

G&W

IRISH TOURS



presents
Highlights of Scotland

May 12 - 20, 2025

\$4,460 Per Person

Double Occupancy from Chicago

Land Only \$3,590 ~ Single Supplement \$990



This is an exclusive travel program presented by G&W Irish Tours and InterTrav Corporation

Day by Day Itinerary

Mon., May 12 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of Air Canada to begin our overnight transatlantic journey. **(I)**

Tues., May 13 – EDINBURGH / DRYMEN

As the sun rises on the Scottish coast we will arrive in Edinburgh. Shortly after leaving the airport we'll stop in the nearby hamlet of Abercorn to view Midhope Castle, an impressive derelict tower house featured in the Outlander TV series, just one of many Outlander sites we'll take in our tour. Then, we're headed to the ancient Royal Burgh of Stirling. In the olden days, all routes led to Stirling because its strategic position held control of the Scottish nation. We'll view the National Wallace Monument, a tribute to Scotland's National Hero, Sir William Wallace, and visit the **Bannockburn Heritage Centre**, where on the nearby battlefield King Robert the Bruce routed the forces of King Edward II to win freedom for the Scots from English domination. Afterward, we'll be on our way to the village of Drymen, overlooking the Endrick Water as it nears Loch Lomond. **(I,HD)**

Wed., May 14 – DRYMEN (The Trossachs)

Today begins with a drive into the **Trossachs**, often referred to as the "Highlands in Miniature." With its shimmering lochs, rugged mountain tops and forest-filled glens it's easy to forget that this was once thought of as a dangerous frontier fought over by the fiercely territorial Highland clans. Our first stop of the day is the charming village of Aberfoyle where we'll visit the **Scottish Wool Centre** to learn the full story of wool - from sheep to the shops, through live sheep shows with working sheepdogs, and a hands-on demonstration of spinning and working sheepdogs. Leaving Aberfoyle, we'll travel to the picturesque village Deanston and tour the **Deanston Distillery** to learn how a community of passionate whisky makers use traditional methods to create the uniquely waxy new make spirit. Our last stop of the day will take us to formidable **Doune Castle**, home to a striking 100 foot high gatehouse and one of the best preserved great halls in Scotland. **(B,HD)**

Thurs., May 15 – DRYMEN / LOCH NESS

This morning we depart Glasgow and travel towards the wild desolation of Rannoch Moor. At an altitude of over 1,000ft, it's a unique landscape, and contrasts with the mighty mountain scenery as we travel past the majestic peak of Buachaille Etive Mor before descending into the country's most famous valley, Glencoe. Stunningly beautiful, with its dramatic cliff faces and steep slopes, Glencoe is infamous as the site of the Glencoe massacre in 1692. We'll visit the charming **Glencoe Visitor Centre**. This amazing eco



-friendly center, nestled in a woodland glade, is an essential starting point for our visit to the Scottish Highlands. Afterward, we'll be on our way to the bustling town of Fort William located at the base of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, where we'll jump aboard the **Jacobite Steam Train** for a magical rail journey made famous in the Harry Potter films, described as the greatest railway journey in the world. At the completion of our steam train adventure we'll travel up the Great Glen on our way to the shores of Loch Ness, known around the world for Nessie, the fabled Loch Ness monster, but also famous for its beauty and history. **(B,HD)**

Fri., May 16 – LOCH NESS

A leisurely day will begin with a short ride towards Inverness, known as Scotland's 'Highland Capital', where we'll visit **Culloden Moor**, the powerfully emotive battlefield where in 1746 Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlander Army met its fate against the Duke of Cumberland's Army. We'll tour the richly researched **Culloden Visitor Centre**, featuring artifacts and interactive displays that reveal the background from both sides of the conflict. Then we'll retrace our route back towards to **Urquhart Castle**, which remains an impressive stronghold despite its ruinous state, and stop in nearby Drumnadrochit to visit the **Loch Ness Visitors Centre**. This afternoon its time to sit back, relax and enjoy a **Loch Ness Cruise**, one of the best ways to enjoy the Highland's stunning scenery. In the spring, the hills surrounding Loch Ness are bursting back into life with the fresh vibrant green of new growth and the early blossom of the whins and wild cherries in bloom. **(B,HD)**

Sat., May 17 – LOCH NESS (Isle of Skye)

The mysterious Isle of Skye awaits. The largest of the Inner Hebrides, the Isle of Skye is saturated with 4,000 years of myth and history. Leaving the shores of Loch Ness near Invergarry, we'll pass the 5 Sisters of Kintail before stopping at one the most photographed castles in Scotland, the famous stronghold of Eilean Donan Castle. Afterward, we're headed across the Skye Bridge to the Isle of Skye where we'll stop in the village of Portree. Set within a natural harbor, its quirky shops and cute cafes are just a few of towns highlights. Then we'll journey up the east coast, marked by the scenery of the dramatic Trotternish peninsula. We'll make several stops along the way taking in the dramatic landscapes of the Old Man of Storr and Kilt Rock. We'll also learn about long ago feuds between rival clans, Jacobite intrigue, and the devastation of the during the Highland Clearances. (B,HD)

Sun., May 18 – LOCH NESS / EDINBURGH

This morning we depart the shores of Loch Ness and travel into the rugged **Cairngorms National Park** where we'll stop in the small village of Newtonmore to visit the **Highland Folk Museum** to see what life was like for the people of the Highlands from the 1700s up until the 1960s. Next, we'll stop at the highest and coldest working distillery in Scotland. **Dalwhinnie Distillery** whisky thrives on extreme conditions – creating a liquid as sweet and accessible as its highland home is remote. Afterward, it's time to sit back, relax and take in the scenery as we set our sights on Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. As we'll find out, the historic status of Edinburgh is beyond question. Ancient buildings are scattered across the city within the UNESCO World Heritage Site in central Edinburgh. (B)

