徐霞客遊記》更譽為“古今遊記之最”（錢謙益《徐霞客傳》），享有崇高地位。

徐霞客（公元1587-1641年），名弘祖，字振之，明代傑出的地理學家、旅行家，自少好讀古今史籍、地誌圖經，專注地理研究。他發現古代地理書籍很少介紹各地的自然地理景觀，邊遠地區的考察尤其缺乏。自二十二歲始，至五十四歲終，三十多年間，隻身出遊，探險考察，登黃山，攀五嶽，溯江探源，足迹遍歷大江南北，深入當時仍是蠻荒之地的西南邊陲，無懼狂風暴雨、毒蛇猛獸，甚至強盜土匪。在旅途中，有時日行百里，露宿殘垣，寄身草莽，曾多次三餐不繼，因“蔬米俱盡，而囊無一文”，不得不向友人寫信求援。

徐霞客是深入考究、詳細記錄石灰岩地貌的先驅，關於西南和邊疆地區的考察記錄和專題討論，具有很高的學術價值，對河道地理的研究也有許多獨到的見解。《徐霞客遊記》是以散文和日記體裁寫成的野外考察記錄，由徐氏好友季夢良整理而成，有系統地記述廣大山區的山川形勝、岩石地貌、水文氣象、生物礦產、民

風民俗等，修正了許多古代地誌的謬誤。

《徐霞客遊記》不僅在中外科學史上佔有重要地位，更是富有文學色彩的遊記名著。書中記錄所見所聞，描寫大自然的瑰麗多姿，文筆優美，情景交融，讀來如見其人，如歷其地。且看徐氏描述首登黃山途中驚險之處，使人如親臨其境：時值早春，石峯環繞中，石級仍為積雪所沒，“疏木茸茸中，仰見羣峯盤結，天都獨巍然上挺。數里，級愈峻，雪愈深，其陰處凍雪成冰，堅滑不容着趾”。第二次遊黃山，仍然險阻重重，“塞者鑿之，陡者級之，斷者架木通之，懸者植梯接之”。排除萬難後，五彩繽紛的山景盡現眼前：“下瞰峭壁陰森，楓柏相間，五色紛披，璨若圖綉”，觀察細膩，描摹生動，文字清新奇麗。



徐霞客窮一生探索自然奧秘，遊山川如會知己，“飽嘗河山美，收盡天下奇”，登山必登最高之巔，下洞必到最深之地。宋代文學家王安石嘗言：“世之奇偉瑰怪非常之觀，常在於險遠，而人之所罕至焉，故非有志者不能至也”（《遊褒禪山記》），徐霞客正正體現了這種探險歷奇的大無畏精神，並為後世留下了科學與文學價值極高的“千古奇書”。