

Discovering Scotland

Monday, April 22 – Tuesday, April 30, 2024

A guided tour

Hosted and Led by *Scotus Tours*



Iona Abbey

Some Highlights

Edinburgh – *Scotland's beautiful capital* Isle of Iona – *Christian beginnings*

St John's Kirk of Perth – *Knox and the Reformation* St Andrews – *place of pilgrimage*

Highland Folk Museum Haggis Ceremony Culloden Battlefield

Stirling Castle The Great Glen and Loch Ness Distillery Visit

Prices

Land only - per person sharing twin/double

Regular Rate - \$3895

Single Supplement - \$820

Your Tour Price Includes

Coach Travel Ferries and tolls Tour Manager Professional Guides

Entrance Fees Porterage Tipping (waitstaff) VAT (UK sales tax)

8 Hotel Nights 8 Breakfasts 6 Dinners (incl. welcome and closing celebration)

Not included: Flights; airport transfers; beverages; personal items; driver/guide tip (discretionary)

Arrival in Scotland and Tour Departure:

This is a "land only" tour and begins on Monday, April 22, 2024. Travel arrangements prior to that are at your own discretion. Flights into Edinburgh from the US mostly arrive in the morning. There is no program on Day 1 until early evening when we meet for a welcome dinner. You may, of course, arrive a day or two early or choose to stay on after the tour.

Registration, Discount and Payment Details:

To reserve your place –

- Please use the form on our website at *scotustours.com* (click *Open Tours* then *Book Now*)
- We will email an invoice for payment of the initial deposit

Payment dates -

- Deposit - \$1095 at date of booking (single supplements must also be paid in full)
- Installments - One half of balance by November 8, 2023
 - Remaining balance by February 7, 2024

All payments will be made by bank transfer

Registrations made after November 8, 2023 – subject to additional charge and availability. *Reservations made on first come, first served basis. Prices subject to exchange rate fluctuations and changes in rate of government taxes.*

Covid-19: Anyone joining the tour must have up to date vaccinations and agrees to comply fully with government regulations and any requirements put in place by Scotus Tours to reduce the risk of infection.

Exchanges and Cancellation:

Up to the date of the final payment (Feb 7, 2024) like-for-like exchanges may be made. If someone who has registered is unable to go they can find someone else to take their place. Such exchanges must be for the same room type – e.g. a couple who had booked a double room could only substitute another 2 people who want a double room. Every such exchange will incur a fee of \$250 per person. After Feb 7, 2024 exchanges will no longer be possible.

If **we** cancel your tour at any point prior to the tour departure date, we shall refund 100% of your tour fees.

If **you** cancel your place on this tour for any reason, the following will apply:

<i>Time prior to departure:</i>	<i>Cancellation Fees:</i>
Up to 91 days.....	deposit
61 - 90 days.....	50% of tour cost
31 - 60 days.....	75% of tour cost
30 days or less.....	100% of tour cost

No exceptions will be made to the above

How Active is the Tour?

We don't take long country hikes. We try to use hotels which have elevators and portorage for luggage where possible. But you must be in good enough health to travel. Among other things you must be able to –

Stand or walk with our guides, inside and outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather; manage coach steps several times a day; manage your own luggage; climb stairs in some hotels; walk city streets (Edinburgh has some steep hills and steps).

Our Itinerary

Day 1: Monday, April 22 - Welcome to Scotland! Group members will make their own flight arrangements. Arrive in Edinburgh this morning. Spend the day as you wish and check in to your hotel. Meet your tour manager for an early evening welcome dinner.

