



Scotland 2019 Tour September (19) 20 - 29, 2019

The meals that are included on the tour are specified for each date: Breakfast (B) and Dinner (D). Lunches are not included in the tour but there will be designated lunch stops each day.

DAY 1 - Thursday, Sept. 19 (those coming from the U.S.)

Fly into Glasgow. You will need to be ready to meet the group tour the morning of Sept. 20 at the Glasgow Airport. The exact time will be announced later. A Sept. 18 flight from the U.S. to Glasgow is suggested.

DAY 1 - Friday, Sept. 20 (those flying from Dublin)

We fly from Dublin to Glasgow in the morning.

DAY 1 - Friday, Sept. 20 (everyone) (D)

We meet our guide Scott at the Glasgow airport and travel through Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. We arrive in Oban and go to McCaig's tower where you have a magnificent view of Oban and the ocean. We then check into the hotel, have some free time to explore this city of 25,000, and then eat dinner as a group.

Lodging: Columba, Oban - www.sgehotelgroup.com/columba

DAY 2 - Saturday, Sept. 21 (B, D)

We travel from Oban to Portree, and you will enjoy the beauty of Scotland as we pass through Glencoe and Fort William. We will tour the Eilean Donan Castle, often called the most romantic castle in Scotland and a favorite with film-makers, before crossing Skye Bridge to the Isle of Skye. Dinner will be as a group.

Lodging: The Rosedale Hotel, Portree - www.rosedalehotelskye.co.uk

DAY 3 - Sunday, Sept. 22 (B)

We tour the Trotternish Peninsula that features Storr Lochs, Old Man of Storr, Lealt Falls, Kilt Rock, Kilmuir, and Uig Bay. Then we go to Dunvegan Castle, 800-year-old clan seat of the Clan MacLeod. We also tour the Talisker Distillery before returning to Portree. Dinner is on your own.

Lodging: Portree - www.rosedalehotelskye.co.uk

DAY 4 - Monday, Sept. 23 (B, D)

Today we visit the Clan Donald Centre in Armadale, containing the ruined castle, beautiful gardens, and best museum about the clans and culture of the Highlands to be found anywhere. We enjoy more Scottish scenery as we see the Five Sisters of Kintail, Loch Ness. We take a tour of Urquhart Castle that is magnificently seated above Loch Ness. Then it is off to Tain for the evening.

Lodging: The Royal Hotel, Tain - www.royalhoteltain.co.uk

DAY 5 - Tuesday, Sept. 24 (B, D)

Today we go up the beautiful Northeastern coast. We pass through Hill O' Many Stanes and Wick before stopping at John o' Groats for shops and food outlets. We then take a ferry ride to the Orkney Islands.

Please note: the exact itinerary over the next three days will be determined by weather and what else is happening on the Orkney islands (cruise ship arrivals, etc.). Options are mentioned but you will not likely see all of these places.

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Once on Orkney, you will see and visit some combination of the following attractions: the famous naval base Scapa Flow, the Churchill Barriers, the Italian Chapel, the Orkney Winery, the Bishop's Palace, the Earl's Palace, and Saint Magnus Cathedral. We eat as a group at the hotel. Some of the finest seafood in Scotland is in Kirkwall.

Lodging: Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall - www.ayrehotel.co.uk

DAY 6 - Wednesday, Sept. 25 (B)

Day two in Orkney may take you first to the Saga Centre and Round Church at Orphir and then the old seaport of Stromness. Thereafter, it will be down the route known as the Neolithic Highway. This is a world UNESCO Heritage Site. You will see and visit some combination of the Neolithic Chambered Cairn at Maeshowe, the Hill Of Unstan, and Brodgar. The Ring of Brodgar is an immense Neolithic Stone Circle of which 27 stones remain upright. The nearby Ness of Brodgar is the latest and most exciting archaeological find and has caused a major change in the way that our human past is viewed. The afternoon will be spent at Skara Brae and Skaill House. Dinner is on your own.

Lodging: Ayre Hotel, Kirkwall

DAY 7 - Thursday, Sept. 26 (B, D)

Today we see the Neolithic Stones of Stenness and the Barnhouse before taking the ferry back to the mainland. We tour Castle of Mey and possibly Castletown Harbour, and/or Caithness Horizons in Thurso.

