

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Edinburgh & the Castles of Scotland

10 DAYS: Thursday, October 18-Saturday, October 27, 2018

\$3,259 per person double occupancy; \$3,779 for single reservations

WILLIAM WALLACE AND BRAVEHEART, the Loch Ness Monster, Sir Walter Scott's Rob Roy, bagpipes and kilts, Bonnie Prince Charlie, moors and glens, clans and "lairds," golf, whisky and haggis—all originate from a country of unimaginable beauty and a turbulent history—Scotland. Start in Glasgow, the U.K. City of Architecture and Design, visit the Scottish Highlands (where you won't resist scanning the surface of the loch for Nessie) and end your tour in medieval yet cosmopolitan Edinburgh. An array of optional tours allows you to choose between stunning Eilean Donan Castle, St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf, and a two-day, post-tour stay in Edinburgh.

Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels, 8 breakfasts, 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 5 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Glasgow Cathedral, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Inveraray Castle, Loch Ness,
- Urquhart Castle, Blair Castle, Scotch whisky distillery, Edinburgh Castle,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved trails, with some steep hills and stairs.

FEATURES

Glasgow: tour, Kelvingrove Art Gallery. Scottish Highlands: Loch Lomond, Inveraray Castle, Loss Ness cruise, Urquhart Castle. Perthshire, Blair Castle, Edradour distillery whisky tasting. Edinburgh: tour, Royal Mile, Edinburgh Castle, day at leisure. **OPTIONALS: Glasgow—Historic Scotland & Stirling Castle. Scottish Highlands—Excursion to Eilean Donan Castle & Isle of Skye. Edinburgh—Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey; Excursion to St. Andrews; Scottish Ceilidh with Dinner. EDINBURGH 2n post-tour extension \$399 pp/do. OPTIONALS: Excursion to Rosslyn Chapel & Glenkinchie Distillery; Royal Yacht Britannia.**

ACCOMMODATIONS

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston

DAYS 2-3 Novotel Glasgow city Centre, Glasgow

DAYS 4-6 Isles of Glencoe Hotel, The Highlands

DAYS 7-9 Holiday Inn Express City Centre, Edinburgh

DAY 10 Return flight to Boston

or similar hotel accommodations



Overnight Flight

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Glasgow today.

Glasgow

Day 2: Arrival in Glasgow

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Scotland! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Glasgow

Included meals: Breakfast

Set out to explore Scotland's "second city" today with a local as your guide. • Drive past the Burrell Collection Museum and admire the city's university • Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which features everything from medieval suits of armor to a collection of work by Scottish artists • Discover local highlights, including George Square and the River Clyde • Stop outside the city's medieval cathedral for photos Spend a free afternoon in Glasgow or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Historic Scotland & Stirling Castle +\$109/pp

Visit Stirling, a town steeped in the history of the Wars of Scottish Independence. For generations, Stirling Castle held off British advances and served as a rallying point for rebellious Scots. It was within Stirling Castle that the infant Mary Stewart was crowned Mary, Queen of Scots. You'll learn more about the castle's extensive history as you follow along with an audio guide. In addition to the castle, you'll visit the town of Falkirk. While here, stop to see The Kelpies. These two 98-foot high steel sculptures pay homage to the role horses played in Scotland's agricultural development. Then, visit the ruins of Antonine Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in 142 AD, just 20 years after the completion of Hadrian's Wall. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$119)

Scottish Highlands

Day 4: Transfer to the Scottish Highlands

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Continue on to the Scottish Highlands, admiring incredible sights as you go. • Pass Loch Lomond as you drive through scenic Trossachs National Park • Stop to explore Inveraray Castle and its gardens • Admire stunning scenery as you travel through the Scottish Highlands

Day 5: Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness & Inverness **Included meals: Breakfast**

Surrounded by legend and lore, Loch Ness is one of Scotland's most mysterious sites. Today, get to know the country's largest loch as you explore the area. • Pay a visit to the medieval ruins of Urquhart Castle • Cruise along the legendary Loch Ness, a deep, freshwater lake, and dock in Clansman Harbour • Stop in Inverness and enjoy free time to explore the city

