



Scotland

Goddess and Sacred Site Tour
October 28, November 3, 2025

What will you be doing in Scotland?

Visit some of the most ancient and sacred sites in Edinburgh, and the Scottish borders. At Holyrood Palace stroll through the majestic royal gardens, the Queen's gallery, Mary Queen of Scots chambers and the Abbey ruins. While touring the Edinburgh Castle view the crown jewels of Scotland, the "Stone of Destiny," The Great Hall, The Royal Palace. St. Margaret's Chapel. Through the Scottish borderlands, explore locations featured in Dan Brown's novel the Da Vinci Code such as Melrose Abbey and Rosslyn Chapel, and hear intriguing tales of Cistercian monks, the Knights Templar, and the connection to Mary Magdalene. Walk the land to fairy dwellings like Calton Hill famous for its' Beltane and Samhuinn celebrations, or Arthurs Seat rich in Arthurian myth and lore.

Where are you staying?

Old Waverley Hotel is located at 43 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2BY in the United Kingdom. You can reach them by phone at **+44 (0)131 556 4648** or **+44 (0)131 560 2063**. For more details, you can visit their website at www.oldwaverley.co.uk.



Who is picking you up from the airport? Who is bringing you back to the airport?

City Cabs Ltd Edinburgh: Phone # from a US phone, +44 131 228 1211
Cabs are at your own cost at the airport. Approx £33 to £38 one way.

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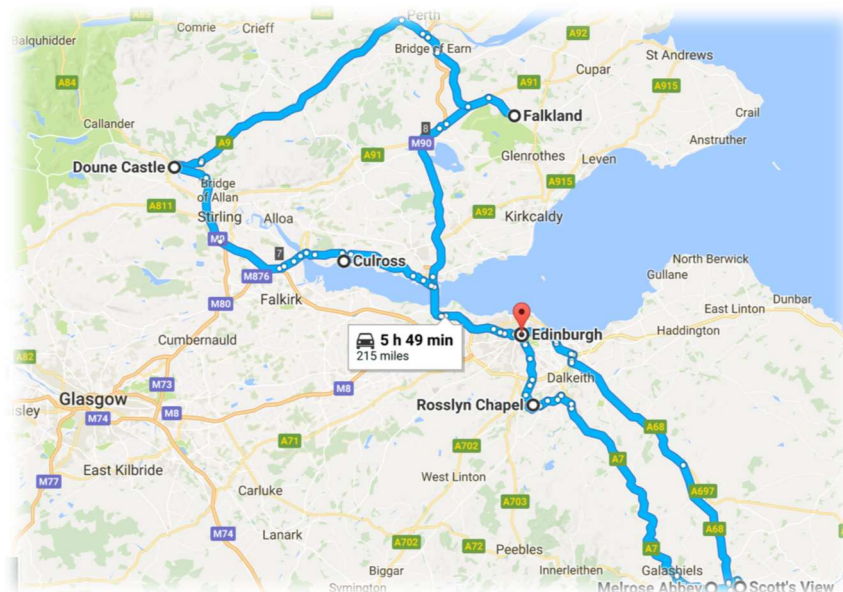
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Journey with me through Scotland, Land of the Goddess



Visit some of the most ancient and sacred sites in Edinburgh, the Highlands, and Scottish borders. At Holyrood Palace stroll through the majestic royal gardens, the Queen's Gallery, Mary Queen of Scots' chambers, and the Abbey ruins. While touring the Edinburgh Castle view the crown jewels of Scotland, the "Stone of Destiny," The Great Hall, The Royal Palace, and St. Margaret's Chapel. Through the Scottish borderlands, explore locations featured in Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code* such as Melrose Abbey and Rosslyn Chapel, and hear intriguing tales of Cistercian monks, the Knights Templar, and the connection to Mary Magdalene. Crossing the edge of the North Sea travel into the action-packed world of *Outlander*! Explore the villages of Culross and Falkland, and cinematic landmarks like Castle Leoch, the real Medieval Doune Castle. Along the way, enjoy insider stories and trivia about the series, cast, and crew. Gain insight into the Highlands of the early 1740s, a volatile period before the Jacobite rising. Walk the land to fairy dwellings like Calton Hill famous for its Beltane celebrations, or Arthurs Seat rich in Arthurian myth and lore.

Map with all our journey locations!



Sacred Tour of Scotland 2025

Welcome to Scotland!

Your Final Tour Packet of Information. Bring this with you!

I hope the following information will be useful for you. Please, do take the time to read the entire packet. It will cover a lot of your questions. I am looking forward to meeting you for an incredible adventure. I recommend you print this packet and bring it with you when you travel.

Goddess Blessings,
Glamourgan
1-564-999-7439 or What's App 1-360-990-2558

Your Questions and Needs

Please let Glamourgan or the concierge desk at our hotel know if you have any additional questions about local information, banks, supermarkets, cafes, etc., or needs for your room, extra pillows, transport arrangements, medical needs, and any information regarding sacred sites, Goddesses, ceremonies, group sharing, etc.,

Your Roommate List for Scotland

Room 1: Donna Sullivan and Nikki Santee

U.S. Embassy & U.S. Consulate Edinburgh

U.S. Embassy & U.S. Consulate Edinburgh, Scotland, 3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5BW, Telephone, Fax & Email, Phone: [44] (0)131 556 8315, Email: Edinburgh-Info@state.gov, Open 08:30-17:00 Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. and local public holidays.

Rituals, Myth, and Lore: There are fewer rituals and ceremonies on this tour than on our other tours, as there are less opportunities. Scotland is just beginning to explore its ancient Pagan and Goddess paths. Faeries, witches, and mythological creatures are well-known in common Scottish lore. See the last pages of this

packet to learn more. Harry Potter is huge in Scotland due to J. K. Rowling writing the first book of her series in Edinburgh.

Scotland Goddess Temple: There is a new Scotland Goddess Community in Scotland. They do not have a physical temple space yet. Here is their link: www.goddess temple alba.org. They are having a Scottish Goddess Conference in September 2023, here: www.scottishgoddessconference.com. But there are many sacred sites and spiritual spaces of worship to visit.

Transportation

Coaches: We will be driving you to the Rosslyn Chapel and Scottish Borders countryside in a Rabbies Trail Burners. See the Sir Walter Scott's View, William Wallace Statue, Melrose Abbey, and Tweed Valley and River. This coach is included in the price of your tour. Rabbies pick-up location is Gate J and Gate K, Edinburgh Bus Station, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ. The bus station is a 5-minute walk from our hotel.



Hop on and Off Bus: The red Hop and Hop Off Bus will take you around the Edinburgh area to all the highlights and hot spots of Edinburgh. You will need to purchase a Hop on and Hop off bus pass. This is **not** included in the price of the tour.

The price of a Hop on and Hop off bus pass is approx. £18 for one day and £25 for two days. There are 8 stops with entertaining and historical commentary. We will get a bus map from the driver with all the stops for the Red Bus.



Airport Shuttle Service

You can book your personal driver early if you wish but it isn't necessary. When you arrive in Edinburgh collect your belongings, exit the airport entrance, and follow the signs to cabs/taxi service. There are only two main taxi services in Edinburgh. They line up at the airport waiting for you. The left side of taxi pick-up is for pre-booked cabs. The right side is a waiting line for cabs. There is only one cab service at the airport, and it is called City Cab!

They can also take you back to the airport. Book your ride back to the airport the night before you leave. Cabs are at your own cost.

Glamourgan will be collecting your flight details of arrival and departure information, so we can keep track of everyone.

Cab Services: Cabs and taxis in Edinburgh are amazing. Why, because you never have to wait very long for a cab. You call and someone is at your location in about 5 min. It is unbelievable. One of the cab companies actually sends you a text to show you the picture of your driver and a tracking link so you can see exactly where your driver is and how many minutes they are away.

Keep their number in your cell phones so you can call them if you need them.

Use these numbers from your US cell phones. Hold down the 0 to get the + symbol. Practice before you get to Scotland, so you know how to do it.

The two cab companies in Edinburgh are

City Cabs Ltd Edinburgh: Phone # from a US phone, +44 131 228 1211

Capital Cars Edinburgh: Phone # from a US phone, +44 131 777 7777

Capital Cars will give you a 20% discount on cash payments.

Airline and Flights

Check your luggage weight allowance and the number of bags for your airline. Some additional charges may apply for extra weight and bags.

You are allowed to bring a quart-sized bag of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams, and pastes in your carry-on bag and through the checkpoint. These are limited to travel-sized containers that are 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) or less per item. Placing these items in a small bag and separating them from your carry-on baggage facilitates the screening process. Pack items that are in containers larger than 3.4 ounces or 100 milliliters in checked baggage.

Any liquid, aerosol, gel, cream, or paste that alarms during screening will require additional screening.

International Travel: Inbound International Flights

You may carry duty-free liquids in secure, tamper-evident bags, more than 3.4 oz or 100 ml in your carry-on bag if:

- The duty-free liquids were purchased internationally, and you are traveling to the United States with a connecting flight.
- The liquids are packed in a transparent, secure, tamper-evident bag by the retailer and do not show signs of tampering when presented to TSA for screening.
- The original receipt for the liquids is present and the purchase was made within 48 hours.
- Liquids more than 3.4 oz or 100 ml not in a secure, tamper-evident bag must be packed in checked baggage.

Do not leave your luggage or handbags unattended and you are responsible for your own bags.

Website for TSA: Keep up to TSA Rules and Restrictions <https://www.tsa.gov>

Electronic Travel Authorisation - ETA – Required!

Get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) to visit the UK. It costs £16 to apply online or through the UK ETA app. An ETA lasts for 2 years or until your passport expires, whichever is sooner. You can travel to the UK as many times as you want while you have an ETA.

<https://www.gov.uk/eta/apply>

Passports Required

Passports: Preparing ahead of time for your Goddess Tour helps make the tour even better! If you already have a passport double check it now to make sure it hasn't expired. Here is information on how to get a passport.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/first-time.html>

Upon arrival to Scotland be sure you will have 3 months on your passport before the expiration date.

Covid Rules and Restrictions

There are no covid rules or restrictions in Scotland.

There are things you can do to stay well and protect others, like:

- staying at home if you have symptoms
- wearing a face covering
- washing your hands regularly
- meeting in well-ventilated spaces
- supporting Distance Aware, for anyone who prefers others to take extra care around them

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have symptoms of covid, a cold, or flu try to stay at home and avoid contact with others. If you do have to go out, wear a face covering.

Hotel and Room Assignments - October 28, 2025 to November, 3, 2025 (unless otherwise arranged).

The Hotel we are staying in is the Old Waverley Hotel on Princes Street.

Old Waverley Hotel

43 Princes Street

Edinburgh

EH2 2BY

United Kingdom

Phone

+44 (0)131 556 4648

+44 (0)131 560 2063

<https://www.oldwaverley.co.uk/>

Email: info@oldwaverley.co.uk



Rooms

On Edinburgh's famous Princes Street, Old Waverley Hotel offers elegant accommodations in the New Town area. Waverley rail station is a 1-minute walk away.

Many of the spacious rooms offer stunning views of Edinburgh Castle. Features include an interactive entertainment system.

Make your own arrangements for breakfast: The Old Waverley Hotel offers a full-cooked Scottish breakfast or a buffet-style selection of continental items including fresh pastries, fresh fruit, cereals with fresh fruit juices plus tea and coffee. (At your own cost). Start your day off with a full-cooked Scottish breakfast or a selection of continental items including fresh pastries, fresh fruit, cereals with fresh fruit juices plus tea and coffee. Only £15. Breakfast between the hours of Monday – Friday 7 am – 10 am and Saturday & Sunday 8 am – 11 am.

Many galleries and museums can be reached within a 10-minute walk from Old Waverley. Edinburgh Airport is a 25-minute car journey away.

Grocery Stores

Tesco Express (Princes Street Express) is located at 141 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BL, right on Princes Street near Princes Street Gardens. This convenient shop is open daily from about 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., making it ideal for early morning or late-evening grocery needs.

Sainsbury's Edinburgh Waverley Steps Local sits inside Waverley Mall on Waverley Steps, directly off Princes Street. It operates roughly from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. each day, offering a good selection of everyday groceries and essentials.

Marks & Spencer, at 54 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2DQ, is perfect for ready meals, snacks, and quality groceries, particularly its popular "M&S Simply Food" range. It provides a more curated grocery experience while still being conveniently close to Princes Street Gardens.

Coffee Shop

Starbucks – Princes Street (new main store) is located at 118 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AA/4AD. This is the newer, larger Starbucks that replaced the old 120 Princes Street location. The café is spacious and offers views of Edinburgh Castle and Princes Street Gardens. It is open daily from about 6:15 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Caffè Nero – Princes Street sits at 145 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BL, very close to the Gardens and centrally placed for easy access while walking along Princes Street. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (extended to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays), Saturday 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Pharmacy

Boots is located at 101–103 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AA. It sits directly on Princes Street, only a few minutes' walk from anywhere in the Gardens. Opening hours are roughly 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and about 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Superdrug can be found at 83 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2ER. This store is also very close, along Princes Street itself. It typically opens from about 8:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Right Medicine Pharmacy (Royal Mile) is located at 67 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR. It lies a little farther away—across or near the top of the Old Town—but remains an easy walk from the Gardens. Its hours are approximately 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. on weekdays, with shorter Saturday hours and closed on Sundays.

Hospital

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
51 Little France Crescent
Old Dalkeith Road
Edinburgh
EH16 4SA
Telephone: 0131 536 1000(*)

<https://www.nhslothian.scot/goingtohospital/royal-infirmary-of-edinburgh/>

Emergency numbers for Edinburgh and Lothians

Call 999

1. If someone is feeling unwell Contact their GP or alternatively NHS 24 on 111
2. Ambulance

For an ambulance in an emergency dial 999. If you would like to book an ambulance call 0131 447 0434 for non-emergencies where the person is considered medically unfit by a doctor to travel by other means.

