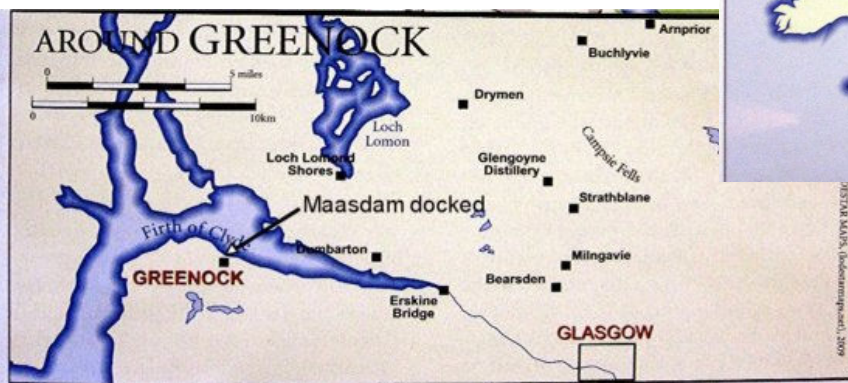


## Day 21 Aug. 14 – Greenock Scotland – Glasgow – HOHO Tour – Pedestrian Mall

The day started with calm sea and a light rain falling on the decks of the Maasdam as we approached the harbor of Greenock, Scotland. Greenock is located on the River Clyde which also flows through Glasgow which is about 20 miles further upstream. Greenock, where the Maasdam docked at 8am, is located about 10 miles from the mouth of the river. The map on the right shows where Greenock is located in the United Kingdom and the map below shows the location of Greenock and the city of Glasgow which was our tour destination today.



**Glasgow:** We left the ship about 9am to catch a tour bus to Glasgow. We

had bought a Holland America arranged tour where a guide would tell us about the area as we traveled the 18 miles to Glasgow. The bus would let us off in the center of the city about 10am and pick us up at the same spot at 3:15pm.

It was still sprinkling rain when as we made our way to the passenger terminal. The cruise liner, Tahitian Princess was docked in front of the Maasdam so the passenger terminal was a busy place in the morning.



We met our guide, Ian, in the parking lot and boarded the bus to Glasgow. As we passed through the countryside, Ian pointed out things of interest. For example over 100 years ago Greenock was a major center for construction of wooden ships. Logs brought in from Norway were used as the source of the wooden frames and planking. The logs were kept floating in fenced areas of the River Clyde to prevent them from drying out while waiting shaping by carpenters. Of course, the wooden ship building industry has long since gone away in Greenock but the rotted poles of these old fences were still visible jutting out of the



shallow water near the river bank. We passed through the little town of Paisley and Ian explained that shawls with the paisley pattern were made at the textile mills here in the time of Queen Victoria. She liked to wear that pattern of shawl so it became a fashion necessity. That bit of economic good luck for the local Paisley textile mills also led to the town's name being given to the pattern "paisley".

We arrived in Glasgow about 10am with a light rain still falling. We passed over the River Clyde and Ian pointed out the bridge in this photo as the "Squinty Bridge". The Scotsmen like to give nicknames to just about everything and this bridge got its nickname from the fact that it goes across the river at an angle "squinty" rather than the more normal right angle to the river banks.



We were soon dropped off in the center of town near George Square which can be located on the street map of Glasgow shown below.





**HOHO Bus Tour:** There was a Hop-On Hop-Off (HOHO) bus stop located on George Square so we purchased our tickets (\$4 USD) and climbed aboard.

Our guide on the bus to Glasgow had mentioned that Glasgow is sometimes pointed out as having the most Victorian style architecture still remaining in the UK. The Victorian style is particularly evident in the ornate roof lines of the city buildings. The following is a series of pictures we took of the various buildings on our tour route that are consistent with the Victorian City theme for Glasgow.



This building on the left is the Royal Glasgow Hospital. The buildings below were near George Square.



This clock tower shown on the left has been in this location for over 200 years.





There were also some modern buildings such as this one at the Strathclyde University near city center. However, architecture like the Glasgow Cathedral is more common.

Near the Cathedral were the remains of a stone wall that predated the existing Cathedral.



The bus tour took us out to the Glasgow University campus where we got this photo of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum which had lines resembling the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C.





There was also this apartment house block that carried out the Victorian theme.

In contrast with the Victorian architecture was the modern lines of the Clyde Auditorium, shown below. This architectural style is somewhat similar to the Sydney Opera House (Australia) and



the convention center in Hong Kong. For obvious reasons the Scotsmen, who love nicknames, call this building “The Armadillo”.

Along the Clyde River is the Glasgow Tower that houses a weather station. The tower can rotate 360 degrees in the process of gathering meteorological information.



**Pedestrian Mall:** We finished up the tour by HOHO bus and decided to check out the “Pedestrianized” Shopping Mall that we had heard could be found on Buchanan Street. We picked up the word “Pedestrianized” from the recorded commentary on the HOHO bus. They simply meant that motorized traffic was not allowed on the street and pedestrians could walk in the street between the stores.

We anticipated that we would be seeing about the same thing that we saw on the pedestrian mall in Liverpool the day before. It was nearly as crowded as the mall in Liverpool and the people seemed to be having a good time even with an occasional light rain. However, spirits were even higher later when the sun came out.



