
danube river OT: to Mary - Danube river :-)

Posted by Franziska Beckmann - 2009/09/09 11:28

Hi Mary, I still owe you a confirmation that the Danube River exists! :-) (Sorry for getting back to you so late, but I've been away on holiday, and generally can read/post in ASAPM *much* less often than I'd like to...) So here we go: -
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brings back many happy memories. :-) Its sung in most countries in the world on New Years Eve, even Japan, I read somewhere. The poem Auld Lang syne was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns. It was accompanied by music much later. Maybe you will go to Scotland again sometime Franciska and see the Fringe and lots of other things to see. I am like you and like the old architecture over there. Geography and history lesson is over :) Mary

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I put the message you sent me last month in a folder to answer and thought yesterday that I would answer it today. I didn't forget about it, just got pre-occupied. I always try to answer peoples messages especially if they ask me something. Also, I wanted to look up some information about a ferry from Rosyth a town I lived near in Scotland which goes to Zbrugge in Belgium. I can't remember - are you in Belgium? The ferry to Zbrugge from Scotland was not there till many years after I left. I think its only been there for about 8-10 years. I was so surprised to see all the ferries between Scotland/England to Europe and Scandinavia. The UK is part of northern Europe, but we thought of countries such as Spain, France, Germany, etc. to be Europe.

http://www.directferries.co.uk/rosyth_zeebrugge_ferry.htm I found the above link so interesting and didn't realize there were so many ferries between the various European, Scandinavian countries. They weren't there when I lived over there. It would be nice to go to those various places. Hi Mary, Where in Scotland did you grow up? I was born and lived in a town about half an hour north of Edinburgh which is in Scottish Midlands on the East coast. It is called Dunfermline and was the ancient capital before Edinburgh was made capital. Many kings and queens lived in Dunfermline when it was the capital and are buried there in the 12th century abbey which has been restored and renovated many times, but is still a church where Sunday services are still held. The town is very historical and filled with old architecture and ruins of old monasteries and palaces. It was strange when I went there 5 years ago to see a mix of new houses but the old parts of the town are still there. It was a wonderful place to grow up in, though I didn't realize it till many years later. Andrew Carnegie, the self made American millionaire who made his money in steel in the U.S. was born in the same town as me, only I didn't grow up to be a millionaire :) His birthplace is a museum. I passed it when I was over there but did not go in. Carnegie gave the Glen, which is a big park with peacocks, museum, childrens pool, tea rooms, beautiful flower gardens, to the people of my town. I have only been to Scotland once, but I do have fond memories of this holiday. I went there with my mother when I was sixteen (way back in 1982...), we went to a youth hostel in a tiny place called Glenisla, located in the Uplands. It was really in the

middle of nowhere, we had to take a train from Edinburgh, then change trains and *then* hitch-hike because there was no other way to get there. :-) However it was such a lovely place - it was a castle in which several rooms had eight corners (angles??) because the local castle ghost was only able to live in rooms with 8 corners.:) It was a benevolent ghost, of course. :-) I was 16 before you :) In fact, I was 16 when I left Scotland. I haven't heard of Glenisla, but I looked it up and it seems to be in the south part of the Scottish Highlands. It is probably a small town there. It sounds like it was in the middle of nowhere and strange they would have a youth hostel in such a small place. It reminds me of when I got my tonsils out when I was 12 and we had a hospital in my town, but maybe it was filled up, because my mother had to take me to a hospital in an area which I think was close to where you stayed, and we got a bus there but it was a long walk to the hospital which seemed to have nothing much around it. It was an activity holiday which included many horseriding trips, so we saw a lot of Scottish scenery sitting on horsebacks. I loved the scenery!! And the people running the youth hostel were very laid-back and humorous - great atmosphere. Yes, most people over there are quite laid back and are very friendly. I had forgotten how welcoming they were as I've been away from there so long and after that I've always lived in Toronto which is a big city, so the atmosphere and way of life is totally different. We also spent two days in Edinburgh - I especially liked the city's architecture. I also remember being disappointed because we had just missed the fringe festival! (Does it still exist?) It was not there when I lived there. http://www.edinburgh.org/events/fringe_festival/ It sure has a lot of festivals in Edinburgh. The fringe is only one of them. Its been there for a long time, maybe even when I was there, but not well organized till much later. The Military Tattoo was not there when we left but its been there for a long time now, as my mother used to go over to visit her sisters and brothers and went to the Tattoo many times. I've only seen it on TV here. Edinburgh is a very interest place to go with many tea shops and historical architecture.. I would have loved to go up to the Highlands, sadly we didn't have the time for that... If you were in Glenisla is either in the Highlands or very close, so you were already there :) But I think you probably mean you would have loved to see more of the Highlands on a bus tour. The scenery is spectacular in the Highlands with so many hills purple with heather and so many lakes every few miles it seemed. Lakes are called Lochs over there. I did not appreciate it till many years later. I generally love the British Isles, I like the oceanic climate (not too hot, not too cold), I don't mind the rain, and I like the feeling to be surrounded more or less by the sea. And many areas are just so green... It would suit me very well too. I would love to live there as the climate would suit me much better than here where it is much too hot in the summer and unpredictable in the winter. We have had early snow this year a couple of days ago. Many years we don't see any snow till after Christmas. I grew up with the oceanic climate (good name for it) and I still miss it even though I was young when I left. its something you never forget or quite get over. We lived about 5 miles from the sea so I was often there. A friend of mine often goes to Scotland because her Aunt lives there (near Stirling). When you call her, you get to hear lots of bagpipes on her answering machine. :-) I know where Stirling is. Its the birthplace of William Wallace as in the movie Braveheart though not all that movie was true. Some of it was. I used to have an aunt who lived in Stirling. The Wallace Monument is there. None of my Scottish relatives have bagpipes on their answering machine. I don't either. A very patriotic idea :) I also like Scottish music (although I don't know many songs) - but For Auld Lang Syne is one of my favourite songs - I don't know if it's Scottish music in the strict sense? I only know the poem is Scottish and the music is traditional folk - anyway, I have often sung it together with British friends, sitting around a fire and being accompanied by a guitar...this song brings back many happy memories. :-) Its sung in most countries in the world on New Years Eve, even Japan, I read somewhere. The poem Auld Lang syne was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns. It was accompanied by music much later. Maybe you will go to Scotland again sometime Franciska and see the Fringe and lots of other things to see. I am like you and like the old architecture over there. Geography and history lesson is over :) Mary

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