Mon., May 19 – EDINBURGH

Our day begins with an introduction to Scotland's capital city. We'll see the 18th century New Town with broad streets, spacious squares, and elegant town houses. Then, we'll travel along the Royal Mile for a view of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of His Majesty The King, before stopping to visit **Edinburgh Castle** perched high above the city on volcanic rock. Our tour will reveal an assemblage of buildings dating from the 12th to the 20th century, reflecting its changing role as fortress, royal palace, military garrison, and prison.

This afternoon we'll 'Step Down' into Edinburgh with a tour of the **Real Mary King's Close**, hidden beneath the lively streets of Edinburgh's busy thoroughfare, the Royal Mile. Edinburgh's only preserved 17th century street, the Close and its warren of shops,

homes, and passageways offer a unique experience. We'll wander through the now underground labyrinth that was once a busy Edinburgh laneway and discover the stories of the people who lived, worked, and died here. (B,RD)

Tues., May 20 – EDINBURGH / CHICAGO

As all good things must come to an end, so too does our *Highlights of Scotland* vacation. This morning we travel to Edinburgh Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way! (B,I)

*** Welcome Home ***

Meal Codes:

I = In-flight B = Breakfast
HD = Dinner RD = Restaurant Dinner



The Vacation Price Includes:

- Economy airline transportation by scheduled service of Air Canada
- Transportation by deluxe private motorcoach
- First class hotel accommodations
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary
- Sightseeing as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels
- Airline taxes and fees totaling \$570 per person, and all taxes for included ground services

The Vacation Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the Motorcoach Driver and Step-on Guides; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Reservations may be made by check or major credit card. Credit cards can be accepted for payment(s); however, the vacation price reflects a 4% cash discount. Please call InterTrav at 630-377-5840 to arrange payment by credit card; 4% of the payment amount will be assessed on credit card payments. You will be invoiced for the balance of payment due on or before **Friday, February 7, 2025**. Reservation requests received after **Friday, February 7, 2025**, are subject to tour availability.

ARRANGEMENTS: The tour price is based on a minimum participation of 30 persons and includes planning, and operational charges and is quoted on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and airfares in effect as of July 1, 2024. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency or in tariff rates, the cost is subject to revision.

TOUR PRICING: This is a package tour in which group airfares and land tour costs have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, this will eliminate the advantages of the package tour price. There will be a service charge of \$100 per person for altering the airline itinerary, plus any additional charges assessed by the airlines.

CANCELLATION: If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, there is a cancellation charge equal to the per person deposit up to 90 days prior to departure. For cancellation between 89 and 60 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 59 days of departure, the cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost. **IMPORTANT:** Cancellations will not be accepted by telephone and must be sent in writing to: InterTrav Corp., 203 State Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, or emailed to travel@intertravcorp.com.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: For your convenience, we offer a Travelex Insurance Services protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For more information and rates, please review the product flyer enclosed. If you would like to enroll, fill out the enrollment form and return it with your tour reservation form. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance Policy. To view/download the policy, go to: <https://policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPZ-1023>. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC # 16535).

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: Your tour requires a passport valid for the duration of your stay in the United Kingdom. If you do not already have your passport, or it will expire before your return date, we suggest you apply for it immediately. No visas are required for your tour. However, if you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, you must advise us in writing with your Reservation Application, as other travel documents may be required.

RESPONSIBILITY

G&W IRISH TOURS and/or INTERTRAV CORPORATION, 203 State Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, and its employees, shareholders, agents, and representatives (InterTrav) uses third party suppliers to arrange tours, transportation, sightseeing, lodging, and all other services related to this tour. InterTrav is an independent contractor and is not an employee, agent, or representative of any of these suppliers. InterTrav does not own, manage, operate, supervise, or control any transportation, vehicle, airplane, hotel or restaurants, or any other entity that supplies services related to your tour. InterTrav is not affiliated with any other tour operator. All suppliers are independent contractors and are not agents or employees or representatives of InterTrav. All tickets, receipts, coupons, and vouchers are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by each supplier, and by accepting the coupons, vouchers, and tickets, or utilizing the services, all customers agree that neither InterTrav, nor its employees, agents, or representatives are or shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred or change in schedule by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property or otherwise, in connection with any service supplied or not supplied resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrence beyond the control of InterTrav by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. InterTrav assumes no responsibility or liability for any loss, injury or damage or loss of any traveler that may result from any act or omission on the part of others; InterTrav assumes no responsibility or liability for personal property; and InterTrav shall be relieved of any obligations under these terms and conditions in the event of any strike, labor dispute, act of God, or of government, fire, war, whether declared or not, terrorism, insurrection, riot, theft, pilferage, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation. InterTrav accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items. InterTrav reserves the right to refuse any participant or potential participant at its sole discretion. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking.

The above tour conditions are provided in addition to the full terms and conditions of travel which can be found here grouptripsandtravel.com/booking-agreement-terms-conditions/. By booking this trip you are agreeing to be bound by the full terms and conditions of travel in addition to the tour conditions above. It is therefore vital that you read the full terms and conditions before making any booking. Making a booking is indicative of your agreement to be bound by all of the terms and conditions.