3. Fire emergencies

Make a fire plan: don't stop for valuables, shout to alert people in the house, keep low to ground, don't investigate and when you're out - stay out - then dial 999

4. Police

Call 999 for emergencies. For all other calls phone 101.

Post Office

Edinburgh City Post Office is located inside Waverley Mall (formerly known as Princes Mall) on Waverley Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1BQ, United Kingdom. Officially listed as Unit 5–6, the branch sits just steps from Princes Street Gardens and Waverley railway station, making it easy to reach on foot. The post office is open **Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.**

Telephone and Cell Phone Service

It is important to contact your cell phone provider to make sure they set you up on an international, phone, text, and data service. Turn the Roaming Feature on!

Telephone dialing code out of the UK: 00 followed by the country area code of where you are dialing.

If you are using your own cell phone just dial as you normally would in your own country. If you are making a call from your cell phone to a U.K. number hold down the 0 to get the + symbol, then 44 followed by the number. If someone gives you a phone number from the U.K. that starts with a 0 drop the zero.

Wifi Connection

You will have Wi-fi access in your hotel. Check with your cell phone provider for roaming data and prices. Get a package for traveling internationally before you leave for Scotland. Wifi is found in restaurants and other public places.

Electricity

240 volts and 3 pin plugs

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in Airports, mini bus, accommodation, Pubs (most have smoking areas outside), cafes and most public places etc.

Gradient for the tour, marked on each venue

1. Easy – a relaxed, breezy stroll.
2. Slight Incline – a gentle rise that adds just a hint of adventure.
3. Slight Difficulty – a friendly challenge to keep things interesting.
4. Difficult – a spirited climb for those who love a little workout.
5. Steep – a bold ascent with breathtaking rewards at the top.

We will be hiking up Arthurs Seat which is an uneven dirt surface. You may want some traction. Calton Hill is also steep and is a blacktop surface. This is the only hard walking day. Wear a comfortable sturdy walking shoe.

Weather in Scotland in Autumn

Edinburgh is set to greet you with that classic Scottish mix of crisp air and golden autumn light. Early in the week you can look forward to **partly sunny skies**, with daytime temperatures around **60–61 °F (15–16 °C)** — perfect for cozy walks through Princes Street Gardens or a warm cup of tea in a café. Evenings will feel fresh and invigorating, dipping to about **40–41 °F (4–5 °C)**, so a snug scarf or light jacket will be just right.

Walking and Footwear. What to Wear!

Plan to wear a pair of sturdy comfortable walking shoes for a variety of surfaces on Day 1. On all other days, a good walking shoe is perfect. No need for fancy footwear and sandals. Be prepared with a fold-up rain slicker if needed. Dress in layers. Fanny packs and light backpacks (rucksacks) are suggested.

Sun and Moon Phases

Edinburgh Sky Highlights

Sun Times

Dawn: about 6:58 a.m.

Sunrise: about 7:11 a.m.
Solar Noon: about 11:56 a.m.
Sunset: about 4:46 p.m.
Dusk: about 5:48 p.m.

The days are shorter now, but the soft golden light makes Edinburgh's autumn colours glow beautifully.

Moon Times & Phase

Moonrise: about 2:27 p.m.
Moonset: about 8:45 p.m.
Phase: Waxing Gibbous, around 40 % illuminated
The waxing gibbous moon will add a gentle evening shimmer—perfect for cosy strolls and enjoying Edinburgh's magical autumn nights.

Restaurant Recommendations

There is a lovely restaurant in our hotel and several restaurants surround us. All meals at your own cost.

Highly Recommended Restaurants

Elephants House: The Location where JK Rowling wrote the Harry Potter Books.
Please note: It was badly damaged by a fire in August 2021 and is undergoing restoration.

GOOD NEWS! They announced in August they will be reopening the original location soon. But no date for sure yet. We will keep an eye on the old spot which is 21 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EN, UK



While that location is closed, the cafe is operating from a temporary site at 30 Victoria Street, a couple of minutes' walk away. Current Address: [21 Victoria St, Edinburgh, EH1 1EN, United Kingdom](https://www.google.com/maps/search/Restaurants/@55.9527945,-3.1957068,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m7!2m6!3m5!2sOld+Waverley+Hotel!3s0x4887c7902df66bbd:0xb2ecb3b01f54bbb8!4m2!1d-3.1931319!2d55.9527945?entry=ttu)



Temporary Location



Original Location

Greyfriars Bobby's Bar: Famous for the lovable statue of loyal hound Bobby outside, the historic local serves cask ales and pub fare.
Address: 30-34 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QE, UK



Restaurant Map

Here is a link to all the Restaurants surrounding our hotel:
<https://www.google.com/maps/search/Restaurants/@55.9527945,-3.1957068,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m7!2m6!3m5!2sOld+Waverley+Hotel!3s0x4887c7902df66bbd:0xb2ecb3b01f54bbb8!4m2!1d-3.1931319!2d55.9527945?entry=ttu>

Other Costs

All meals, personal costs, cabs, Hop On and Hop Off bus, tips, phone calls, other tickets not included in the tour, newspapers, and insurance at the passenger's own expense. Donations to churches are at your own discretion and not included.

Free Time or Extra Days

We are located near Rabbies Touring Company. They can book you on other day excursions. 22 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2QA. Tel: +44(0) 131 226 3133
Monday - Sunday: 07:00-17:00

Outlander Television Series Filming Hot Spots *

Some of these are also in Edinburgh and I will show you where they are.

Our First Dinner

Meet and Greet! First-night dinner October 28, Tuesday. Reservations are at 7:30 p.m. in our Hotel Restaurant (at your own cost).

The Abbotsford Room Bar & Lounge

Abbotsford Room is distinguished by its elegant decor which has a vibrant merger of Victorian charm accompanied by a modern contemporary tone. Located in the heart of the Scottish capital the bar is situated within The Old Waverley Hotel, one of Edinburgh's oldest hotels. Our food menus offer an exciting range of dishes for any time of the day. From small plates and light lunches to something more substantial for dinner. Our drinks list focuses on the best Scottish whiskies and spirits with all of our produce resourced from an array of some of Scotland's finest suppliers all of which share our environmental values. With its prime location, the bar boasts stunning panoramic views of Edinburgh's iconic castle and Princes Street Gardens, making it one of the best places to unwind in the city.

Here is a dinner menu to view: [Old-Waverley-Hotel-Bar-Food-Menu.pdf](#)

Day 1

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland. From the airport, taxi to your hotel and explore Edinburgh. In the evening, we will enjoy our first group dinner together. Meeting in the Hotel restaurant at 7:30 pm. Menu: [Old-Waverley-Hotel-Bar-Food-Menu.pdf](#)

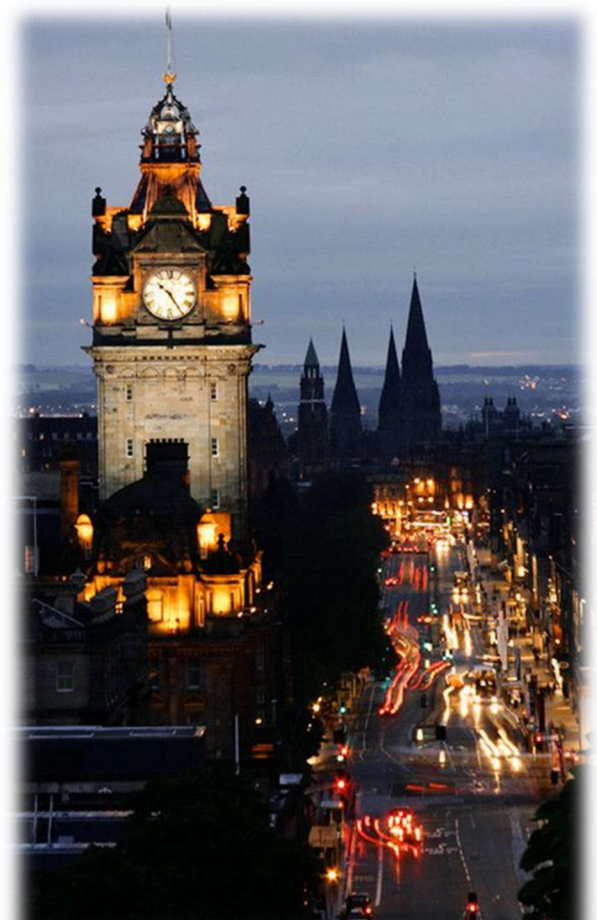
The picture to your right is Princes Street. Enjoy the skyline of **spires** and towers along Princes Street **Edinburgh**, the so-called Athens of the North.

Day 2

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Edinburgh's Historic & Sacred Sites

- The Witches' Well – Memorial to those executed for witchcraft.
- Edinburgh Castle – The Great Hall, The Stone of Destiny, Crown Jewels, St. Margaret's Chapel, Mons Meg, One o'clock gun, Half Moon Battery, Military Museums.
- Lunch at The Witchery
- St. Giles' Cathedral – Mother Church of Presbyterianism.
- Greyfriars Bobby's Kirkyard – Thomas Riddle's Grave
- Shopping the Royal Mile
- Lantern Tour of The Real Mary King's Close – Underground Halloween experience.



Skyline and Spires of Princes Street

Level Grade Today: Level 1 thru 3. Wear a comfortable walking shoe today.

Make sure you arrange to eat breakfast before we start the tour either at the hotel or the surrounding area. If you want something from Starbucks bring it with you. No Starbucks stop this morning.

8:15 am Meet in Hotel Lobby for a morning walk-thru the Princes Street Gardens, then to the Red Hop on Hop off Bus. 20 min. walk.

9:00 a.m. Get on the Bus at 9:00 am at stop # 1 Waterloo Place on the Map. (Buses are approx. 15 min. apart) Get off Bus Stop #5 Lawn Market for Edinburgh Castle

9:30 a.m. Reservations Tickets have already been purchased for the Edinburgh Castle and are included in the price of the tour.

I will point out meeting places along the way for lunch, shops, and St. Giles Cathedral.

9:20 am Witches Well We will stop momentarily at the Witches Well in respect of all the women and men that were tortured and killed during the witch trials.

The **Witches' Well** is a small but deeply meaningful memorial set into the wall of the Tartan Weaving Mill on the Castle Esplanade, just below Edinburgh Castle. This quiet spot marks the area where many people accused of witchcraft were executed between the late 1400s and early 1700s, during one of Scotland's darkest periods of witch-hunt history.



Witches Well

Commissioned in 1894 by urban planner Sir Patrick Geddes and designed by artist John Duncan, the well is a bronze drinking fountain that now stands dry. Its design is rich in symbolism: foxglove plants represent the dual power of healing and poison; a coiled snake encircles the heads of Hygeia and Aesculapius, the Greek deities of health and medicine; and two contrasting faces—

a serene head and a “wicked” head—express the tension between innocence and perceived evil.

Today the Witches’ Well serves as a quiet place of remembrance and reflection. It invites visitors to pause and consider the injustices faced by hundreds of mostly women who were persecuted and put to death because of superstition and fear. Though modest in size, it stands as one of Edinburgh’s most poignant reminders of the need for compassion and understanding in the face of intolerance

9:30 am to 11:00 a.m. The Edinburgh Castle

We will go in as a group and then you can disperse and self-guide around the Castle. Maps of the Castle are available at the entrance. Make sure you get one. If you wish you can purchase at your own cost an audio guide you can find them just inside the castle gates. A guidebook will be provided by your host.

You will find the Crown Jewels, The Famous Stone of Destiny, The Great Hall, and St. Margaret’s Chapel.

Standing on its great rock, Edinburgh Castle dominates Scotland’s capital.

Great events have taken place within its wall and it has witnessed many sieges.

To control the castle was to hold the keys to the kingdom. Iron Age warriors understood the rock’s military potential and built a hill fort here. Our oldest poetry tells of a war band that feasted here for a year before riding to death in battle.

During the Wars of Independence, the castle changed hands many times. In 1314, it was retaken from the English in a daring night raid by Thomas Randolph, nephew of Robert the Bruce.

The castle was home to kings and queens. Queen Margaret (later St Margaret) died here in 1093, and Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI in the royal palace in 1566.

Her great-great-great grandson Charles Edward Stuart - Bonnie Prince Charlie - captured Edinburgh but couldn't take the castle during the 1745-6 Jacobite rising.



Edinburgh Castle

In 1996, the Stone of Destiny, on which kings were enthroned for centuries, was returned to Scotland and is displayed in the Crown Room.

From the 1600s onwards the castle was a military base with a large garrison. Later it also held prisoners of war.

Parts are still a military base, but the castle is now a world-famous visitor attraction and a key element of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

Crown Jewels of Scotland in Edinburgh Castle is a breathtaking sight.

Known as The Honors of Scotland they are displayed in the Crown Room and are surrounded by a special exhibition.



Crown Jewels of Scotland and Stone of Destiny

The scepter was presented to James IV by Pope Alexander VI in 1494 while the crown was first worn for the coronation of James V's wife Mary of Guise in 1540.

They were first used together for the coronation of Mary Queen of Scots in 1543.

Their past has been turbulent. They were removed and hidden from 1651-60 to keep them from Cromwell's Parliamentary army.

In 1707, they were locked in a chest and sealed away after the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland.

In 1818, they were rediscovered by the novelist Sir Walter Scott, and with them a mysterious silver wand.



Sir Walter Scott

The Stone of Destiny in Edinburgh Castle is a powerful and ancient symbol of the Scottish monarchy, witnessing the coronation of its kings for hundreds of years.

In legend, it was used as a pillow by the Patriarch Jacob when he dreamed of Jacob's Ladder. Seen as a sacred object it was believed to have been brought first to Ireland, then Scotland.



In 1296 Edward I of England took the stone from Scone, near Perth, and had it built into his throne. Since then it has been used in the coronation ceremonies for the monarchs of England and then Great Britain.

On Christmas Day 1950, four Scottish students removed the stone from Westminster Abbey in London. Three months later it turned up 500 miles away – at the front door of Arbroath Abbey.

In 1996, the stone was returned to Scotland and is now in the Crown Room where it is seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors a year.

The stone will only leave Scotland again when there is a coronation in Westminster Abbey.

