

Tour Times

A publication from Mary Valentine Tours September 2024



Dear Reader,

Great news! We've added a new tour May 13-22, 2025. We're going to explore southern Scotland and northern England. Be prepared to be dazzled by Scotland's Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as England's Lake District, North Yorkshire Dales, and dozens of villages in both countries.

You can anticipate ten nights in four-and-five-star hotels. We will dine together for ten nights, sampling a range of menus highlighting British and Scottish cuisine, including a meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant tucked away in a tiny village. And while we're there, we'll drop in at the James Herriot's centre as depicted in the series, "All Creatures Great and Small."

Our tours seek out the "off the beaten track" locations and experiences, so be prepared to see the legendary designs of Charles Remi Macintosh, as well as the Falkirk Wheel that "lifts" boats from one canal to another, not to mention the spectacular Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures. You can also anticipate a tour of a whisky distillery and sightings of cows "with bangs." And don't forget, there are lochs and castles to be reckoned with as well.

Contact us if you're interested and/or have questions. I hope you will join our adventures.

Mary

Tour Times is a publication of Mary Valentine Tours.

For the past fifteen years our tours have focused on "off the beaten path" locations and experiences throughout England.

Starting in 2024, we expanded our offerings to include Wales. In 2025, we are adding Scotland. For more information about our May 2025 tour to Scotland and Northern England, or any other upcoming tours, please contact us at:

Mary Valentine Tours
15030 Ventura Blvd. #456
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
323.868.6394
Maryvalentinetours@gmail.com
Maryvalentinetours.com





A day-by-day tentative schedule of the May 2025 tour of Scotland and Northern England.

Tour Dates May 13 – 22 (Plan to fly into London on the 12th and fly home on the 23rd)

Updates as we get closer to May 2025.

Day 1 (Tour begins)

- Arrive at London Heathrow Airport
- Check into Sofitel Hotel Airport at Terminal 5
- Group dinner begins the tour



Day 2 (Harome, England)

- Coach to Nottingham, England
- Experience the National Justice Museum in Nottingham
- Coach to Fountains Abbey
- Coach to Harome village
- Check into the Pheasant Hotel in Harome
- Group dinner at The Star, a Michelin Star restaurant in Harome

Day 3 (Edinburgh, Scotland)

- Visit the town of Thirsk, made famous in “All Creatures Great and Small.” See Siegfried’s home and veterinary practice.
- Coach to Newcastle on Tyne.
- Visit Antony Gormley’s massive “Angel of the North” in Tyne
- Coach to Edinburgh
- Check into Radisson Blu on the Royal Mile
- Visit St. Giles Cathedral
- Group dinner

Day 4 (Edinburgh, Scotland)

- Tour the Royal Mile
- Opportunity to discover your family’s clan
- Visit Scottish Parliament
- See the National Gallery of Scotland
- Group dinner



melissaknorris.com/scottish-highlander-cows

Day 5 (Oban, Scotland)

- Coach to Falkirk
- View the Kelpies -world's largest equine sculpture
- Watch boats "lifted" from one canal to another on the Falkirk Wheel
- Coach to Stirling
- Tour Stirling castle
- Coach to Oban
- Check into Oban hotel
- Group dinner

Day 6 (Glasgow, Scotland)

- Tour Oban Distillery
- Visit McCaig's Tower
- Coach to Glasgow
- Check into Glasgow hotel
- Group dinner



Kelpies Equestrian Statue

Day 7 (Glasgow, Scotland)

- Visit the Mural Trail
- Enjoy afternoon tea at the Willow Tea Rooms featuring Charles Rennie Mackintosh designs
- Tour the Tenement House
- Dinner on your own

Day 8 (Lake District, England)

- Coach to Windemere
- Take a boat tour of Lake Windemere
- Visit the Kendal Quaker Tapestry Museum
- Experience the Wordsworth House
- Check into Low Wood Spa & Hotel
- Group dinner



Day 9 (Liverpool, England)

- Coach to Liverpool
- Take a Beatles-themed tour
- Check out the Liverpool Central Library
- Visit the Museum of Liverpool
- Stay at the Liverpool Hilton
- Group dinner

Day 10 (Tour concludes via Birmingham, England)

- Coach to Birmingham to visit the Winterbourne House & Garden
- Check into London Sofitel Hotel Airport at Terminal 5
- Group dinner
- Tour ends



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HOW TO RESERVE A SPACE ON OUR MAY 2025 TOUR OF SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN ENGLAND

Cost per person: \$6650.00 This covers hotels for 10 nights, 10 breakfasts, 10 dinners; a luxury coach in the countryside; and tickets and entry fees to all venues.

Not covered: airfare, airport transfers, lunches, incidentals, and tips for our driver.

To reserve a spot, send a payment of \$2500.00, which includes a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit, to Mary Valentine. The balance (\$4150.00) is due no later than March 1, 2025.

Send payment to Mary Valentine Tours
15030 Ventura Blvd. #456
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

You can also send payments to Mary via Zelle at 3238686394.

Important: We strongly recommend you take out travel insurance.



Fountains Abbey

BOOK CORNER: Most of us are less familiar with Scotland than we are with England. Here are some ways to learn about Scotland before joining our tour:

Books (fiction):

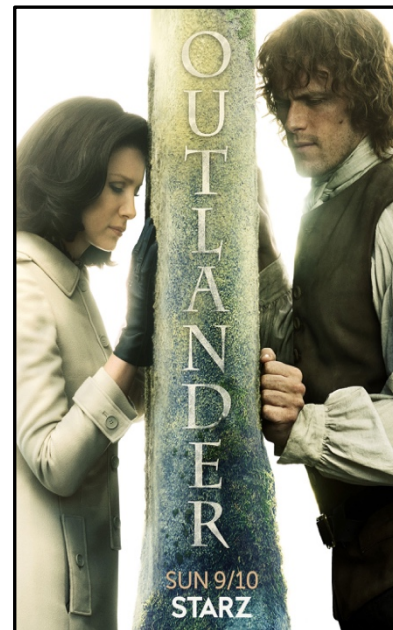
- Val McDermid's *Broken Ground*, a mystery set in Edinburgh
- Lucy Foley's *The Hunting Party*, a story about a group of friends involved in a mystery set in the Scottish Highlands
- Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander*, romantic fiction
- *Shuggie Bain*, the story of one family's struggle in Glasgow during the Thatcher years by Douglas Stuart

Books (memoirs)

- Shaun Bythell's hilarious *Confessions of a Bookseller*, which chronicles his experiences with quirky customers while running a bookshop in Wigtown, Scotland

Books (non-fiction)

- Neil Oliver's *A History of Scotland* (Note: this has also been made into a TV series available on YouTube.)



What makes Mary Valentine Tours Special?

- Small groups (Maximum 10)
- No single supplement – ideal for the solo traveler
- Four- and five-star accommodations and restaurants
- Friendship building with other group members
- Great conversation
- Surprises
- Led by Mary who has traveled the United Kingdom extensively

Tales from Wales

In May 2024, we took our first trip to Southern Wales. While there we visited the home of Dylan Thomas, experienced a glimpse into the life of a coal miner, met a skilled wood carver who demonstrated the art of making Welsh lovespoons, enjoyed a night out at the theatre, toured the Welsh Parliament, and sat in on a rehearsal of one of Wales's more than 200 male choirs. Here are some photos from that trip:



Poet Dylan Thomas' writing studio, Laugharne



Kerry Thomas at The Lovespoon Workshop, Pembrokeshire



The group took a 2 mile walk along west coast of Wales with its breathtaking views and encounters with locals.