Lodging: Bettyhill Hotel, Thurso - www.bettyhillhotel.com

DAY 8 - Friday, Sept. 27 (B, D)

We will see a string of beautiful beaches and dramatic coastal scenery with stops for photo opportunities on Kyle of Tongue Causeway, Ard Neakie, Ardvreck Castle, Knockan Crag, and more.

Lodging: Gairloch Highland Lodge, Gairloch - www.gairlochhighlandlodge.com

DAY 9 - Sept. 28 (B, D)

Our route today takes us from Gairloch to Shieldaig to Kishorn to Inverness. Along the way, you will continue to see the diverse beauty of Scotland. We also visit the Inverewe Botanical Gardens. We eat dinner as a group. If you want some fun after dinner, consider going to Hootananny's or another local bar/restaurant for some live local music.

Lodging: Premier Inn River Ness, Inverness -

www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/highland/inverness/inverness-centre-river-ness.html

DAY 10 - Sept. 29 (B)

Flight home from Inverness.

Please note that while changes to the tour are not likely, weather, site renovations, and other factors could keep the tour group from any given site or could require a change of lodging. Any changes will be comparable in value.

Tour Costs and Payments

- \$2,800 (per person) for a double occupancy room and \$3,300 for a single occupancy room
- \$300 deposit will secure your place on this tour
- Your balance of \$2,500 per person for a double and \$3,000 for a single is due by June 10, 2019.
- You may purchase your tour with a check or credit/debit card. Please make your check payable to International Tour Company and put 2019 Scotland Tour in the memo line. If you are also going on the Ireland Tour, please note that and you may combine your payments into one check.

You may give a check to Aaron Garber in person or mail it to:

International Tour Company

P.O. Box 23

Cloverdale, VA 24077-0023

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You may pay with a credit/debit card by calling 540-404-1918. There is a 3% fee added to credit card payments.

What is included:

- Tour Director Scott Guthrie will be with you the entire tour except when you go to the airport on the final day. Read more about Scott below. Gale Taylor has worked closely with Aaron Garber on this tour, and she will be with you the entire trip as well. Her bio. is not below. :-)
- Lodging every night
- Ground Transportation except for airport transfers
- Meals as outlined in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to various sites, as applicable

What is not included:

- Your airfare is not included in this tour.
- Drinks that are not already included with our group meals
- Tips for our guide and driver - I suggest \$4 a day for the guide and \$2 a day for the driver (we will have 2 drivers) - you may tip in pounds, euros, or dollars
- Travel insurance – I highly suggest that you compare several places and purchase some form of insurance. I am an agent with Allianz and will be pleased to help you with your insurance.

Other Important Information

- I suggest bringing \$300 in cash or less cash if you choose to use a credit/debit card. Scotland uses the Pound sterling. It is best to exchange your money before you depart your home country, as we will not take tour time to exchange money. Visa and MasterCard should work most places on this tour, but you need to contact your credit card company before you leave.
- You need a valid U.S. passport that expires no less than six months beyond our return date.
- You do not need a visa for this trip.
- No special shots or vaccines are necessary for this tour.

Scott Guthrie



Scott was brought up and still lives in East Kilbride just south of Glasgow. As a child, his parents introduced him to the outdoors with camping and road trips all over Scotland. This continued into his adult life along with other activities such as hillwalking and skiing.

His love of Scotland and love of Scottish history grew when he joined a living history re-enactment society called the White Cockade over 26 years ago. The White Cockade is a society of skilled interpreters who educate and entertain in specific regard to the Jacobite era.

Since then Scott has worked all over Scotland promoting and teaching Scottish history to the public alongside the organisations of the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland at sites such as Stirling and Edinburgh Castles, Bannockburn, Culloden Battlefield, Glenfinnan, Urquhart Castle, Glen Coe and Killiecrankie as well as others. This experience over the years has also led to working with some BBC documentaries and other film work and he has also worked with Ian Deveney's company, Battlescar.

As a keen camper and hillwalker he has travelled all over Scotland. His passion and love for its history and stories just keeps growing. That is why he made the transition into tour-guiding. Scott felt that it was time to give back, and to share what he has spent a lifetime enjoying.