St. Margaret's Chapel Scotland's royals once knelt to worship in this serene private chapel. It was built around 1130 by David I and dedicated to his mother Queen Margaret.

St Margaret was a member of the English royal family who fled the Norman invasion and married Malcolm III.

Reputed to have performed many acts of charity she was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1250.

The decorated chancel arch is original, while other features, such as the stained-glass windows, are more recent.

In the 16th century, the chapel was used as a gunpowder store and was later given bomb-proof vaulting.

Its origins were forgotten and only rediscovered by the antiquary Sir Daniel Wilson in 1845.



St. Margaret's Chapel

There are always fresh flowers in the chapel. These are provided by St Margaret's Chapel Guild whose members all share the name Margaret and live in Scotland.

The picture to the left is St. Margaret's Chapel. The chapel is still used for christenings and weddings.

Feel Free to Shop the Royal Mile. See you at Lunch at The Witchery

12:00 noon – 2:25 p.m. Lunch at The Witchery by the Castle The Witchery is at your own cost. See there menu for more details. We will have lunch in the original dining room.

<https://www.thewitchery.com/menus/>

After we visit the Edinburgh Castle we have lunch at the famous "Witchery by the Castle." We will be seated in the secret garden. We probably won't need 2.5 hours but expect a long and relaxing lunch.

You are going al a carte but you may be able to choose differently if you want to order more food, wine, etc.

This is the only time we attend a fine dining restaurant in Scotland all other meals are on your own or with each other, except our first dinner when we meet and greet in the hotel.



Here is the Witchery! Check the lunch menu. Reservations have already been made and are required in advance. All meals are at your own cost. Here is the menu for a la carte!

<https://www.thewitchery.com/menus/>

After Lunch, we will walk to St. Giles Cathedral.

2:00 p.m. St. Giles Cathedral

St Giles' Cathedral, the High Kirk of Edinburgh positioned at the heart of the Scottish capital. St Giles' was founded in 1124, and in the 16th century became the focal point of the Scottish Reformation. The church is regarded as the Mother Church of World Presbyterianism and welcomes visitors from all corners of the globe.



St Giles' is first and foremost a working church but also welcomes visitors to experience the history of the building. Today the church plays an important role in

the cultural life of the city and nation, playing host to a wide variety of concerts, lectures, exhibitions, and civic ceremonies.

The stained-glass windows are extraordinary. More on the windows 1985 – Robert Burns memorial window installed. There was a long-held complaint that Edinburgh lacked a significant memorial to Robert Burns. In 1985 St Giles’ agreed to install a stained-glass window to Burns above the entranceway and selected Icelandic artist Leifur Breidfjörð to complete the design. The Window celebrates major themes of Burns’ work in a semi-abstract style; nature, humanity, and love. The topmost tracery contains a depiction of the sun, blossoming “like a red, red rose”.

St. Giles is open Sunday 1 pm to 5:00 pm

For more history on the cathedral visit the website:

<https://stgilescathedral.org.uk/history/>

Directions From St. Giles Cathedral to Grey Friars Bobby Kirkyard - Walking takes just 5 to 7 minutes. From the cathedral, you simply head southwest along George IV Bridge, passing the National Library of Scotland. Greyfriars Bobby’s Bar and the famous statue of the loyal Skye Terrier stand right at the kirkyard entrance.

2:45 pm J.K. Rowling Handprints

Let’s mosey across the street to the City Chambers

Just outside the Edinburgh City Chambers on the Royal Mile, visitors can find one of the city’s most popular hidden gems — the handprints of J.K. Rowling. The City Chambers sit between St. Giles’ Cathedral and Cockburn Street, in the heart of the Old Town, and the flagstone forecourt is inlaid with bronze-cast handprints belonging to winners of the Edinburgh Award. This civic honor is given each year to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the city’s life and culture, and over the years it has become a



quiet hall of fame for Edinburgh's most beloved residents.

In 2008, J.K. Rowling received the award for her immense contribution to literature and her deep connection to Edinburgh, the city where she wrote much of the Harry Potter series. During the ceremony, she pressed her hands into wet cement in the courtyard, creating an impression that was later cast in bronze and set among the other recipients' handprints. Today, fans can easily find Rowling's prints about midway along the row, clearly labeled with her name — a small but powerful tribute to her creative legacy and the magical world that grew out of the city's winding streets and candlelit cafés.

Visitors often pause to place their hands inside Rowling's for a photo, an act that feels symbolic of stepping momentarily into the imagination that shaped Hogwarts and its characters. Her prints are slightly smaller than many expect, and Rowling herself joked during the ceremony that she had "tiny hands." The site has since become a beloved stop on Harry Potter walking tours, not because it's grand or elaborate, but because it captures a quiet, human connection to the author and the city that inspired her. It's free to visit at any time and sits right along the Royal Mile — making it one of the easiest and most meaningful literary pilgrimages in Edinburgh.

3:00 pm Tweeddale Court

(Optional Stop)

is one of Edinburgh's most charming and historically rich closes, tucked just off the Royal Mile near John Knox House and the World's End Pub. The court dates back to the late 1500s, with the stone lintel of its main building — Tweeddale House — inscribed with the date 1576. It was once the townhouse of the Marquess of Tweeddale, one of Scotland's noble families, whose name the close still bears. During Edinburgh's golden age of printing, the court also became home to the publishing firm Oliver & Boyd, which operated presses and offices there for over a century. This connection to printing and publishing gives the close a particularly fitting link to literary history — a quality that made it the perfect location for a key scene in *Outlander*.



Outlander TV Series Connection *: In the Outlander TV series, Tweeddale Court appears in Season 3, Episode 6 (“A. Malcolm”), when Claire and Jamie are reunited in Edinburgh. The close was transformed into an eighteenth-century marketplace bustling with life: traders, carts, and colorful stalls filled the narrow lane as extras moved through the scene. This is where Claire walks alongside Jamie and encounters Fergus, his adopted son. The scene captures the energy of Edinburgh’s Old Town at its height, and the close’s authentic medieval architecture provided a natural backdrop — its stone walls, tight proportions, and atmospheric arches needing little alteration to evoke the eighteenth century.

Today, Tweeddale Court remains a quiet, cobbled oasis off the busy Royal Mile. Passing under its arched entryway, visitors step into a courtyard still framed by centuries-old walls, where carved door lintels and worn stairways reveal the close’s layered history. Although it’s peaceful now, it’s easy to imagine the clamor of markets, the smell of print ink from Oliver & Boyd’s presses, or the flicker of lantern light in the days when the Marquess’s household lived there. For Outlander fans, it’s a must-visit location — a place where history, storytelling, and imagination converge seamlessly in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town.

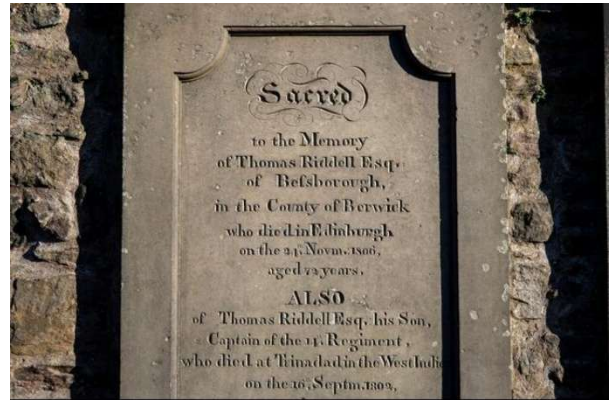
It takes about 4 to 5 minutes to walk from St Giles’ Cathedral to Tweeddale Court on the Royal Mile (High Street).

The route is simple — head east (downhill) toward Holyrood Palace, staying on the main Royal Mile. You’ll pass John Knox House and The World’s End Pub; Tweeddale Court will be on your left, marked by a narrow archway leading into the close.

3:30 pm to 4: 15 pm Greyfriars Bobby’s Kirkyard – Thomas Riddle’s Grave and Bobby Statue

Thomas Riddle's Grave: We will take a 5 minute walk over to the Kirkyard to see Thomas Riddle's Grave. Thomas Riddle (sometimes spelled "Riddell") is a person buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard who has become famous mostly because many believe that his name inspired *Tom Riddle* — the birth name of Lord Voldemort — in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books

His gravestone says: "*Sacred to the memory of Thomas Riddell Esq. of Befsborough, in the County of Berwick, who died in Edinburgh on the 24th Nov. 1806, aged 72 years...*" It also mentions members of his family: his son (Captain in the 14th Regiment), his daughter Christian, and another daughter Maria Jane.



Although the "Tom Riddle" name connection is widely repeated among fans, careful sources (including Greyfriars Kirk) say that this link is likely *subconscious inspiration* rather than something explicitly confirmed, so while it's fun and plausible, it's not officially verified.

The grave is one of the draws at Greyfriars, especially for those visiting as Harry Potter fans. The gravestone has become something of a pilgrimage spot, with people tracing the paths in the Kirkyard to find it.

Greyfriars Bobby is one of Edinburgh's most beloved legends—a small Skye Terrier whose loyalty captured the hearts of the city.

Bobby belonged to John Gray, a night watchman for the Edinburgh police. When John died in 1858 and was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard, Bobby famously stayed by his master's grave every day and night for the rest of his life. Neighbours and local café owners fed and cared for him, and the story of his devotion quickly spread throughout Edinburgh.

For fourteen years, Bobby kept his vigil, no matter the weather, until his own death in 1872. He was then buried just inside the gates of Greyfriars Kirkyard, not far from his master. A granite headstone marks the spot, and a charming bronze statue of Bobby stands nearby at the corner of Candlemaker Row and George IV Bridge.

Today, Greyfriars Bobby is celebrated as a symbol of loyalty and love that transcends death. Visitors from around the world stop to see his statue, leave flowers or sticks on his grave, and learn about the little dog whose steadfast heart became part of Edinburgh's history and folklore.

After you see the Kirkyard, we are complete for the day. But we will return in the evening to the Royal Mile for our Underground Halloween Experience at The Real Mary King's Close. Free Shop and explore Edinburgh. Dinner at your arrangements.

4:30 pm Break for Evening and The Real Mary King's Close later tonight

BREAK 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Dinner your own arrangements and rest.

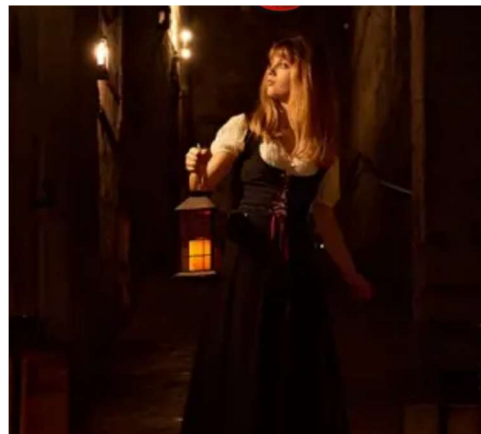
Evening Event! MEET at The Real Mary King's Close

8:10 pm Meet for Lantern Tour at The Real Mary King's Close – Underground Halloween experience. Check in is 8:20 pm ~ Tour departure 8:30 pm and ends at 9:30 pm

Location: The Royal Mile - The Real Mary King's Close is located at 2 Warriston's Close, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PG.

We will meet at The Real Mary King's Close at Stepping into the Lantern Tour is like slipping through time into Edinburgh's deep and shadowed history. Under the Royal Mile, you descend into The Real Mary King's Close, walking through old streets and rooms that once bustled with life, now hushed by centuries. Your guide leads you with only the flicker of lanterns for light, creating a moody, atmospheric setting that blurs the lines between past and present.

Along the way, you'll hear spine-tingling real stories from long ago: tales of plague, poverty, crime, and those who lived, worked, and died in the closes. There are dark



corners, narrow stairs, and eerie passages where the architecture itself feels like it holds its breath. At certain points, you'll meet costumed characters—former residents of the Close—who bring the whispers of history into focus with their voices and stories.

This isn't just a history walk—it's an emotional journey. You come away not just knowing the facts, but feeling the weight of lives lost, the rawness of fear, and the strength of those who endured despite it. It's perfect for Halloween: haunting, thoughtful, a little unsettling—but in a way that makes you appreciate Edinburgh's richness of history all the more.

Good night and sweet dreams... see you in the morning.

Day 3

Thursday, October 30, 2025

The Borders & Sacred Mysteries

- Rosslyn Chapel – Apprentice Pillar, Green Man carvings, Templar legends.
- Melrose Abbey – Cistercian ruins, heart of Robert the Bruce.
- Lunch in Melrose at your leisure and own cost
- Sir Williams Scott's View
- William Wallace Statue
- Return to Edinburgh evening

Level Grade Today: Level 1 thru 2. Wear a comfortable walking shoe today. Bring everything for the day with you. (Yes, you can bring lunch and snacks with you.)

Da Vinci Code and Scottish Borders Day Trip from Edinburgh to the Rosslyn Chapel and Melrose Abbey, Sir Walter Scott's View, William Wallace Statue, and Tweed Valley and River.

Make sure you arrange to eat breakfast before we start the tour either at the hotel or the surrounding area. No stops along the way to the Bus Station.

Tickets are included to the Rosslyn Chapel and Melrose Abbey. No other tickets are needed for Scott's View or William Wallace Statue.

9:00 am Meet in Hotel Lobby for a morning walk to the Bus Station

Tour Bus: Rabbits Tour Bus – Departure 09:45 am (we can't wait for latecomers - please ensure you arrive 15 minutes prior to departure).

