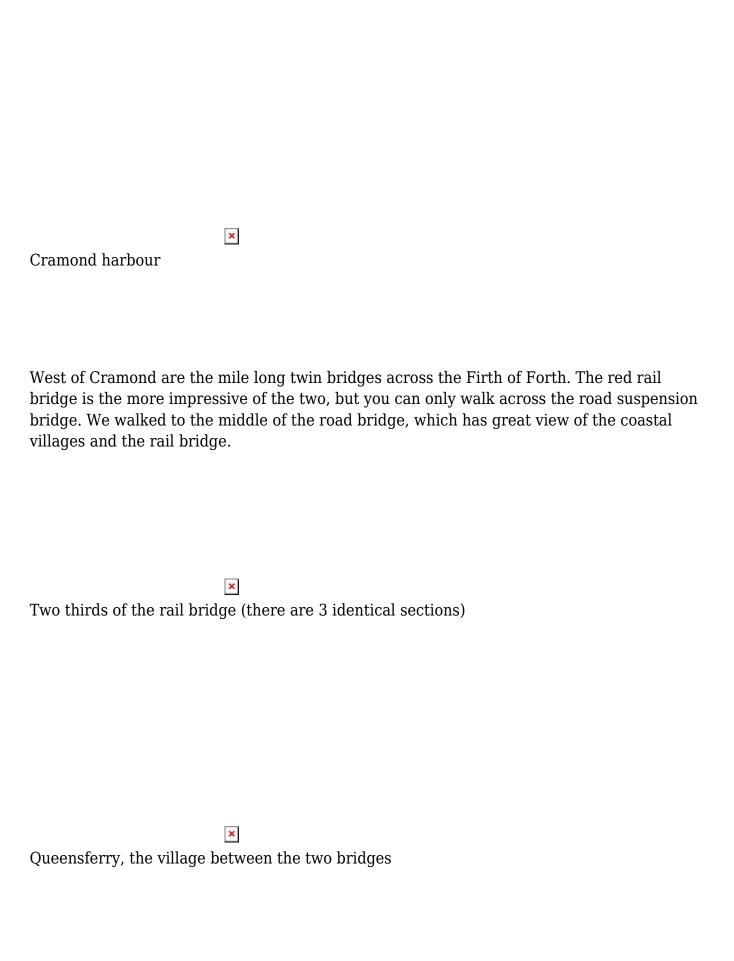
The last couple of days have been spent exploring some of the lovely villages around Edinburgh with our wonderful personal guide. We had been hoping that the Scottish weather forecasters were as bad as the Kiwi ones and it's turned out to be true. The endless showers being promised have been pretty non existent and we have been treated to some lovely sunshine. There was a chilly northerly wind today – still hard to get our heads around northerly winds being cold!

One of the lovely villages we visited on Saturday was Cramond.

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The main street of Cramond

There are loads of dogs here in Scotland, but the Westies are my favourite. This is Hamish, who provided entertainment by peeing on the ice cream shop sign!





Forth road bridge



Kids in the middle of the road bridge

On Saturday night we had a couple of Jo's friends come for dinner. Bill (aka The Magic Man) comes to NZ regularly with Jo and stays with us, so it was great to see him again. We need to wait for Monday for one of his magic shows though. Anne from the flat across the landing also came. She is the fittest nearly 91 year old I have ever met. She also has the most wonderful sense of humour so there were loads of laughs again.



The yummy dessert - Creme egg ice creams and sponges made by Anne.

On Sunday morning we went to church with Jo. Everyone was so welcoming yet again and the kids were amazed by the beautiful old stone church. I gave the kids the option to go to kids church and they both decided it would be a good experience to mix with some Scottish kids. I have been really proud of the way they are trying to maximise their travel experiences.

Jo had been hoping for a nice afternoon as she wanted to take us to North Berwick, a popular seaside resort about 45 minutes from Edinburgh. We were all delighted that it was the best weather here so far. There are quite a few islands around North Berwick which are covered in sea birds. We visited the Seabird centre which had amazing interactive displays about the sea birds and their migration, as well as lots of webcams where you could watch the birds in their natural habitat. The puffins were the highlight, they are very cute and entertaining birds.



North Berwick. The small church on the right of the photo is from the 7th century. There is so much history here.

