

Exploring Scotland

Historic Cities and the Isles of the West

October 1 – October 9, 2019

First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, TX
Group Leader: Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin



Outer Hebrides, Scotland

Some Tour Highlights:

- Rannoch Moor
- Isle of Skye
- Outer Hebrides
- Callanish Standing Stones
- City of Dundee
- East Neuk of Fife
- Historic Edinburgh
- Dunfermline Abbey
- Distillery visit

Accommodations:

Good 3 or 4 star hotels

Land Only Rates (per person sharing Twin/Double - prices shown in US dollars):

Discount Rate: \$3595.....deposit must be paid by Feb 15, 2019

Regular Rate: \$3695.....if deposit paid after Feb 15, 2019

Single supplement: \$685, *subject to availability (to be paid at same time as deposit)*

Price subject to exchange rate fluctuations and changes in rate of government taxes

Your Tour Price Includes:

- Coach travel
- Ferries and tolls
- Professional guides
- All entrance fees for historic sites/places of interest on the itinerary
- Entertainment listed
- Porterage at hotels where available
- Tipping for waitstaff etc.
- Services of our tour manager throughout
- VAT(UK tax at 20%)
- 8 hotel nights
- 8 Scottish breakfasts
- 1 welcome reception/dinner
- 4 regular dinners
- 1 celebration dinner
[ie – dinner on 6 evenings]

Not included:

Flights to/from Scotland Laundry Beverages Personal items Driver/Guide tips Airport transfers

Registration and Payment Details: To reserve your place –

At the *Discount* rate

- Deposit of \$1095 by February 15, 2019 (when single supplements must also be paid in full)

At the *Regular* rate

- Deposit of \$1195 paid at date of booking (when single supplements must also be paid in full)

Then balances to be paid by everyone - One half of balance by April 7, 2019

- Remaining balance by July 7, 2019

Registrations made after April 7, 2019 – payment in full required at time of booking - subject to additional charge and availability

Payment to: First Presbyterian Church, 230 W. Rusk St., Tyler, TX 75701.

Checks should be made to First Presbyterian Church, attn: Stuart Baskin and marked “Scotland 2019”.

This group will be confirmed when we receive deposits for at least 24 full rate participants (no later than February 15, 2019). Reservations made on first come, first served basis.

Cancellation: Refunds will be made only in line with this policy – no exceptions.

Up to the date of the first instalment (April 7, 2019) 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 – eg 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. From the due date of the first instalment exchanges will no longer be possible.

<i>Time prior to departure:</i>	<i>Cancellation Fees:</i>
Up to 91 days.....	deposit
75 - 90 days.....	50% of tour cost
61 – 74 days.....	60% of tour cost
15 - 60 days.....	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days.....	100% of tour cost

Insurance: We strongly recommend that you obtain adequate insurance coverage.

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

- A service of welcome
- Evening devotions before dinner on most days
- Morning prayers on the coach
- Sunday service with a Church of Scotland congregation

Arrival in Scotland and Tour Departure:

The tour will begin in Edinburgh on October 1, 2019. We will advise exact time and meeting place. We can assist with pre-tour hotel nights for group members if they wish.

How Active is the Tour? We don't take long country hikes. Most hotels we use have elevators and portage for luggage. But, among other things, you do need to be able to –

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

Contact Us: Rev. Jim Wallace Tel – from USA - 011 44 757 607 1743 Email – office@scotustours.com
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Our Itinerary

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

Meals included – welcome dinner Overnight: Edinburgh City Center

Day 2: Wednesday, October 2 – Our journey begins.... The first part of our journey takes us through the lovely scenery of Rannoch Moor and on through majestic Glen Coe. We'll make stops to catch up on sights and history along this lovely road. Tonight we'll be in the Ballachulish/Fort William area.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Ballachulish/Fort William area

Day 3: Thursday, October 3 – On the Misty Isle We spend some time on the hauntingly beautiful Isle of Skye – the “Misty Isle”. We tour northwards, taking in the stunning scenery and learning a little about life past and present on this island. At Uig we board another ferry. This time we are headed to the Outer Hebrides. Our destination is Tarbert on the Island of Harris.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight – Isle of Harris