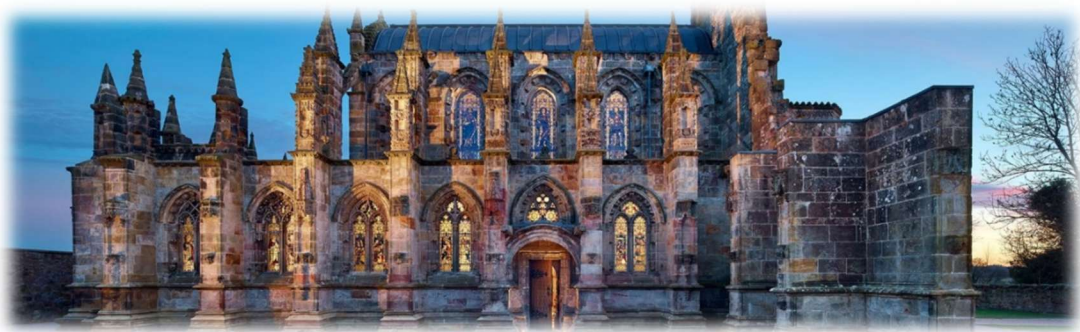
Departure Gate: Gate J and Gate K,
Edinburgh Bus Station, St Andrew Square,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ



You're restricted to 14kg of luggage per person. This may consist of a small bag for onboard personal items and a larger suitcase or rucksack.

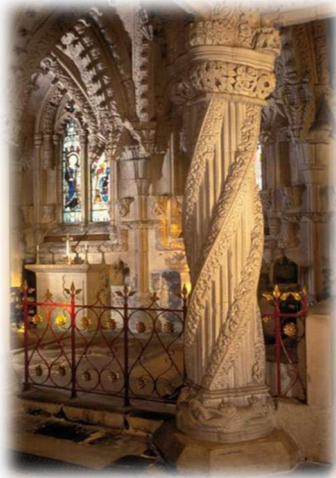
Your Experience: Experience the legend and mystery of Rosslyn Chapel and the Holy Grail on this 6-hour 'Da Vinci Code' tour from Edinburgh. In a small group, travel to the charming town of Melrose and through the Scottish borderlands. Explore Melrose Abbey and Rosslyn Chapel, and hear intriguing tales of Cistercian monks, the Knights Templar and Robert the Bruce. Highlights include Melrose, Rosslyn Abbey and the Scottish Borders from Edinburgh Visit locations featured in Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code* Hear the true history of Rosslyn Abbey.

Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 as a place of worship and services continue to be held here weekly. The Chapel has also been a popular destination for visitors for generations. By the late 18th-century, it was starting to appear on itineraries and its profile greatly increased after the publication of Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, in 2003, and the subsequent film. Rosslyn Chapel Trust was established in 1995 to care for the Chapel and oversee its conservation and public access.



Rosslyn Chapel

Inside the Chapel is the famous, **"Apprentice Pillar"**. It is the most elaborately decorated pillar in the Chapel



This pillar contains one of the most famous and fascinating riddles of the building. An apprentice mason is said to have carved the pillar, inspired by a dream, in his master's absence. On seeing the magnificent achievement on his return, the master mason flew into a jealous rage and struck the apprentice, killing him outright.

Musical Cubes: Carved cubes that protrude from the arches of the Lady Chapel

Each one of these cubes is unique, carved with individual symbols made up of lines and dots. Various theories suggest that these may represent keys to a secret code or be musical notes. The Rosslyn Motet has recently been composed as one 'solution' to the code.



Green Man Deity is a sculpture, or other representation of a face surrounded by or made from leaves. Branches or vines may sprout from the mouth, nostrils, or other parts of the face and these shoots may bear flowers or fruit., Green Men are frequently found in carvings on both secular and ecclesiastical buildings.



One of the best examples of over 100 'Green Man' carvings in the Chapel



Davinci Code scene in Rosslyn Chapel

Lunch in Melrose: Your choice of your location. At your own cost. Don't miss the chocolate and tea shop. Get a big box to take home. They are the best ever. Take a stroll through the local garden. (Lunch is at your own cost).

Melrose Chapel at St Mary's Abbey, Melrose is a partly ruined monastery of the Cistercian order in Melrose, Roxburghshire, in the Scottish Borders. It was founded in 1136 by Cistercian monks at the request of King David I of Scotland, and was the chief house of that order in the country until the Reformation. It was headed by the Abbot or Commendator of Melrose. Today the abbey is maintained by Historic Scotland.



Melrose Chapel



Scott's View is a viewpoint in the Scottish Borders, overlooking the valley of the River Tweed, which is reputed to be one of the favourite views of Sir Walter Scott.

According to a popular story, Sir Walter Scott stopped at this point so often on the way to his home at

Abbotsford, that his horses would halt without command. After his death in 1832, his funeral cortège passed this way en route to his burial at Dryburgh Abbey, and his horses stopped at his favourite view to allow their master a last look at the Borders landscape.

William Wallace Statue. Wallace was considered one of Scotland's great heroes. The "Guardian of Scotland" played a hugely important role in the battle against England for Scottish independence in the 13th century.

On August 5, 1305, English forces captured Wallace, likely by treachery. 18 days later, Wallace was hanged, disemboweled, beheaded, and



quartered. In 1306, Robert the Bruce took up the cause and eventually succeeded in winning Scottish independence.

David Stewart Erskine, the 11th Earl of Buchan, commissioned this statue of Wallace in 1814. At the time of its erection, it was painted white, although the paint has long since peeled away and faded.

The statue depicts Wallace in red sandstone and shows him standing, taking in the views over the River Tweed below. The statue stands 30 feet (9.4 meters) high. John Smith of Darnick, a self-taught sculptor, worked from a portrait of Wallace found in France to make the statue. Smith's statue shows Wallace clad in medieval Scottish armor, with a sword in his right hand and a shield hanging from his left.

Return to Edinburgh Bus State at St. Andrew's Square. Approx 5 to 6 pm.

Evening Free. Dinner your own arrangements.

Day 4

Friday, October 31, 2025

Royal Edinburgh & Samhuinn

- Palace of Holyroodhouse – Mary Queen of Scots' chambers, Abbey ruins, gardens.
- Lunch at the Holyrood Palace
- Arthur's Seat – Hillwalk & legends of King Arthur.
- St. Margaret's Well and Loch
- Canongate Kirkyard – Historic cemetery.
- Bakehouse Close (Carfax Close) - Jamie's Printshop *
- Calton Hill – Fairy folklore, panoramic city views
- Samhuinn Fire Festival – Celtic celebration of winter's arrival. 6:30 to 11:00pm

Level Grade Today: Level 1 to 5, Wear your sturdiest comfortable walking shoe today.

Make sure you arrange to eat breakfast before we start the tour either at the hotel or the surrounding area.

8:15 am Meet in Hotel Lobby for a morning walk to the Hop on Hop off Bus. An 8 min. walk. Yes, we will pass Starbucks on the way. Get on the Bus at 9:00 am at stop #1 on the Map. (Buses are approx. 15 min. apart)

9:00 a.m. Get on the Bus at 9:00 am at (See Map) (Buses are approx. 15 min. apart)
Get off Bus Stop (See Map) Holyrood for Holyrood Place, Abbey, and Arthur's Seat.

9:30 a.m. Reservations Tickets already purchased for the Holyrood Palace and is included in the price of the tour.

9:30 am The Holyrood Palace and Holyrood Gardens and Abbey



Holyrood Palace

The Palace commonly referred to as Holyrood Palace, is the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland. Located at the bottom of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, at the opposite end of Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace has served as the principal residence of

the Kings and Queens of Scots since the 16th century and is a setting for state occasions and official entertaining.

Queen Elizabeth used to spend one week in residence at Holyrood Palace at the beginning of each summer, where she carried out a range of official engagements and ceremonies. The 16th century Historic Apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots and the State Apartments was used for official and state entertaining, are open to the public throughout the year, except when members of the Royal Family are in residence.

Holyrood Palace Gardens and Abbey. The 4-hectare Palace gardens are encircled by the Queen's park and set against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat.

The first gardens associated with the site were granted in Holyrood Abbey's foundation charter and belonged to the community of canons. They were established at the foot of Edinburgh Castle, where Princes Street Gardens are



Holyrood Palace and Gardens

today. Over time several more gardens and orchards were created around the Abbey.

Holyrood Abbey offered the right of sanctuary for those who could not pay their debts. The debtors, known

as 'Abbey lairds', found shelter from their creditors within the Abbey boundaries, which included Holyrood Park. As the debtors were only allowed to leave the sanctuary on Sundays, tradesmen saw the opportunity to set up business in the vicinity. Several of them occupied buildings that still survive today in the Abbey Strand.

In 1503, James IV built the first royal palace on the site, and Holyrood house became the main royal residence in Scotland. The gardens provided the setting for tournaments, hunting, hawking and archery, and there was a tennis court to the west, near the Abbey Strand buildings.

The area around the north wall of Holyrood Abbey was the site of the Palace menagerie, a common feature at European courts. Tigers (in the reign of James IV), lynx, bears, gamecocks, an ape (given to James V in 1535) and a camel (in the reign of James VI) were housed here. A lion yard and stone lion house were built in 1512.

By the time Mary, Queen of Scots was resident at the Palace, there was a series of enclosed gardens, including a walled Privy Garden to the north, and areas for cultivation and recreation. Mary practiced archery, hawking, hunting (for which wild boars were brought from France), bowls and tennis in the garden. A young sycamore that she brought with her from France was planted by the Abbey

cloister. It grew here until 1819, when it was blown down and its wood made into trinkets. A Scottish sycamore grows in this part of the garden today.

One of the garden's earliest features is Queen Mary's Sundial, made by John Mylne in 1633 for Charles I's coronation in the Abbey. It carries the insignias of Charles I and his grandmother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Sundials were popular in 16th- and 17th-century Scotland – it is thought that they were more common in Scotland at this time than in any other country in Europe.

Charles II's expansion of the Palace in the 1670s originally included a new Privy Garden with gravel walks and statuary. The newly created State Apartments would have overlooked the garden, but the plans were never carried out.

A small physic garden was established at the Palace in 1670 and became the origins of Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. Its purpose was to teach students the rudiments of botany and the medicinal properties of plants, and to provide pharmacists with fresh material. The garden was still flourishing in the early 18th century, when Daniel Defoe described it as 'tolerably well stored with simples, and some exotics of value' and having 'a rhubarb tree, or plant...which thrive very well'

(A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain of 1724).



Holyrood Gardens

At the height of its occupation as a sanctuary, Holyrood sheltered around 6,500 debtors, including members of the aristocracy. Among them was the Comte d'Artois, younger brother of the French king, Louis XVI. In exile since the beginning of the French

Revolution, the Comte led an army against the French revolutionary troops. Defeated and unable to pay his soldiers, he arrived at Holyrood in 1796, having been granted refuge by the British government.

In 1830-32 he returned to the Palace, this time as the deposed Charles X of France and accompanied by his two grandchildren. His grandson, the Duc de Bordeaux practiced archery in the gardens, irritating locals by shooting on a Sunday. Before he left Edinburgh for good,

Charles X was seen taking seeds from the flower garden that he had tended for two years. Although imprisonment for debt was abolished in 1880, the ancient right of sanctuary within the grounds of Holyrood has never been repealed.

By the time Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their family stayed at the Palace, the gardens were overgrown, and the surrounding area consisted of slums and industrial buildings. Prince Albert created a new carriage approach to the north of the Palace, sweeping away the Privy Garden in the process, and established new planting areas to the north and south. A garden wall to the east provided the same effect as the original 18th-century ha-ha, or hidden ditch, giving the impression that the Palace garden flowed into the expanse of Holyrood Park beyond.

The Palace gardens have been improved and updated during the present reign. The Jubilee Border was originally planted with silver flowers and plants to mark The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. In 2002 the planting scheme was changed to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and now includes yellow roses, potentillas, coreopsis and verbasum.

Every year 8,000 guests attend The Queen's Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood house, a tradition established by King George V and Queen Mary. On such occasions, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh are accompanied by the Royal Company of Archers, which since 1822 has served as the Sovereign's bodyguard in Scotland.

The Royal Company was originally formed as an Archery Club in 1676, and the longbow is still its principal weapon. They practice archery in the Palace gardens three times a week during the summer months and compete for The Queen's Prize each year before the Garden Party.

During The Queen's Garden Party, the bandmaster stands on the garden's famous mound to conduct the band. The mound was always thought to be a manmade landscape feature, until an archaeological dig by Channel 4's 'Time Team' in 2006 revealed it to be the remains of a 17th-century kitchen midden.

Today seven greenhouses supply the Palace of Holyrood house with flowers for the visits of King Charles, Duke of Rothesay and the Lord High Commissioner, for Royal Week and for many other official events that take place throughout the year.



Holyrood Abbey, which lies adjacent to the Palace in the spectacular setting of Arthur's Seat. Escorted by Wardens dressed in their ancient hunting Stewart tartan, you will learn about the building's extraordinary history.

The Abbey was founded in 1128 by King David I of Scotland for the Augustinian Canons.

According to medieval legend, a vision of a stag with a cross glowing between its antlers came to David while hunting in the area. Interpreting this as an act of God, the King declared that an abbey should be built on the same spot. Holy Rood, the name of the abbey and subsequently the Palace, means 'Holy Cross', a fragment of which had been brought to Scotland by David I's mother, St Margaret, and kept at the Abbey until the 14th century.

The picturesque remains of the Abbey have influenced numerous artists and writers, among them Felix Mendelssohn. Their melancholy grandeur inspired the composer's great Scottish symphony.

Visit the Holyrood Gift Shop after your visit to the Abbey and Gardens and join us for lunch.

11:30 am Lunch Café at the Palace. Located on the Holyrood grounds near the entrance. We will enjoy café take away style lunch and grab an extra bottle of water for your walk to Arthur's Seat. Seating is available at the Palace.

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Arthur's Seat.



Arthur's Seat, together from the Café at the Palace we will take an easy walk to Arthur's Seat. You decide how high you want to walk up the hill. There are 3-levels. 1st level looks out over St. Margaret's Loch (lake). Sit relax meditate and enjoy the view. 2nd level leads you to St. Anthony's Chapel ruins. (both locations have lovely view. 3rd level is for those who want to continue to the top on their own.

Level 1: Easy 5 to 10 min. walk

Level 2: Moderate sturdy walking shoe 15 min.

Level 3: Challenging self-guided. Sturdy walking shoe 40 to 60 min. walked based on your pace.