Meals included – welcome dinner Overnight: Edinburgh City Center

Day 2: Tuesday, April 23 – Let's Go! Our coach takes us to Glasgow. We visit Glasgow Cathedral and pause for a service of welcome, a short act of worship in the Celtic tradition. Our scenic route leads by Loch Lomond to the west coast. At Oban we catch the ferry to the Isle of Mull. We arrive at our hotel, overlooking lovely Tobermory Bay, in time for dinner.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Day 3: Wednesday, April 24 – Iona...a Thin Place We drive across the single track road to Fionnphort where a short ferry ride brings us to Iona: a very special island. St Columba arrived here in the year 563, establishing the Christian faith in this land. In Celtic spirituality Iona is sometimes described as a “thin place” - where the veil between heaven and earth seems almost transparent. We visit the Abbey, learn some of the island's history and hear about the Iona Community, returning to Tobermory for the night.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Day 4: Thursday, April 25 – The Great Glen and Inverness The morning ferry takes us back to the mainland. A distillery visit is on our agenda. We'll pass by Glen Coe, location of an infamous event in Scotland's history, then travel on through the beautiful scenery of the Great Glen and alongside Loch Ness. Near Inverness we'll visit the Culloden Battlefield where we can learn about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites.

Meals included – breakfast Overnight: Grantown-on-Spey

Day 5: Friday, April 26 – I will lift mine eyes unto the hills Turning south, we continue through the majesty of the Scottish Highlands. We'll find out what life used to be like here as we visit the Highland Folk Museum at Kingussie. Then on to Perth and St John's Kirk. John Knox preached here setting light to the Reformation in Scotland. Dinner tonight begins with a haggis ceremony complete with bagpipes and the poetry of Robert Burns. And, of course, you can taste a little.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight – Stirling

Day 6: Saturday, April 27 – Stirling and St Andrews Stirling Castle sits on a volcanic crag and has been fortified since ancient times. It provides a memorable visit. We drive on to the coastal town of St Andrews. Famous for golf today, it has also been a place of pilgrimage and is an important site for Reformation history. One of our excellent guides will lead a walking tour.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight – Stirling

Day 7: Sunday, April 28 – Edinburgh...The Athens of the North This morning you can share in worship in the magnificent St Giles Cathedral. Edinburgh, Scotland's beautiful capital, is rich in history. It's also a vibrant, modern city. We'll weave stories of Scotland's Presbyterian heritage into a walk this afternoon. Our route will include the Royal Mile, Greyfriars Kirkyard and Holyrood, ending our tour at the modern buildings of the Scottish Parliament. Tonight you'll be free to choose dinner on your own in one of Edinburgh's many excellent restaurants.

Meals included – breakfast Overnight – Edinburgh City Center

Day 8: Monday, April 29 – A Little More Edinburgh Most of today is free for you to explore. Perhaps you will visit the Castle or Holyrood Palace. Or you might want to relax over coffee and watch the city go by. Tonight we will share worship together and close with a celebration dinner.

Meals included – breakfast, celebration dinner Overnight – Edinburgh City Center

Day 9: Tuesday, April 30 – Departures Haste ye back! *Meals included – breakfast*

The above program is a fair representation of the proposed tour but is subject to change at the discretion of Scotus Tours.

Dear Fellow Traveler,

People are always telling me they would love to visit Scotland. Whether it is the majestic scenery of the highlands which attracts them; or our castles, churches and cities steeped in history; or maybe our proud tradition of hospitality – all these and more combine to make a trip to Scotland unforgettable.

For people of faith Scotland also has much to offer. Christianity came to these shores no later than the sixth century. And the impact of the Reformation has extended far around the world.

I'm a native Scot and minister of the Church of Scotland. I've also served in the PC(USA). I want you to enjoy an outstanding trip; to see the real Scotland; to discover, in particular, our sacred heritage. And I run Scotus Tours to make that possible.

Jim



*Rev. Jim Wallace
On tour at Loch Lomond*

Times of Worship: This is a tour for a church group.
We aim to include time for –

- a service of welcome
- morning prayers on the coach
- evening devotions in some locations
- Sunday service (Church of Scotland)
- closing worship

Contact Us:

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Accommodations: in good 3 or 4 star hotels

Insurance: We strongly recommend that you obtain adequate insurance coverage



Edinburgh Skyline

Discovering Scotland

April 22 – April 30, 2024

A Guided Tour

Exploring Scotland's Sacred Heritage

Walk....through centuries of history

Delight....in breathtaking scenery

Explore....a heritage of faith

Enjoy....warm Scottish hospitality

Quality Accommodations

Excellent Meals

Personal Attention