Day 4: Friday, October 4 – Harris and Lewis These breathtaking islands have a culture all of their own, a Gaelic speaking population and several small, Presbyterian denominations, apart from the Church of Scotland. We'll learn about this. But we'll also see some pre-Christian history as we visit the incredible standing stones at Callanish which are thought to be 5000 years old. We'll also see a very fine example of a broch (an ancient dwelling) and the Arnol Blackhouse where we can find out about “crofting” as a way of life. There is so much to see here. And Harris has some of the loveliest, windswept beaches you can find.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Isle of Harris

Day 5: Saturday, October 5 – From the Islands to the Highlands We can learn about the weaving of world famous Harris Tweed before leaving Tarbert this morning. The ferry from Stornoway takes us back to a different part of the mainland, this time to Ullapool. We are among some of Scotland's finest scenery. We are headed for the Moray/Speyside region in Scotland's north-east.

Meals included – breakfast Overnight: Moray/Speyside

Day 6: Sunday, October 6 – Royal Deeside It's Sunday and we make time for morning worship with a local church. Then we drive south into the Cairngorms National Park. We'll pass Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the royal family. We include a distillery visit in our program today. Tonight we are in Dundee, the city of *Discovery* – Scott of the Antarctic's exploration vessel which is now berthed here.

Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight – Dundee

Day 7: Monday, October 7 – The Kingdom of Fife We'll see a little of Dundee – a city once said to be famous for “jute, jam and journalism”, now undergoing change with investment in its waterfront. Then we'll explore the “East Neuk” of Fife – charming fishing villages, surrounded by fine farmland.

Meals included – breakfast Overnight – Dundee

Day 8: Tuesday, October 8 - Back in Edinburgh: “The Athens of the North” We make a stop in Dunfermline to see the Abbey and hear about its connections with Robert the Bruce. Arriving in Edinburgh, the rest of this day is free until evening. Enjoy Scotland's historic capital city! Tonight we have our closing time together with worship followed by a special dinner.

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

Day 9: Wednesday, October 9 – Departures after breakfast. 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. Itinerary also subject to ferry times.



Rev. Dr. Stuart Baskin

Geography is everything. In my various travels around the world (4 continents and counting) I have learned that the physical geography of a place has a profound impact on the spiritual development of a people.

This trip will be a little different from the last one we took in 2017. You will visit the Isles of Harris and Lewis off the northwest coast of Scotland, where Gaelic is still spoken and the home of the world-famous Harris Tweed. You will see some ancient ruins that pre-date the advent of Christianity by thousands of years.

The tour will take you through the northeastern portion of Scotland, to the Moray and Speyside regions of the Scottish Highlands.

You will visit the city of Edinburgh and can see the “mother ship” of Presbyterianism, St. Giles Cathedral.

You’ll not only see these places and a host of others, you will also engage in a journey of self-discovery as you experience the culture, geography, and magic that is Scotland. And in the process, you will learn the origins of some of the values dear to us American Presbyterians.

I can’t wait. Come with me!

Stuart Baskin



Dear Fellow Traveler,

I had the pleasure of welcoming folks from Tyler to Scotland in 2017. And I’m delighted the church has chosen to make a return trip. Working with Stuart again, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones will be a pleasure. I’m excited also to be planning a program which is new and different – Scotland has so much to offer.



Jim Wallace

This tour goes a little further than many visitors to Scotland often reach. We’ll travel to the Outer Hebrides, crossing the beautiful Isle of Skye and taking another ferry to Lewis and Harris. Gaelic is spoken here and the islands have a culture all of their own. Our itinerary will have lots to enjoy whether you have been to Scotland before or are coming for the first time.

I’m a native Scot and a minister of the Church of Scotland. I have also served as a pastor in the PC(USA). This puts me in a unique position to provide this service to an American congregation. I want you to enjoy an outstanding visit; to see the real Scotland; to discover something of our sacred heritage. And I run Scotus Tours to make that possible. I hope you can join us on this adventure.

Jim Wallace

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