Once group 2 finishes they will pick up group one and we are free to go back to the Red Bus Stop and explore and have dinner at your own arrangements and cost. Group 3 will be on their own to return and pick up the Red Bus.

Arthur's Seat is the main peak of the group of mountains in Edinburgh, United Kingdom which form most of Holyrood Park, described by Robert Louis Stevenson as "a hill for magnitude, a mountain in virtue of its bold design". It is situated in the center of the city of Edinburgh, about 1 mile (1.6 km) to the east of Edinburgh Castle. The hill rises above the city to a height of 250.5 m (822 ft.), provides excellent panoramic views of the city, is relatively easy to climb, and is popular for hillwalking. Though it can be climbed from almost any direction, the easiest and simplest ascent is from the east, where a grassy slope rises above Dunsapie Loch. At a spur of the hill, Salisbury Crags has historically been a rock-climbing venue with routes of various degrees of difficulty; however due to hazards rock climbing is now restricted to the South Quarry and a free permit is required.

Many have claimed that its name is derived from the myriad legends pertaining to **King Arthur**. Some support for this theory may be provided by several other hilltop and mountaintop features in Britain which bear the same or similar names, such as the peak of Ben Arthur (The Cobbler) in the western highlands, sometimes known as Arthur's Seat, and Arthur's Chair on the ridge called Stone Arthur in the Cumbrian lake district.

St. Margaret's Well

Located at the foot of Arthur's Seat. It is one of Scotland's most beautiful and historically evocative holy wells. The small Gothic well-house now standing in Holyrood Park was not originally built there — it was first located at Restalrig, near St Triduana's Aisle, and dates to the



late 15th century. When railway expansion in 1860 threatened its original site, the structure was carefully dismantled stone by stone and re-erected beside a natural spring beneath Salisbury Crag. The well-house's rib-vaulted ceiling, central pillar, and carved bosses make it a miniature architectural gem — a devotional shrine to healing water.

Over the centuries, the spring feeding St. Margaret's Well became associated with both sacred and legendary traditions. Some say its waters are connected to the ancient Well of the Holy Rood, where King David I was saved from a charging stag — a vision of a cross appearing between its antlers inspired the founding of nearby Holyrood Abbey. Others viewed the well as a place of physical and spiritual renewal, its waters believed to hold curative power. Pilgrims once traveled to it for healing and blessing, and although the well is now protected behind a metal grill, visitors still leave coins and wishes as offerings.

The well lies below Queen's Drive, not far from St Anthony's Chapel ruins, and offers a quiet, mystical corner of Holyrood Park. A plaque on its wall recounts its relocation from Restalrig and notes that its design echoes that of St Triduana's Aisle — a subtle architectural homage linking it to one of Edinburgh's earliest centers of pilgrimage. The surrounding landscape, filled with ancient springs and

sacred stones, once held several holy wells, but St. Margaret's remains the best preserved and most visited.

St. Margaret's Loch, lying just downhill from the well, forms a tranquil mirror at the foot of Arthur's Seat. Unlike the well, the loch is not ancient but Victorian — a man-made feature created in 1856 under the direction of Prince Albert as part of landscape improvements around Holyrood Palace. The loch transformed what had been a marshy hollow into an ornamental body of water designed for boating and leisure. Today it serves mainly as a haven for wildlife, home to graceful swans, ducks, and geese that glide across its surface in view of the crags above.

Visitors walking the Holyrood Park loop can easily find both landmarks along Queen's Drive — the sacred well tucked into the hillside and the shimmering loch below, reflecting the sky and the ruins of St Anthony's Chapel nearby. Together they embody two faces of Edinburgh's sacred landscape: the ancient holy spring of devotion and healing, and the Victorian loch of beauty and contemplation — each bearing the name of St Margaret of Scotland, the queen and saint who long symbolized compassion, charity, and the blending of piety with place.

2:30 to 3:00 pm Canongate Kirkyard

This Kirkyard is one of Edinburgh's most atmospheric historic cemeteries, resting quietly along the lower stretch of the Royal Mile near Holyrood Palace. It surrounds Canongate Kirk, a church built between 1688 and 1691 to serve the residents of the Canongate burgh after Holyrood Abbey was taken for royal use. The kirk's architecture is distinctive — simple yet elegant, with a Dutch gable façade and a symmetrical design more reminiscent of European Protestant churches than typical Scottish ones. Behind it lies the kirkyard, enclosed by old stone walls and shaded by mature trees, where centuries of Edinburgh's history are written in weathered sandstone.



The kirkyard has been in continuous use since the late 17th century and contains the graves of many of Scotland's most notable figures. Among them is Adam Smith, the moral philosopher and economist whose *Wealth of Nations* helped shape modern capitalism. His grave, often adorned with coins and notes left by admirers, is one of the most visited. Nearby lies Robert Fergusson, the brilliant young poet whose lyrical Scots verse inspired Robert Burns; Burns later paid for and personally inscribed his headstone. Another literary connection is Agnes Maclehose, known to Burns as "Clarinda," his poetic muse and correspondent. Her grave lies within sight of Fergusson's, linking three of Scotland's most enduring literary spirits.

Legend also holds that David Rizzio, secretary to Mary, Queen of Scots, was buried here after his infamous murder at Holyrood Palace in 1566. Though historians doubt the claim, the tradition adds to the kirkyard's aura of intrigue. Another oft-told tale involves Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie, a corn merchant whose gravestone supposedly inspired Charles Dickens to create the character of Ebenezer Scrooge after misreading the inscription "meal man" as "mean man."

Canongate Kirkyard is compact but rich in atmosphere, its paths winding between moss-covered stones, ornate tombs, and epitaphs that reveal the artistry and mortality of earlier centuries. Spring blossoms soften the austerity of the old monuments, while autumn brings a russet glow to the trees and fallen leaves. Standing among the graves, with the hum of the Royal Mile just beyond the gate, one feels suspended between worlds — where the city's civic life meets its soul. It remains a place of reflection, history, and quiet reverence for the thinkers, poets, and dreamers who helped shape Scotland's spirit.

It's Outlander TV Series Connection: While Canongate Kirkyard itself does not feature prominently as an on-screen location in *Outlander*, it holds an important place within the story's broader Edinburgh setting. In both Diana Gabaldon's novels and the TV adaptation, the Canongate area is woven into the world of Dragonfly in Amber and Voyager, when Jamie Fraser is living under an assumed name in eighteenth-century Edinburgh. The Kirk of the Canongate is mentioned as a meeting place arranged by Colum Mackenzie, where Jamie and Claire reunite with members of the MacKenzie family during tense political discussions. Its proximity to Holyrood Palace makes it a fitting and historically accurate backdrop for those scenes, reflecting the real Canongate's role as the heart of the royal burgh leading to the palace gates

3:15 pm to 3:30 pm Bakehouse Close



is one of the most atmospheric and best-preserved medieval closes along Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Tucked between tall tenements in the Canongate district, it is entered through a narrow stone archway that opens into a quiet courtyard surrounded by 16th- and 17th-century buildings. Its name comes from the bakers who once lived and worked here, and the area's historic charm

has been carefully maintained, with cobbled paving, worn stone steps, and overhanging upper stories that evoke the texture of old Edinburgh. The close once housed merchant families such as the Achesons, whose fine townhouse still stands as one of the best surviving examples of Renaissance domestic architecture in the city.

In the *Outlander* television series, Bakehouse Close became one of the most famous filming locations in Edinburgh. It stands in for Carfax Close, where Jamie Fraser runs his printing business under the name Alexander Malcolm. Fans of the series will recognize it instantly from the emotional Season 3 episode "A. Malcolm," when Claire, having returned to the 18th century, walks through the close and up a narrow staircase to Jamie's printshop for their long-awaited reunion. The scene was filmed largely on location, using Bakehouse Close's authentic stonework and stairway to capture the intimate, time-worn feel of eighteenth-century Edinburgh.

In real history, Bakehouse Close was a working thoroughfare filled with tradespeople, apprentices, and craftsmen. The combination of its narrow proportions, worn stone, and hidden courtyards makes it one of the most evocative remnants of the Old Town's medieval street pattern. Today, the close is a favorite stop on *Outlander*-themed walking tours, where visitors can stand at the same spot where Claire pauses before entering the printshop and where Jamie turns in astonishment to see her again after twenty years apart. Beyond its fame as

a filming location, Bakehouse Close offers a rare glimpse of the city as it once was — a preserved pocket of old Edinburgh where history, story, and romance still linger in the air.

3:30 pm Break for Evening and Samhain Event at Calton Hill later tonight.

BREAK 3:30 pm to 6:00 PM

Dinner your own arrangements and rest.

6:00 pm Meet in Hotel Lobby to go to Calton Hill – (10–15 minutes walking) Walk to Calton Hill. Wear a good walking shoes

6:30 – 11:00 pm Samhuinn Celebrations - Calton Hill and the National Monument on Calton Hill - Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH13BJ

What will we be doing?

Samhuinn Fire Festival 2025: Face the Dark, Find Community

As the nights grow long
and the veil thins,
Edinburgh gathers to mark
the turning of the seasons
with Samhuinn Fire
Festival. Join us on Friday
31st October as fire, music,
and myth usher in the
changing of the seasons,
and celebrate the
beginning of winter.



Samhuinn reimagines ancient Celtic traditions through modern performance, telling of the struggle between Summer and Winter, light and dark. On Calton Hill, you'll find drummers, acrobats, performers, and a cavalcade of mysterious characters amidst the transformative fires of Samhuinn.

This year, the festival looks to radical connection: the strength we find in each other, the wisdom of perspective, and the courage to face our shadows.

At the heart stands the Cailleach, the divine Crone, who asks:

Have you lived with care and courage? Have you supported your community, and looked with nuance?

Guided by the Cailleach, we'll walk beside Her deer through the shifting seasons, and witness the Summer and Winter Court as they battle in the turning of the wheel.

Step into the dark this Samhuinn, and find strength in fire, story, and community.

Event Information:

FOOD & DRINKS

You are welcome to bring your own food and drink to the event, and we only ask that you do not bring any glass bottles/containers. Also Security will refuse entry if you are bringing an excessive quantity of alcohol (e.g. a giant slab of lager).

We have a small range of food concessions run by local businesses and serving a selection of delectables to keep you going. There will be vegan options available.



SEATING/STANDING/GROUND CONDITIONS

We do not provide any seating, attendees are welcome to bring camping chairs - but please follow the instructions of the Stewards and Security, there are some areas (or times) which chairs may not be appropriate. Please take everything you bring away with you.

The ground on Calton Hill is uneven and when its raining the grass becomes slippery. Despite our best efforts to have lots of fire and temporary event lighting - it is deepest darkest October and some parts of the park will be very dark

- wear sensible shoes (good walking boots)
- take your time moving around the site
- bring a torch/flashlight/lantern
- please help each other

For details of special access arrangements (including requesting a companion ticket and booking prearranged vehicle/taxi drop off please contact access [at] beltane [dot] org (after you have purchased your own ticket). **We have out Tickets for the Tour.** The Event is Now Sold Out.

TOILETS

We have a small number of chemical toilets, please help minimise the queues by going to the loo before leaving the house.

There is also a stewarded wheelchair accessible portaloo located in the welfare/first aid area.

Please use them considerately and leave them for the next person as you would wish to find them.

WASTE/LITTER/RECYCLING

There will be additional waste bins in the park for you to put in your waste.

We have Dry Mixed recycling and general waste, and all waste is sorted, separated and and processed for recycling off site.

Please help us minimize damage to the park by either binning your waste or taking it home with you - leave no trace!

Safer Spaces

Beltane Fire Society events operate within a culture of creating safer spaces built on mutual respect and consent. We expect all attendees to embrace this culture

and to call out breaches – seek a steward if you see something which endangers our safer space.

BFS aims to provide a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere. Harassment of performers or other audience members will not be tolerated.

Being Around Fire at a Fire Festival

Help yourself by staying out of performance and production areas, which will be marked out with either ropes, barriers or fences with signs

The event does include a lot of fire, although there won't be any big fire works
Follow the directions given by BFS Stewards and technical crew



Please avoid wearing synthetic clothes (but do wrap up for being outside in Scotland)

Please try to observe a 2 meter minimum distance from performers moving or performing with fire.

Familiarise yourself with where the medical assistance is (the ambulances near to the stage).

The bonfire will be lit early on in the event and will be kept going by our fire stewards, follow their instructions and stay behind the crowd barriers

Do not play with the fires, our volunteers have trained for months to be here this evening..

Use of Camera's and Smart Phones

Flash photography can be very distracting for performers, we ask that you switch off the flash on your phone or camera.

Please do not hold your phone or camera in the faces of our participants, they are volunteers and do not enjoy close proximity interactions with phone and camera lenses.

Drone use is not permitted on site and the police will be called should a drone come into the airspace above the festival.

We would much prefer it if you kept your devices in your pockets and celebrated the festival with us with your hands free to clap and your eyes free to watch

Do not walk backwards holding a camera/camera phone, the ground is uneven and you wont be paying attention.

Prohibited items

We do not permit members of the public to bring or use the following items on our event site;

Large Bags/airport luggage - please no bigger than an A3 piece of paper: we do not have a cloakroom/left luggage.

Glass

Drums

Loud instruments

Fire Props

Fireworks

BBQs, Fire Pits or Fire Wood

Flammable Liquids

Dogs (Except Guide Dogs)

Drones

Random Search Policy will be in effect; the event safety team reserve the right to refuse admission .

Calton Hill – A Fairy Dwelling



Calton Hill

Calton Hill is the location of a fairy dwelling located inside the hill. Faeries gathered for dancing and feasting every Thursday. In the 17th century, a 10-year-old boy was interviewed by George Burton, as the boy claimed he met the faeries in the hill and played for them on his drum. He entered the hill through a pair of faery gates, that

opened only for him and no one else could see. He said there were brave large room in the hill, and he spent many musical nights celebrating with the faeries. Sometimes the faeries use to take him for France, or Holland at in a single night. He believed the faeries had bestowed upon him his psychic abilities.