Day 6: Free day in the Scottish Highlands **Included meals: Breakfast**

Spend the day exploring the Highlands on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Eilean Donan Castle & Isle of Skye \$109/pp**

Cross the Skye Bridge over Loch Alsh to the Isle of Skye, famous for its association with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Then, set off for a guided sightseeing tour of the isle, exploring the town of Portree and stopping to view the rock pinnacle known as the Old Man of Storr. Next, admire Kilt Rock to soak in breathtaking views before taking a scenic drive through the Scottish Highlands to visit Eilean Donan Castle. Arguably the world's most photographed castle, you'll explore the iconic site with a local guide to learn more about its extensive history. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$119)

Edinburgh

Day 7: Transfer to Edinburgh **Included meals: Breakfast**

En route to Edinburgh, stop in Perthshire, the gateway to the Scottish Highlands. • Visit medieval Blair Castle, the former home of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl (*Please note: Entrance to Blair Castle is seasonal and runs from April to late October only. When entrance is out of season, it will be replaced with a visit to Black Watch Castle & Museum.*) • Explore Edradour distillery with a guide and enjoy a whisky tasting. Enjoy a free evening in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Scottish Céilidh \$119/pp**

Enjoy a special evening of Scottish tradition as you witness an authentic céilidh, an age-old Scottish celebration. Along with a savory dinner of local favorites, the evening will feature folk dancers, bagpipers, fiddlers and the "Ceremony of the Haggis." Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$129)

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh **Included meals: Breakfast**

Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert. • View the elegant Georgian New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites • Pass the King George statue, Bute House, and Sir Walter Scott monument • Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone. Spend a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey \$95/pp**

Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Continue on to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The poet designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today it serves as a museum for the Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit

the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders abbeys. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$105)

Day 9: Free day in Edinburgh **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Enjoy a full free day in Edinburgh or add an excursion. Later this evening, join your group for a farewell dinner.

Optional Excursions **St Andrews \$89/pp**

St Andrews may be most well known as the home of golf, but it's also the site of Scotland's oldest university. On this excursion, you'll pass by the 16th-century grounds of St Andrews University, the alma mater of Prince William, who met Kate Middleton here. You'll also join a local guide to enter the ruins of the town's medieval cathedral and 13th-century castle which overlooks the North Sea. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$99)

Day 10: Departure **Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay to continue exploring Edinburgh.

Add an extension to Edinburgh *from \$399* **2 nights**

Day 10: Free day in Edinburgh **Included meals: Breakfast**

Spend the day exploring Edinburgh on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Rosslyn Chapel & Glenkinchie Distillery \$89/pp**

Famous for its connections to the Holy Grail as depicted in the best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code*, Rosslyn Chapel is a place shrouded in mystery and legend. Step inside with a local guide to marvel at the crypt, colorful stained glass windows and the intricate carvings that adorn the interior pillars and arches. Then, discover how Scotch whisky, or "the water of life" is made during a tour of Glenkinchie Distillery, one of six single-malt distilleries in the Scottish Lowlands. Here, you'll enjoy a tasting before heading back to Edinburgh. Please note: There is no photography permitted inside of Rosslyn Chapel. Must book 20 days before departure

Day 11: Free day in Edinburgh

Spend a full free day in Glasgow or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

Optional Excursion **Royal Yacht Britannia \$95/pp**

For over 44 years, the Royal Yacht Britannia served as a floating residence for Britain's Royal Family, playing host to world leaders during state visits and acting as a private escape for Queen Elizabeth II. Step back in time as you make your way through lavishly furnished royal apartments and the more modest crew's quarters below deck. Please note: The Royal Yacht Britannia can be visited year-round. However, on select tours, it will only be offered from November through March as a seasonal alternative to the Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey excursion. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$105)

Day 12: Departure **Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.