

Spirit of Scotland

June 1- 11, 2023



Thursday June 1, 2023

Overnight Flight to Manchester

Today we start our journey by flying across the Atlantic Ocean to Manchester, England.

Friday June 2

Arrive in Manchester & Visit Carlisle

This morning you'll land in Manchester Airport. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Tour Guide will meet you. We'll then head to Carlisle, stopping for **lunch along the way in the picturesque Lake District**. Then we'll continue on to check into a lovely hotel. You can enjoy the afternoon in Carlisle before we meet to have a group dinner together.

Dinner & Overnight: Fleece Hotel, Carlisle (DBB)

Saturday June 3

Glasgow, Scotland

After a hearty breakfast we'll depart Carlisle and head to Glasgow, Scotland. We'll enjoy the countryside, going through **Gretna Green**, Scotland, famous for marriages when it was forbidden for those under 21 in England & Wales. We'll enjoy a **panoramic tour** as we head into Glasgow before heading to our hotel. You can enjoy the rest of the afternoon exploring this lovely city before we meet for a group dinner.

Dinner & Overnight: Courtyard SEC, Glasgow (DBB)

Sunday June 4

Glasgow Cathedral & Necropolis



This morning after breakfast we'll visit the **Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis**. Consecrated in 1197, the Cathedral has one of the most impressive post-war collections of stained-glass windows in Britain. It remains a sturdy and impressive example of Scottish gothic architecture both inside and out. Nearby is Glasgow's Necropolis, dating back to 1833. We'll then visit a **local Brewery** for lunch and a few pints. Afterwards you'll have the afternoon on your own to explore this wonderful city and enjoy dinner at your leisure. Perhaps check out one of the wonderful museums in the city, shop, and dine in one of the many local pubs!

Overnight: Marriott Courtyard SEC (B)

Monday June 5

Heading to Inverness

This morning after breakfast we say goodbye to Glasgow and head to Inverness. We'll travel alongside the famous Loch Lomond, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty. We will drive through the deep valley of **Glencoe**, notorious for the **Campbell massacre of the Clan MacDonald in 1692**, and we will stop at the spot where *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was filmed. This is the former location of Hagrid's Hut. The set has now been removed and the hillsides returned to their natural state. We continue on through Fort William and stop at the **Spean Bridge Woollen Mill**, which offers a good selection of quality Scottish goods. After lunch we reach the mysterious **Loch Ness**, taking in all the breathtaking scenery that surrounds it. Make sure to keep an eye out for 'Nessie!' Finally reaching Inverness, we will check-in to our hotel, and enjoy dinner together this evening.

Overnight & Dinner: AC Hotel Inverness (DBB)

Tuesday June 6

Culloden Battlefield & Clava Cairns

After breakfast today we'll tour Inverness. We'll stop at the historical **Culloden Battlefield**, where you'll learn the true story of where the 1745 Jacobite Rising came to an end. We'll continue on, visiting the prehistoric site of **Clava Cairns**, the well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery dating back 4,000 years. We'll have free time for lunch before stopping at **Highland House of Fraser** Kiltmakers and Visitor Center where you can shop for kilts, textiles, highland dress accessories, jewelry, and much more! We'll then head back to the hotel where you'll have the rest of the evening at your leisure.

Overnight: AC Hotel Inverness (BB)

Wednesday June 7

Explore Inverness at Your Leisure

Today you have the day **free in Inverness!** Perhaps you'll opt for one of the local tours, like a visit to the Isle of Skye, known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Or see the stunning Inverness Botanic Gardens or the architecture at Inverness Castle. Your tour guide will have suggestions if needed as you enjoy your free time in Inverness!

Overnight: AC Hotel Inverness (BB)



Thursday June 8

Blair Castle & Pitlochry

This morning after breakfast we bid farewell to Inverness and travel to the Edinburgh, the Capital of Scotland. Along the way we'll visit Blair Castle, **the last castle in the British Isles to be besieged**, during the last Jacobite rising in 1746. We'll stop for lunch in Pitlochry, **one of Scotland's most vibrant and charming places to visit**. In the heart of Scotland with beautiful scenery, rich clan history, fine food! Perhaps try some Haggis (liver, heart & lungs of a sheep minced with beef and spices) with a pint. We'll then continue on to **Edinburgh** head to our hotel to check-in and have the rest of the evening to explore Edinburgh at your leisure!

Overnight: Holyrood Hotel Edinburgh (BB)

Friday June 9

Explore Edinburgh

Today we'll explore the gothic sites of **Edinburgh!** Our city tour will include **Old town, the Royal Mile, Princes Street, Charlotte Square, and the Scott Monument, dedicated to Sir Walter Scott**. Have lunch at one of the many pubs and relax and enjoy all that Edinburgh has to offer!

Overnight: Holyrood Hotel Edinburgh (BB)

Saturday June 10

Hadrian's Wall & Manchester

After breakfast we'll depart Edinburgh and head to Manchester to prepare for our departure back to the USA! Along the way we'll stop for lunch and tour **Hadrian's Wall in Carlisle**. This World Heritage Site is said to be the most important monument built by the Romans in Britain, still evoking a strong sense of standing on the edge of an empire. For around three centuries, Hadrian's Wall was a vibrant, multi-cultured frontier sprawling almost 80 miles coast-to-coast. Built by a force of 15,000 men in under six years, it's as astounding today for its sheer vision as it is for its engineering. Milecastles, barracks, ramparts and forts punctuate a diverse landscape that provides a dramatic backdrop. Then we'll continue on to our Manchester Airport Hotel where we'll have our last group dinner together.

Dinner and Overnight: Manchester Airport Hotel (DBB)

Sunday June 11

Homeward Bound

Pack your bags and head for Manchester Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories as you depart on your flight home!