Calton Hill is the venue for several events throughout the year. The largest of these is the Beltane Fire Festival held on 30 April each year, attended by over 12,000 people.

Look out for the variety of characters on show too, like the magisterial May Queen and the red men, who give the event a wholly otherworldly feel. Then once their majestic story is played out, a bonfire is lit and the dancing commences, gleefully ensuring a mass celebration of the death of spring and the birth of summer.

Calton Hill is a hill in central Edinburgh, Scotland, situated beyond the east end of Princes Street and included in the city's UNESCO World Heritage Site. Views of, and from, the hill are often used in photographs and paintings of the city.

The National Monument of Scotland on Calton Hill

The National Monument of Scotland, on Calton Hill in Edinburgh, is Scotland's national memorial to the Scottish soldiers and sailors who died fighting in the Napoleonic Wars. It



The National Monument of Scotland

was intended, according to the inscription, to be "A Memorial of the Past and Incentive to the Future Heroism of the Men of Scotland".

The monument dominates the top of Calton Hill, just to the east of Princes Street. It was designed during 1823–6 by Charles Robert Cockerell and William Henry Playfair and is modelled upon the Parthenon in Athens. Construction started in 1826 and, due to the lack of funds, was left unfinished in 1829. This circumstance gave rise to various nicknames such as "Scotland's Folly," "Edinburgh's Disgrace," "the Pride and Poverty of Scotland" and "Edinburgh's Folly"

Calton Hill is the headquarters of the Scottish Government, which is based at St Andrew's House, on the steep southern slope of the hill; with the Scottish Parliament Building, and other notable buildings, for example Holyrood Palace, lying near the foot of the hill. The hill is also the location of several iconic monuments and buildings: The National Monument, the Nelson Monument, the Dugald Stewart Monument, the old Royal High School, the Robert Burns Monument, the Political Martyrs' Monument and the City Observatory.

Day 5

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Outlander & Highland Heritage

- Midhope Castle (Lallybroch) – Jamie Fraser’s home. * (Tickets Included)
- Blackness Castle (Fort William) – “The ship that never sailed,” used as Fort William in Outlander. Ticket’s included for traveler * (Ticket’s Included)
- Linlithgow Palace (Wentworth Prison) - Outlander used Linlithgow Palace as Wentworth Prison, where Jamie Fraser is held and tortured by Black Jack Randall. Also of Mary Queen of Scotts home and birthplace. * (Ticket’s not included **£11 your cost**)
- Lunch in Linlithgow at your own expense
- Doune Castle (Castle Leoch) – Castle Leoch in Outlander, historic Jacobite site. * (Tickets included)
- Culross Town – Castle Palace/Royal Burg Palace and Gardens– 16th-century village, Geillis Duncan’s home (Outlander). * (Tickets not included **£13.50.**)
- Evening return to Edinburgh.

Level Grade Today: Level 1 thru 2. Wear a comfortable walking shoe today. Bring everything for the day with you. (Yes, you can bring lunch and snacks with you.)

Tickets that included in the cost of the tour are: Doune Castle, Lallybroch and Blackness Castle

Other entry tickets to town events, meals, entrance fees are **not included**. Culcross Palace and Royal Burgh tickets not included **£13.50**. Linlithgow Castle tickets are **not included £11**.

Make sure you arrange to eat breakfast before we start the tour either at the hotel or the surrounding area. No stops along the way to the Bus Station.

8:30 am Meet in Hotel Lobby for a morning walk to the Bus Station

Tour Bus: Rabbies Tour Bus. Check in at 9.15am for tour departure at 09.30am.
Tour returns at 6.30pm.

For More Outlander Filming Location Hot Spots: Get an Outlander Film Locations Map or the book Outlander's Scotland by Pitkin

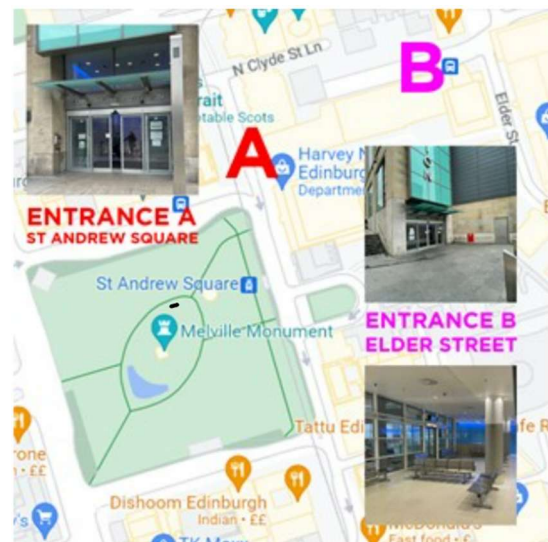
Departure and drop off point:
Edinburgh Bus Station (inside,
Gate J and K*), St. Andrew
Square, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1
3DQ

Departure gate subject to change.
Please refer to the departure
screens inside Edinburgh Bus
Station for gate info. Check-in
staff will be wearing yellow Highland Explorer vests to greet you.



Edinburgh Bus Station can be accessed
through two entrances: St Andrew
Square and Elder Street.

Your Experience: Travel back to the
action-packed world of Outlander on a
coach trip to Scotland's TV filming
locations. Enjoy a guided tour from
Edinburgh to the Highland areas
featured in the popular program like
villages of Culross and Linthigow Castle
and cinematic landmarks like Castle
Leoch (Doune Castle).



the
—

Along the way, enjoy insider stories and trivia about the series, cast and crew.
Highlights Private day trip of Scotland's Outlander filming locations from Edinburgh

See the home of Geillis Duncan in the rural village of Culross and visit Lallybroch,
Jamie Fraser's childhood home Gain insight into the Highlands of the early 1740s, a

volatile period before the Jacobite rising Hear insider stories about the cast, crew and filming locations.

Bonus! Your private tour grants exclusive access to the closed filming location in Lallybroch. As you travel, enjoy little-known stories about the show's production. Test yourself with entertaining trivia about clans, warfare, Scottish history and signature Outlander characters! Your 9-hour tour concludes with an early evening return to your Edinburgh.

Midhope Castle – Lallybroch (Tickets are included)

This location of the Outlander TV series was the home of Jamie Fraser.

Midhope Castle dates back to the 15th century. The castle is derelict inside but preserved outside. The castle is part of a private estate. The land is still a working farm. Access requires permission.



In the 15th-century Midhope belonged to the Martin family. During the latter 16th century, the castle belonged to

Alexander Drummond of Midhope, brother to Robert Drummond of Carnock, Master of Work to the Crown of Scotland. A stone inscribed "AD 1582 MB" commemorates Alexander and his wife Marjory Bruce, daughter of Robert Bruce of Airth.

Blackness Castle - Fort William (Tickets are included)

Blackness Castle stands by the Firth of Forth, at the port that served the royal burgh of Linlithgow in medieval times. Though built in the 15th century as a lordly

residence for the Crichtons, one of Scotland's more powerful families, it soon took on other roles.

Blackness went on to become:

- a royal castle, in 1453
- a garrison fortress
- a state prison
- an ammunition depot, in the later 19th century

Blackness Castle, Scotland!
Blackness Castle was used as the filming location for Fort William in the TV programme Outlander, where Jamie receives a whipping from Black Jack Randal

The castle was decommissioned after the First World War and passed into state care as a visitor attraction.



Blackness Castle

The ship that never sailed

Blackness is often called 'the ship that never sailed'. From the seaward side it looks just like a great stone ship run aground.

Its pointed stem projects into the water, while the square stern stands beached on dry land.

The castle's three towers add to the effect:

1. the small 'stem' tower at the prow
2. its tall, central 'main mast' tower
3. the solid 'stern' tower at the rear

A formidable artillery fortification. In 1537, James V began to convert the castle into a state prison and artillery fortification. His ambitious project was driven by the looming threat from Henry VIII's Protestant England. Work completed in 1542, just before the Wars of the Rough Wooing.

Mighty Blackness wasn't subtle like the great Italianate artillery fortifications. Instead, enemies approaching from the land met with a brute mass of masonry (the 'stern' tower) and cannons fired through great gunholes positioned to give all-round firepower.

The vastly strengthened castle withstood various sieges, until in 1650 Oliver Cromwell's heavy guns devastated the defences, forcing the garrison to surrender. The scars remain today.

A state prison Blackness was intended to provide a suitable residence for a nobleman. But its chief use was as a garrison stronghold and a state prison on behalf of the reigning sovereign.

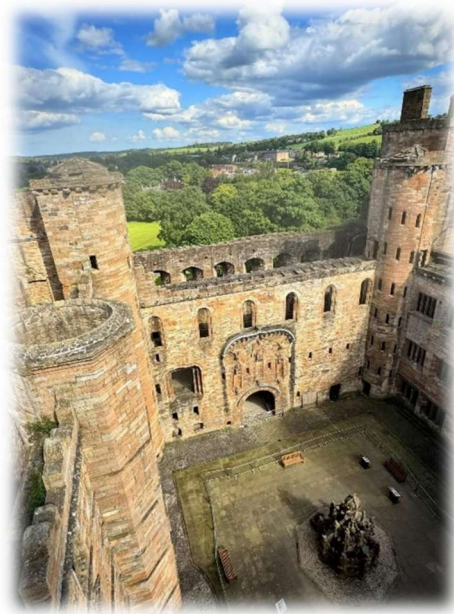
Many high status prisoners were held here in later medieval times. The most famous was Cardinal David Beaton, Archbishop of St Andrews, in 1543. Beaton was for a long time one of the main rivals of the Earl of Arran, who was Regent of Scotland when Mary Queen of Scots was an infant.

In the 'Killing Time' of the 1670s and 1680s, Charles II and James VII imprisoned many Covenanters here. In the later 1700s, Blackness was a prison of war for foreign sailors and soldiers captured during the wars with France, Spain and the fledgling USA.

Linlithgow Palace - Wentworth Prison (Ticket at your own cost £11 – not included in the tour)

Linlithgow Palace, located between Edinburgh and Stirling, is one of Scotland's most magnificent royal residences. Built in the 15th century by **James I of Scotland**, it became a favored home of the Stuart monarchs. The palace overlooks **Linlithgow Loch**, creating a striking, almost mystical setting that still carries an air of regal grace despite its current ruined state.

It's most famous as the **birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots**, who was born there in **December 1542**. Her mother, **Mary of Guise**, resided there during her pregnancy while her husband, King James V, was away and gravely ill. James V died only six days after Mary's birth, leaving the infant as Queen of Scotland.



Linlithgow Palace

During its peak, Linlithgow Palace was a lavish retreat—more of a pleasure palace than a fortress—used by the royal family when traveling between Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle. It hosted great banquets, royal christenings, and court festivities. After the **Jacobite Rebellion of 1745**, the palace fell into decline and was later gutted by fire in 1746 when government troops passed through after the Battle of Falkirk.

Even as a ruin, its intricate stonework, grand staircases, and ornate fountains reveal the elegance and artistry of Scotland's Renaissance court.

In Outlander TV Hotspot

In the *Outlander* television series, **Linlithgow Palace** appears as the **interior and entrance courtyard of Wentworth Prison**, where Jamie Fraser is imprisoned and brutally tortured by Captain Black Jack Randall in Season 1. The production team used its atmospheric halls, vaulted passageways, and crumbling stonework to portray the grim, oppressive tone of the infamous prison.

Fans often recognize the **arched doorways and staircases** of Linlithgow in the scenes where Claire and Murtagh attempt Jamie's daring rescue.

⌘ Wentworth Prison — The Real & Fictional In *Outlander*

Wentworth Prison is a *fictional* location in Diana Gabaldon's novels and the STARZ TV adaptation. In the story, it is the site of one of the series' most intense and emotional moments—Jamie's imprisonment, torture, and near-execution before Claire's rescue.

For the show, the crew filmed **Wentworth Prison scenes at multiple historical sites**, but the **main interiors and courtyard were filmed at Linlithgow Palace**. Additional scenes were filmed at **Blackness Castle**, located on the Firth of Forth near Linlithgow.

Lunch Linlithgow – at your own expense. Eat wherever you like.

Doune Castle – Castle Leoch. (Your ticket is included)

Visit Doune Castle*, one of Scotland's best preserved medieval castles and used as the setting for Castle Leoch in *Outlander*. The castle is also featured as Winterfell in *Game of Thrones* and Monty Python's *Holy Grail*. See the medieval Doune Castle – *Outlander*'s fictional Castle Leoch. Hear about the area's gruesome 18th-century battles that took place during the Jacobite rising, both fictional renditions and real-life warfare. Snap some photos of the castle from the outside or take an optional interior tour.



Doune Castle! Scene from Outlander TV Series

Culross - The Fictional Village Of Cranesmuir

Culross is a village and former royal burgh, and parish, in Fife, Scotland.

According to the 2006 estimate, the village has a population of 395. Originally, Culross served as a port city on the Firth of Forth and is believed to have been founded by Saint Serf during the 6th century.

The civil parish had a population of 4,348 in 2011



Culcross (Scenes from Outlander)

A legend states that when the British princess (and future saint) Teneu, daughter of the king of Lothian, became pregnant before marriage, her family threw her from a cliff. She survived the fall unharmed, and was soon met by an unmanned boat. She knew she had no home to go to, so she got into the boat; it sailed her across the Firth of Forth to land at Culross where she was cared for by Saint Serf; he became foster-father of her son, Saint Kentigern or Mungo

Several motion pictures have used Culross as a filming location, including Kidnapped (1971), The Little Vampire (2000), A Dying Breed (2007), The 39 Steps (2008), and Captain America: The First Avenger (2011). In September 2013, the Starz television series, Outlander, started filming in Culross for its premiere in August 2014.

Historic Culross is one of Scotland's most picturesque towns. It is believed that Culross was founded by St Serf, and is located in the south west of Fife, overlooking the Firth of Forth.

Wandering around this charming town is about as close to stepping back in time to the 16th century as possible. The whitewashed, red-tiled buildings are well preserved, such as the Town House, where witches were tried and held while awaiting execution.

