

Explore the beautiful country of Scotland on this all-encompassing experience that begins and ends in Edinburgh. Walk in the steps of ancient civilization with visits to Dunkeld with its 10<sup>th</sup> century cathedral and to the Orkney region with the 5000-year-old Neolithic village of Skara Brae. Discover medieval towns and quaint fishing villages set amidst breathtaking land and seascapes. Visits to local distilleries, breweries and eating establishments enhance the cultural experience of "the best small country in the world"!

From **\$6,779** per person, double occupancy, land only **\$8,967** - single occupancy, land only

For details or reservations, contact:

# **AAA EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Edinburgh Castle
- Edinburgh Underground Tour
- Highland Folk Museum
- Dunrobin Castle
- Skara Brae Neolithic Settlement UNESCO
- Eilean Donan Castle
- Armadale Castle & Gardens
- Jacobite Steam Train Journey (Harry Potter Hogwarts Express)
- Centrally located 3 Star Hotels
- 10 breakfasts & 4 dinners
- Local Tour Manager
- Services of a AAA Tour Escort

# The Route



# SCOTLAND HERITAGE ITINERARY

# Day 1

#### Welcome to Edinburgh

An included group transfer will take you to your hotel. This evening, enjoy a group Welcome Dinner with the chance to try the Scottish national dish – Haggis, neeps and tatties and perhaps a wee dram or two! (D)

Edinburgh Hotel - 2 nights

#### Day 2

#### **Edinburgh Castle and City Touring**

Discover Edinburgh, the capital city, on a walking tour while being enthralled with stories of its 3000 years of history and its iconic sites. After lunch on your own, continue on a walk up the Castle Esplanade, the location of the world-famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Edinburgh Castle. Later, delve into it's murky past as we descend into the haunted Blair Street Vaults. (B)

# Day 3

# Forth Bridges - Dunkeld - Inverness

This morning, we head north to view the impressive Forth Bridges before passing through the ancient Kingdom of Fife. On the banks of the River Tay, Dunkeld is a beautiful village with a cathedral dating back to the 10th Century. We'll take a walk in the woodlands known as 'The Hermitage'. Then on to Highland Folk Museum, to explore a replica 18th century Highland village. Onwards through Cairngorms National Park, we'll head to the bronze-aged standing stones and burial chambers at Balnuaran of Clava - said to be the inspiration behind the 'Outlander' novels - before visiting the site of the last major battle on British soil at Culloden. Tonight in Inverness, is your chance to discover the many bars, restaurants and live traditional music! (B) Inverness Hotel TBA - 1 night

#### Day 4

# Inverness to Orkney

Today we'll follow the legendary North Coast 500 - Scotland's answer to America's 'Route 66'. We'll explore majestic Dunrobin Castle. We'll pass through tiny fishing villages and stroll out to the ruins of Castle Girnigoe Sinclair, before viewing the sea stacks at Duncansby Head. We'll stop in the northernmost town on the UK mainland. John O'Groats and embark on a tour of one of Scotland's smallest distilleries - 8 Doors. After dinner, we'll take the ferry to beautiful Pentland Firth with opportunity to see dolphins and whales. (B, D)

Kirkwall Hotel - 2 nights

#### Day 5 Orkney

Head west through the magnificent Ring of Brodgar to the 5000-year-old Neolithic village of Skara Brae, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll stroll along a section of the Orkneys with stunning coastline views, perhaps spotting wildflowers and rare seabirds, with a relaxing picnic of Orkney's famous oatcakes and cheese. We won't pass up a visit to the Orkney Brewery with time to explore Kirkwall with it's impressive ancient St. Magnus Cathedral. End the day with a drive to the Churchill Barriers to see the Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners during WWII. (B)

# Day 6

# Kirkwall to Ullapool

Take the return ferry to the mainland and continue to journey to Durness, for a walk into the vast chasm of Smoo Cave, used by smugglers for centuries. Continue to the North-West Highlands, designated as Scotland's first Geopark by UNESCO. Walk out to the jewel of this geopark – Knockan Crag before continuing into the fishing port of Ullapool. (B)

Ullapool Hotel - 1 night

# Day 7

# Isle of Skye

Today, journey to the Corrieshalloch Gorge, on the way towards Loch Duich. We'll explore the Eilean Donan Castle, Scotland's most iconic castle, featured in Bond movies. We'll cross the Skye Bridge driving through the towering Cuillin Mountains, onto the Trotternish Peninsula and view the spectacular sights of the Old Man of Storr and Kilt Rock. Returning to the town of Portree, we'll enjoy a group meal at The Skye Inn. (B, D) Portree, Isle of Skye Hotel – 1 night

#### Day 8 Isle of Skye to Oban

Today, visit the ruins of Armadale Castle. The well-kept gardens also feature the Museum of the Isles. Board a ferry to the fishing port of Mallaig where we'll enjoy free time and lunch, followed by a journey aboard the Jacobite Steam Train which travels past Scotland's Deepest Loch, Shortest River and Highest Mountain, before entering the port of Oban, "Gateway to the Isles". The evening is free to enjoy some of the freshest seafood and tastiest fish and chips! (B) Oban Hotel – 1 night

#### Day 9

# **Oban to Edinburgh**

Drive inland through the Pass of Brander and Loch Awe, stopping to see the architecturally unique St Conan's Kirk. Also stop to see Kilchurn Castle one of Scotland's most photographed castles. Drive through Trossachs National Park with views of Stirling Castle and a stop to see the Kelpies, two giant sculptures dedicated to the mighty Clydesdale horse. Enjoy a group Farewell dinner tonight. (B. D) Edinburgh Hotel – 2 nights

# Day 10

# Free Day in Edinburgh

The day is on your own to explore Edinburgh and to catch up on your souvenir shopping. Your AAA Manager will be available to assist with suggestions. (B)

# Day II

#### **Depart Edinburgh**

Say farewell to "the best small country in the world" with a group transfer to the airport. (B)

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