The Kelpies by Andy Scott

Huge Sculpture is always expensive. Sometimes the people who pay for it don’t only want it to be exciting art, they often want it to do something useful too.

The Kelpies are two massive horse heads made from stainless steel that have been built near the Forth and Clyde Canal on the East Coast of Scotland. Their job is to attract people into the area.

The more people who come to visit this part of Scotland, the more work there will be for the people who live there. It is hoped that The Kelpies will make this area of Scotland famous throughout the world.

What is a kelpie and why?

There were several reasons why the sculptures were made to look like horses’ heads. A kelpie is a mythical Scottish water creature with the strength of ten ordinary horses. Powerful water creatures seemed to fit in with the local canals and waterways. This area of Scotland is also famous for a local breed of horses, the Clydesdale. They are some of the biggest and most powerful horses in the world – just like in the sculpture.

About the artist

Andy Scott, the sculptor, had a special reason to make massive horses. His father had lived nearby and could remember how important horses had been in the area. They worked on the farms, hauling wagons for the local factories and pulling barges on the canals.

Come and Meet the Kelpies

One of the wonders of 21st century Scotland. For the full story, pop into our brand new state-of-the art Visitors’ Centre.

We’re easy to find just off the M9 halfway between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

While you’re here discover how the Forth and Clyde Canal can give you the holiday of a lifetime. Let The Kelpies work their magic!