🎬 Outlander Filming Locations in Culross

💖 1. Culross Palace & Gardens

- **Appears as:** *Claire's herb garden at Castle Leoch* (Season 1)
- The palace's terraced gardens were transformed into the medicinal herb gardens where **Claire Beauchamp Randall Fraser** gathers and prepares her remedies. You can still walk the same paths among the neatly kept beds of herbs and flowers that doubled for 1740s Highland life.
- The palace courtyard and exterior also appear in background village scenes.



🕯️ 2. Mercat Cross & The Town Square

- **Appears as:** The village of **Cranesmuir**, home to **Geillis Duncan** (Lotte Verbeek).
- The square was used for multiple scenes, including the **punishment scene** where a local girl has her ear nailed to the post, and when **Claire visits Geillis** at her home.
- The surrounding white and grey buildings were painted darker for filming to make them look sootier and more weathered.



🏠 3. Geillis Duncan's House (Culross Study Building)

- The small white building near the Mercat Cross served as **Geillis Duncan's home in Cranesmuir**.
- The interiors were filmed elsewhere, but the exterior door and narrow passageways are instantly recognizable from Season 1.



🍷 4. The Back Wynd & Kirk Street

- **Appears in:** Several atmospheric village shots showing everyday life in Cranesmuir.
- These lanes were dressed with market stalls, chickens, and washing lines for the show, and they retain the same historic charm for visitors exploring on foot.



💀 5. Culross Abbey & Churchyard

- Though not heavily featured on camera, the **Culross Abbey ruins and kirkyard** were used in establishing shots and are often included in Outlander tours. The site carries an unmistakable eerie stillness that resonates with the series' darker spiritual tone. This is a 5 to 10 minutes walk and you probably won't have enough time for this stop.



Bonus Outlander Connection

The **orange-harled Culross Palace** itself was the inspiration for several design cues later used in *Outlander* Season 2's French sets — the same gilded, merchant-class aesthetic mirrored in the Paris episodes.

Spiritual & Historical Layer

Culross holds its own sacred resonance beyond *Outlander*. Founded by **Saint Serf** in the 6th century and associated with **Saint Kentigern (Mungo)**, the town has ancient Christian roots overlaid on a much older pagan landscape. The gardens at Culross Palace, overlooking the water, carry a deeply **earthy and healing feminine energy** — fitting for Claire's "healer-priestess" archetype in the story.

Culroos Palace and Royal Burgh and Gardens - (Tickets not included, at own expense £13.50)

Culross Palace and Royal Burgh. The nearby ochre-colored Culross Palace, built by wealthy coal merchant George Bruce in the late 16th century, is in fact not a palace but a grand and impressive house.

Culross Palace is the filming location. Geillis Duncan's parlour where Jamie met Claire after her visit. Culross (aka Cranesmuir), is where characters Geillis and Arthur Duncan live.



You can explore the small rooms and connecting passageways, with wonderful painted ceilings, pine paneling, antique furniture and curios. The garden is planted with grasses, herbs and vegetables of the period.

Culross Palace is not really a palace nor indeed even royal, this attractive house was built between 1597 and 1611, by Sir George Bruce, and is an outstanding example of 17th century domestic architecture. The interiors are fascinating, with colorfully painted pine paneling depicting Biblical scenes, plus Dutch tiles, and authentic 17th and 18th century furniture.

The north wing is a separate building dating from 1611. It has a stables, byre and hayloft on the ground floor, and above these are apartments with rich paneling decorated with still more ceiling and wall paintings.

Among the rooms open to the public is The Laird's Room, leading to a stone-vaulted strongroom, where Sir George's valuable documents were stored for safe-keeping. Documents like royal charters were just as valuable as actual cash, and Sir George needed a safe, fireproof place for storage.



The most impressive room, however, is The Painted Chamber, an amazing room, probably created in the early 17th century. The painted wood paneling is a marvel; with panels depicting Biblical scenes. with a Latin moral maxim above and a rhyming couplet below each scene.

Culross Palace Gardens. Behind the Palace is a recreation of a 17th century garden, with terraced beds mixing produce for the kitchen with fragrant and colorful places to relax, with covered walkways leading to secluded arbors and an excedra. The effect in season is a sensual feast.



The Culross Palace gardens are the filming location for Outlander for Claire's Garden, where Geillis and Claire collect medicinal herbs

Take a stroll up a cobbled alleyway known as Back Causeway, which is complete with a raised central aisle that was formerly used by noblemen to separate them from the 'commoners'. This leads up behind the magnificent Town House to the Study, a restored house, built in 1610, that takes its name from the small room at the top of the corbelled projecting tower.



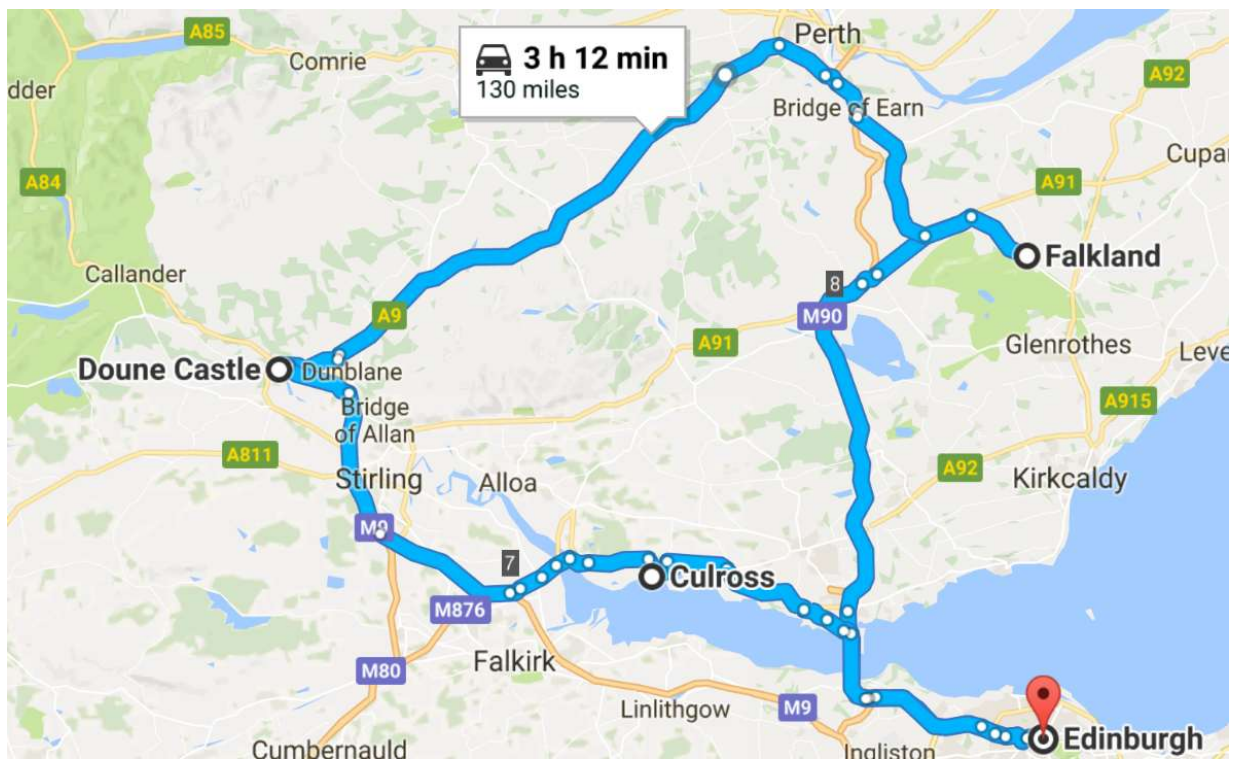
Cobble Stone Causeway to Mercat Cross

At the top of the cobbed alleyway is a filming location and wee little a café.

Filming location where Jamie rescues a boy who is nailed to a pillory and later Geillis is sentenced for being a witch.



Journey Map for Highland Outlander Trip



Day 6

Sunday, November 2, 2025

FREE DAY – Do as you please. See Free Day Activity Suggestions on pages 68 - 73.

Day 7

Monday, November 3, 2025

Taxi back to Edinburgh Airport (your own arrangements and cost) suggested Taxi service available. Independent airport transfer (approx. 20 min taxi)

Not included in Price Reminder:

- Culross Palace and Gardens Tickets £13.50
 - Linlithgow Castle: £11.00
 - Free Day Tickets, Taxi's, Airfare.
- Hop on Hop Off Bus (you will need two or three days) £18 per day
 - Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinner's
- The Witchery is at your own cost. See there menu for more details. We will have lunch in the original dining room.
<https://www.thewitchery.com/menus/>

Fun things to do on your Free Day Ticket's at your own cost

Many Places Are Free!

- Royal Botanic Garden
- Mermaid: Ross Fountain in Edinburgh
- Royal Yacht Britannia
- Waverley Bridge
- John Knox House
- Hard Rock Cafe of Edinburgh
- National Museum of Scotland
- Scottish National Gallery
- Greyfriars Kirkyard: Greyfriars Bobbie grave/statue and Thomas Riddell's Grave from Harry Potter
- Scottish Parliament
- Scotch Whiskey Heritage Center
- Murder and Mystery Walking Tour
- Edinburgh Zoo
- Underground Vaults Walking Tour
- Princes Street Gardens Museum of Edinburgh
- Writers Museum Scottish
- Story Telling Center
- Museum of Magic and Fortune Telling
- Shop: Potions and Cauldrons, The Enchanted Galaxy, Museum Context
Official Harry Potter Shop

- Frankenstein & Bier Keller Theme Bar/Restaurant - for night life and music.
- The Elephant House – Café where J.K. Rowling wrote some of the first Harry Potter book.
- Harry Potter Walking Tour

Scott Monument, Ross Fountain, and Princes Street Garden



Ross Fountain is a cast-iron structure located in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. It was installed in 1872 and restored in 2018. You can see the Edinburgh Castle in the background. The fountain is located on the West end of the gardens.

Princes Street Gardens. Roses, Roses, Roses, and Tulips. So beautiful. Princes Street Gardens are two adjacent public parks in the center of Edinburgh, Scotland, lying in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. The Gardens were created in two phases in the 1770s and 1820s following the long draining of the Nor Loch and building of the New Town, beginning in the 1760s. FREE



Address: Princes St, Edinburgh EH2 2HG,

Scott Monument

The Scott Monument is a Victorian Gothic monument to Scottish author Sir Walter Scott. It is the second largest monument to a writer in the world after the José Martí monument in Havana. You can climb to the top for a small fee (at your own cost). Address: E. Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh EH2 2EJ,



National Museum of Scotland Goddesses and Gods – Free open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our diverse collections will take you on a journey of discovery through the history of Scotland and around the world, taking in the wonders of nature, art, design and fashion and science and technology – all under one roof. Including a whole section of Goddess and Gods collection including the famous **Goddess Ballachulish Exhibit** or the **Sheela na Gig Kirknewton statue**.



Goddess Ballachulish Exhibit: You may decide to visit the National Museum Scotland to see a few Goddess figures, reliefs, sculpting's and history.

Here is a link to the Goddess of Ballachulish.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/ballachulishfigure>

In November 1880 the “Ballachulish Goddess” aka the “Goddess of the Straits” was discovered while digging foundations of a house in North Ballachulish. The area where she was found is still prevented from being developed after this treasure was dug up 136 years ago.

The life size carved wooden sculpture of a female is cut from a single piece of alder wood and has quartzite pebbles for eyes. It dates from approximately 600 BC and is on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



The mysterious Ballachulish figure is a roughly life-sized figure of a girl or goddess, carved from a single piece of alder, with pebbles for eyes. It was found during building work in November 1880, under deep peat. It was lying face down on the gravel of an old raised beach, around 120 meters from the shore of Loch Leven. It might originally have stood beside a pool. The figure has been radiocarbon-dated to around 600 BC, making it over 2,500 years old, and belonging to a period when iron was beginning to be used in Scotland.

The figure

The slender body is naked and seems to be hairless. The lower part is definitely female, but the chest is flat, so the figure may represent a girl or young goddess. She is shown clutching a container of some sort, with pointed objects sticking out of its top. She also holds, in each hand, something that looks like a man's private parts. Her pebble eyes stare out and her mouth is slightly open. The legs end in a solid block of wood, with a rectangular hollow carved into its front. The height of the figure, when found, was around 145 centimeters (just under 5 feet).

Pebbles found embedded in the bottom of the block suggest that the figure had originally stood on the raised beach and had fallen over – or been deliberately toppled over – before the peat formed. Under and above the figure were found intertwined branches and twigs, with a few straighter poles. These could be from a wickerwork container, or a little shrine surrounding the figure.

A supernatural being?

Although the figure is unique in Scotland, other wooden figures dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages are known from Britain, Ireland and the Continent. Often these are found in special places – beside a spring, or where a trackway crosses the wetland – and they are thought to represent supernatural beings. Ballachulish is a special place too: the figure would have overlooked the dangerous straits linking Loch Leven with the sea. Perhaps this odd-looking figure represented the goddess of the straits, to whom prehistoric travelers would need to make an offering if they wanted to be sure of a safe crossing.

A rich prehistoric landscape

The area is rich in archaeological remains. Within half a kilometer there are several Bronze Age burial monuments, and some years before the figure was dug up, a peat-cutter discovered 'several barrow-loads' of worked flint, inside a round building, deep under the peat. The Ballachulish Moss area is nationally important for its archaeology and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

A conservation nightmare

Today, the Ballachulish Figure looks very different from when it was found. There were no scientific techniques to preserve waterlogged wood in the 1880s, and

although people wanted to keep the figure wet, they could not find a container large enough, so they decided to let it dry out. It was taken to the (then-named) National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in Edinburgh over two weeks after its discovery, and during the journey it broke at the legs. When it dried out, it warped and cracked, and a large piece broke off.

She is a national treasure

The figure is very famous and is now admired by millions of visitors from all over the world.

Goddess Sheela na Gig the Kirknewton. Discover the Kirknewton Sheela na Gig on our Scotland Goddess and Sacred Site Tour!

