



We feel like we have run a marathon, but we are now safely in Edinburgh. We knew the Kuala Lumpur to Edinburgh leg of the journey was going to be the toughest. We had a 6 hour wait at K.L. airport after our hotel checkout as our flight didn't depart until after midnight (4am NZ time), then a 13 hour flight, a 5 hour layover at Heathrow and then the flight up to Edinburgh. Add that all up and we were on the go for a mammoth 25+ hours!

We had great intentions of an afternoon sleep at the hotel before checking out, but the most we managed was a short snooze. We filled in the 6 hours with some dinner, some extra buggy rides between the hotel and the terminal and airport shops.



There are soooo many choc shops at KLIA



A 5000 sq ft kids shop at KLIA

Matt managed the most sleep on the plane and I got enough to get by. Amazingly Anna hardly slept at all. She spent a lot of time looking out the window and following the map of the flight path. The first part of the flight was over India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan etc. and she was intrigued by the lights out the window. The military bases and lights of the borders between countries stood out clearly. After that we headed across The Baltic States, then over Poland, Germany, Amsterdam and across to London. Not much to see over those countries apart from the tops of clouds, which look pretty much the same the world over!

I had been telling the kids that Heathrow was one of the busiest in the world, but they weren't convinced when we arrived at 5:30am to a very quiet airport. We had to transit from Terminal 4 to Terminal 1 to change to our Edinburgh flight. That involved a bus ride and numerous security checks. Heathrow looks like a construction site as they get it ready for the Olympics. It's hard to imagine it will all be finished in less than 100 days. Fortunately the airport is a lot more appealing inside than outside. We had 5 hours to fill in and there was enough to keep us entertained. It was so exciting to be back in Britain after 15 years, it really felt like I had come home.



Matt outside a mini Hamleys at Heathrow. They can't wait for the big one!

Our flight to Edinburgh took less than an hour. It was the most amazing feeling to finally be there and find Great Aunty Jo at the baggage claim. We are with Jo for 2 weeks. She is my Mum's best friend from teacher training College days and is a very special part of our family. She comes out to NZ for a few months every 2 years so the kids know her well and just adore her.



Welcome poster at Jo's front door.



A delicious first Scottish meal - not fast food or plane food!

Not much happened that first afternoon, we were just so exhausted. Bed after an early dinner never felt so good. Normally the kids will use any excuse to get a later bedtime, but they were just begging to be allowed to finally go to bed!