It was in this area that we found an artistic display that our guide on the bus to Glasgow had told us about. It was a type of painting that is distorted in such a way that when viewed from a side angle the image appears in proper proportions and almost in three dimensions. He had said we should go to a place called Princess Square and take the escalator up to the second floor. The paintings were on the wall of the narrow passage containing the escalator. We took the suggested escalator at Princess Square and we were not disappointed. Ian, our guide, had done a good job of describing the effect. We took the picture on the left to capture the scene.



We also took another picture looking pretty much straight into the image to illustrate how distorted it was when looking at it in that manner. The photo is not great but the image nearest the camera on the right side of the photo is clearly evident.

This is probably an old artistic technique but it was new to us and we were fascinated by the illusion.

In the morning on the HOHO bus tour we had passed by an area of great activity where the commentary indicated preparation was being made for a bag pipe playing competition. This was apparently a big deal in



Glasgow and there were lots of participants all dressed in the traditional kilts.

These folks shown below were doing their best to get ready in spite of the soggy weather.



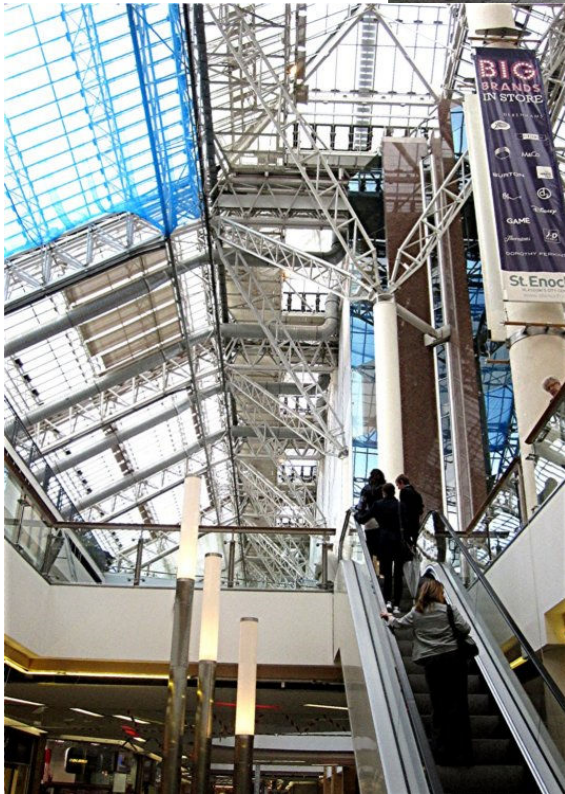
Later in the day we saw some of the participants in downtown Glasgow. That gave us tourists a chance to see kilts being worn by authentic Scotsmen. We had to take a few pictures.





There was one shopping mall we hadn't yet seen so we hoofed it down to the St. Enoch Centre which is completely enclosed in glass roof and walls. The approach to the St. Enoch Centre is through a pedestrianized mall as shown on the right.

Inside the mall there was plenty of light but all the metal beams and bare structure, as shown below, gave a rather cold feeling.



Perhaps the residents of this city with all the Victorian architecture prefer a break and like this modern design.

By this time we needed to rejoin the bus tour we had taken from Greenock. We walked to the appointed spot near George Square and found Ian and bus waiting for us. After a few minutes the rest of the passengers showed up and we headed back to Greenock.

On the way to Greenock we caught this pastoral scene of some sheep in a field.



Our guide, Ian, told us about James Watt who was a very famous scientist – engineer who lived in the mid 1700s. He was born in Greenock but spent most of his adult life working in Glasgow. One of his most important contributions was a fundamental improvement in the steam engine that led to its adoption for the early expansion of the industrial revolution. He made many other technical innovations but today we learned of one we had not been aware of. Ian claimed that James Watt invented the dry-dock which was a major advance in the repair and maintenance of large ships. As we passed the dock area of Greenock, Ian pointed to a large enclosed basin of water and said that James Watt designed that specific dry-dock which was the first one ever constructed. We snapped a quick picture of this unpretentious site.



A dry-dock is an enclosure built with a gate that can be opened so the enclosure can be filled with water and ships can proceed into the enclosure. The gate is then closed and the water is then slowly pumped out. As the ship goes down with the water level it eventually touches the bottom. Strong supports are then placed under the ship to avoid damage to the keel and side plates and to keep the ship upright. The rest of the water is then pumped out and the hull of the ship is completely exposed so that workers can make repairs without danger of the ship taking on water through a hole in the hull. In the photo above, the gate is the opening on the far side to the River Clyde.

The bus dropped us off at the Cruise Terminal and we returned to the Maasdam. Before dinner we went to the Ocean Bar on deck 8 for drinks. The Ocean Bar has a piano player who plays beautiful music and we have tried to drop in occasionally. Our first night on the ship he had played The Tennessee Waltz and Barbara had told him we were from Tennessee and we liked that music. When we arrived tonight, magically we started to hear the melodious notes of The Tennessee Waltz. The piano player's name is Robert and he really knows how to please us cruisers from the Volunteer State.





The ship got underway about 6pm as we were eating dinner. It took over an hour for the Maasdam to pass out through the mouth of the Clyde River. On the shore we saw this line of wind turbines churning out electricity from the stiff wind that was blowing.



Tomorrow will be a day at sea as we make our way to the town of Torshavn in the Faroe Islands. This will be a good time to rest up from three days of heavy duty touring.