

Discovering Scotland

Saturday, May 3 – Sunday, May 11, 2025

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

Price

Land only rate - per person sharing twin/double - \$4195

Single Supplement - \$940

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 Saturday, May 3, 2025. 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 and Payment Details:

To reserve your place –

1. Please use the form at *scotustours.com* (click *Our Brochures* then *Book Now*)
2. We will email an invoice for payment of the initial deposit

Payments

- Deposit - \$1095 at date of booking (single supplements must also be paid in full)
- One half of balance by October 9, 2024
- Remaining balance by February 5, 2025

All payments will be made by bank transfer.

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 be fully vaccinated 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 (February 5, 2025) 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 February 5, 2025 exchanges will no longer be possible.

If **we** cancel the 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 portage 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: Saturday, May 3 - Welcome to Scotland! Group members will make their own flight arrangements. Arrive Edinburgh this morning. Spend the day as you wish and check in to your hotel. Meet your tour manager late afternoon. We'll pause for a service of welcome, a short act of worship in the Celtic tradition, followed by dinner. *Meals included – welcome dinner Overnight: Edinburgh City Center*

Day 2: Sunday, May 4 – Let's Go! Passing through the great city of Glasgow, our coach follows a scenic route by Loch Lomond: it's easy to see why its shores are known as the *Bonnie Banks*. We make a stop along the way to share morning worship with a Church of Scotland congregation. At the west coast port of Oban we catch the ferry to the Isle of Mull. Tonight we'll have dinner at our hotel overlooking lovely Tobermory Bay. *Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Tobermory, Isle of Mull*

Day 3: Monday, May 5 – Iona...a Thin Place We drive across the single track road to Fionnphort where another 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: Tuesday, May 6 – The Great Glen and Inverness Our journey takes us deeper into the Highlands today. 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: Inverness area*

Day 5: Wednesday, May 7 – I will lift mine eyes unto the hills Turning south, we continue through the majesty of the Cairngorm Mountains. We find out what life used to be like in these parts at the Highland Folk Museum. Then on to Perth and St John's Kirk. John Knox preached here in 1559, 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: Thursday, May 8 – Stirling and St Andrews Stirling Castle sits on a volcanic crag which has been fortified since ancient times. It provides a memorable visit. We drive on to the charming 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: Friday, May 9 – Edinburgh...The Athens of the North 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: Saturday, May 10 – 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: Sunday, May 11 – 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

May 3 – May 11, 2025

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