This fascinating artifact, featured in the **Kingdom of Scots exhibit** at the National Museum of Scotland, embodies Sheela na Gig—the crone Goddess symbolizing fertility, life, death, rebirth, and childbirth.

Described as “a woman giving birth,” this 12th-century carving originally adorned a church in Kirknewton, demolished in 1780. The piece is a voussoir, likely part of an arch or doorway. The exhibit highlights the deep connections between Scottish and English church architecture during the 12th and 13th centuries.



<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

National Museum of Scotland
Chambers Street,
Edinburgh,
EH1 1JF

National Gallery of Scotland

It will take your breath away with its beauty. The Gallery is filled with painting and statues of the Goddess.

The Scottish National Gallery displays some of the greatest art in the world, including masterpieces by Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Constable, Turner, Monet, Van Gogh and Gauguin, amongst many others. The most comprehensive part of the collection covers the history of Scottish painting – all the major names, including Ramsay, Raeburn, Wilkie and McTaggart, are represented.



The Scottish National Gallery comprises both the National Gallery Building and the Royal Scottish Academy Building. Both of these buildings, designed by William Henry Playfair, stand in the heart of Edinburgh. Although originally built as separate structures, their histories have long been intertwined, and, since 2004, they have been physically

connected by the underground Gardens Level.

This is my favorite modern piece. She took my breath away when I saw her. I think she was several thousand dollars. She still makes my heart sing. She may be sold by now. She is in the Modern Art Collection.



Address: The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL,
<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-gallery>

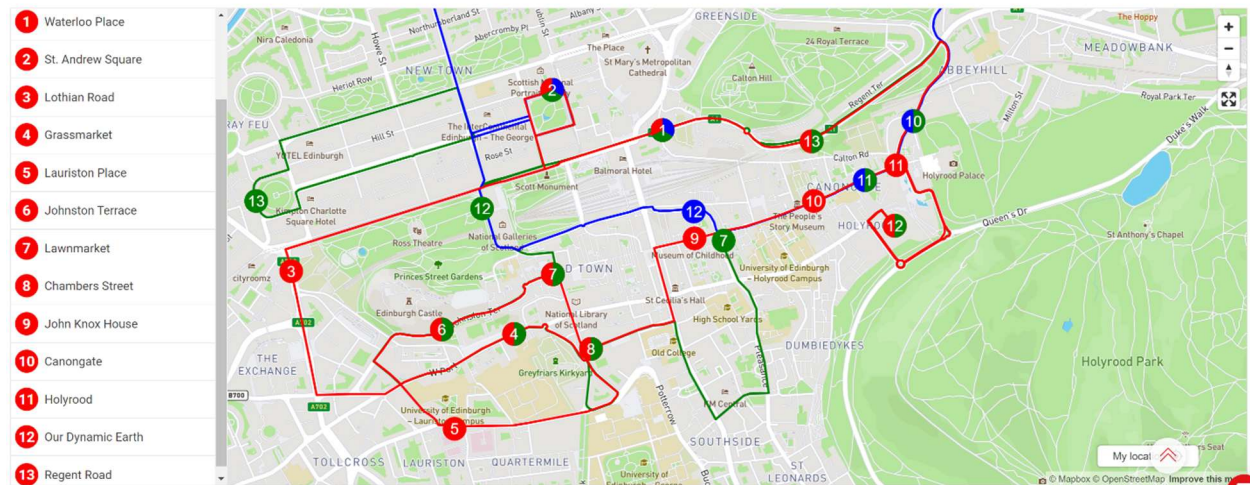
Free Admission. Some special exhibits there is a charge. (at your own cost) Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Transportation Around Edinburgh

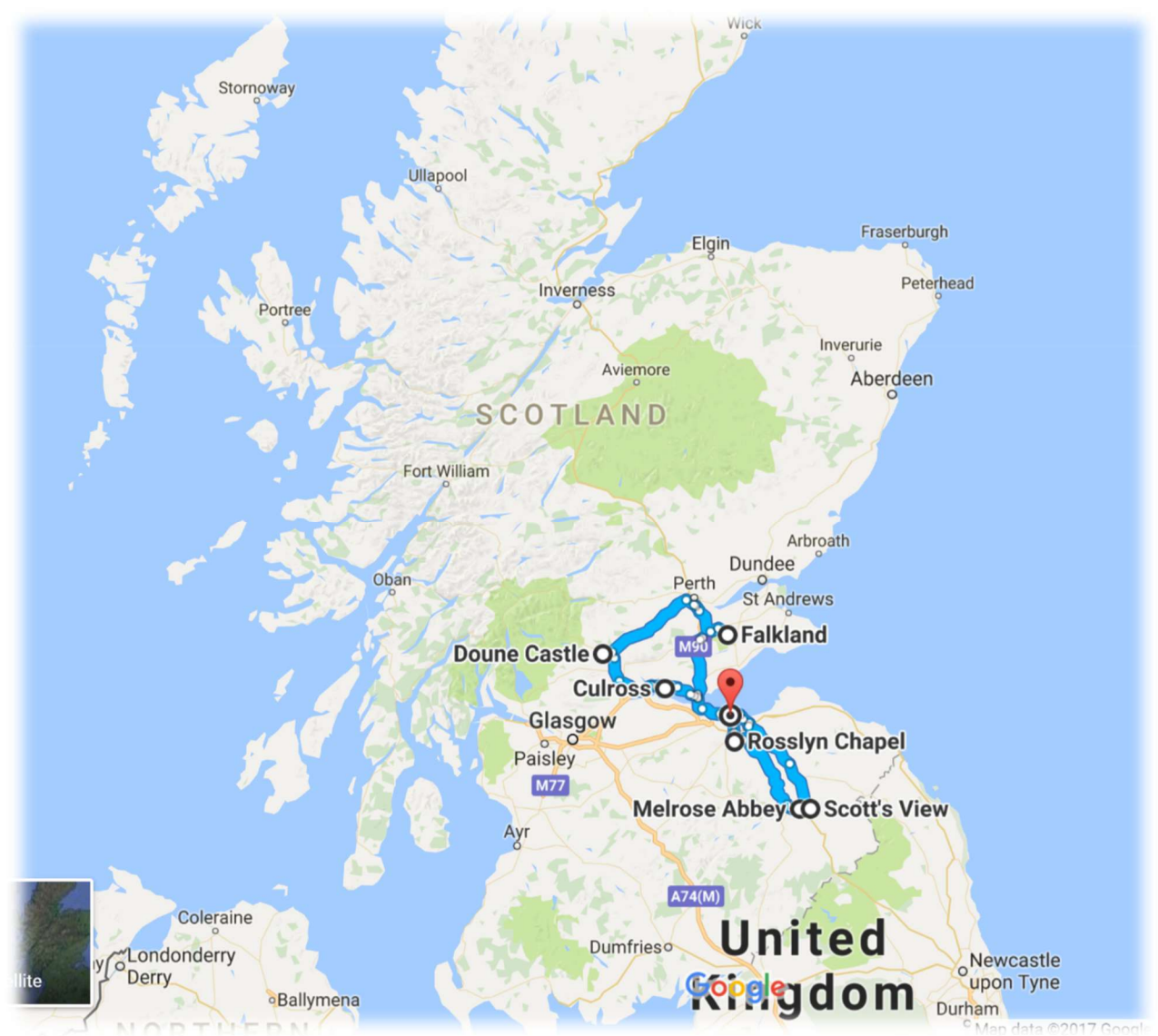
Enjoy riding the Hop and Off bus to get around the following stops in Edinburgh.



Map



Our Journey Map of Scotland



Inclusions and Exclusions

Includes: Hotel accommodations. Entrance fees to: Rosslyn Chapel, Melrose Abbey, Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Abbey, Holyrood The Royal Palace, Holyrood Garden Tour, Doune Castle and Arthur Seat. Transportation: Mini bus for Outlander Highland tour to Culcross, Lallybroch, and Doune Castle; and Mini bus for Divinci Tour to Rosslyn and Melrose. Tour Guides. Double Occupancy: Rooms are shared with a group member. 2 beds per room. Upgraded private rooms are sometimes available upon request.

Not Included: Airfare to Edinburgh, Scotland is not included. Meals are not included. Hop on and off bus not included. The Queens Gallery not included. You will need to purchase a two-day ticket for the Hop on and Hop Off bus approx. £26. Free Day Events and Tickets Not included. Linlithgow Palace approx. £13.50, Culcross Palace approx. £11.00. Tipping not included. Travel insurance is highly recommended for medical emergencies and unexpected cancellations. Please contact a provider. Travel insurance is not included. Glamorgan will be using <http://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/>

Transportation to and from airport will be recommended. The airport is approximately 20 min. to Edinburgh and is easy to get to by taxi service.

*Your Hostess
Glamourgan*

Glamourgan is an internationally known Psychic, Remote Viewer, Spiritual Advisor, and Inspirational Coach, guiding clients worldwide through www.glamourgan.uk. Since 2010, she has led Goddess and Sacred Site Tours across England, Ireland, France, and Scotland, offering transformative journeys into the living mysteries of the Goddess.



A published author, book publisher, and founder of House of Glamourgan LLC and Lilith Travel Tours (www.houseofglamourgan.com), she has also hosted radio shows and appeared on CBS Radio, Hay House Radio, and House of Glamourgan Radio.

Her Priestess of the Goddess Study and Certification Program evolved into her 2020 book *Lady of the Goddess: Becoming a Priestess in Her New World*, alongside her earlier work *The Pink Chakra: A Pathway to Peace*. She also created Goddess Scopes Horoscopes, blending astrology and divine wisdom since 2009.

Trained in Controlled and Associative Remote Viewing (CRV/ARV) under Lyn Buchanan of the U.S. Military's Stargate Program, Glamourgan bridges ancient wisdom and modern metaphysics. Rooted in the Human Potential Movement since 2000, she offers tools for spiritual and personal transformation.

She holds a B.S. from Central Washington University and both a Bachelor and Master of Metaphysical Sciences from the University of Metaphysical Sciences.

Feel free to email Glamourgan at glamourgan@glamourgan.uk.
Or contact her on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/glamourgan>

Pagan Mythology and Scotland

Pagan Festivals

Samhain or Calan Gaeaf

Imbolc or Gŵyl Fair

Beltane or Calan Mai

Lughnasadh or Calan Awst

Rivers: The rivers in Scotland were considered the dwelling places of Goddesses with their characteristics denoting the nature of the river, such as the River Forth being called "deaf or soundless river" on account of its silent flow conditions, and the River Clyde called as "the purifying river" as it caused scouring and cleansing, carrying "mud and clay" during the flood season. **We cross the River Forth on our journey through the Highlands.**



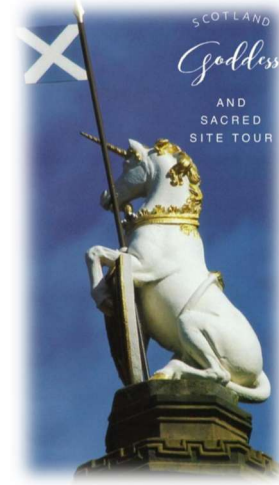
Goddess Cailleach The Hag, the "hag", the Goddess, the Gaelic Cailleach, and the Giantess, a divine being, a "healer" and helpful during childbirth and is divine and said to have "long ancestry and incredible longevity". She is also known as "at once creator and destroyer, gentle and fierce, mother and nurturer".

Goddess Brigit: In Scotland, her name is spelled: Bhrìghde, Brighid, Bride. She is the Goddess of poetry, healing, smithcraft, fire, and a triple Goddess.

Selkies: Selkies are said to live as seals in the sea but shed their skin to become human on land.

Mermaids: is a legendary aquatic creature with the head and upper body of a female human and the tail of a fish. Mermaid sightings have occurred of the coasts, river and lakes of Scotland. In Scotland, a Ceasg is a fresh-water mermaid.

Unicorn: is the national symbol of Scotland. It is regarded as a symbol of purity, joy, innocence, and grace, and as a creature with mystic powers that can heal sickness and pain by virtue of its magical horn. Only virgins have the capability to capture a unicorn, as these freedom-loving creatures become so enthralled by the virtue of a virgin maiden that one will surrender itself to the maiden, and willingly fall asleep in her lap



Kelpie: Kelpie, or water kelpie, is the Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting the lochs and pools of Scotland. It has usually been described as appearing as a horse, but is able to adopt human form. Some accounts state that the kelpie retains its hooves when appearing as a human, leading to its association with the Christian idea of Satan as alluded to by Robert Burns in his 1786 poem "Address to the Deil".

Almost every sizeable body of water in Scotland has an associated kelpie story, but the most extensively reported is that of Loch Ness.

Finfolk: are sorcerous shapeshifters of the sea, the dark mysterious race from Finfolkaheem who regularly make an amphibious journey from the depths of the Finfolk ocean home to the Orkney Islands. They wade, swim or sometimes row upon the Orkney shores in the spring and summer months, searching for human captives. The Finfolk (both Finman and Finwife) kidnap unsuspecting fishermen, or frolicking youth, near the shore and force them into lifelong servitude as a spouse.

Tuatha Dé Danann, the faery folk or “Peoples of the Goddess Dana” are a race of supernatural beings in the native mythological and folkloric traditions of Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Lock Ness Monster: The Loch Ness Monster, or Nessie, is an aquatic being which reputedly inhabits Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. It is similar to other supposed lake monsters in Scotland and elsewhere, and is often described as being large in size, with a long neck and one or more humps protruding from the water. Popular interest and belief in the creature has varied since it was brought to worldwide attention in 1933.



Edinburgh is Famous Worldwide for the Modern Beltane Fire Festival: The Fire Festival



is inspired by the ancient Gaelic festival of Beltane which began on the evening before 1 May and marked the beginning of summer. The modern festival was started in 1988 by a small group of enthusiasts including the musical collective Test Dept, with academic support from the School of Scottish

Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Since then the festival has grown, and now involves over 300 voluntary collaborators and performers.

While the festival draws on a variety of historical, mythological, and literary influences, the organizers do not claim it to be anything other than a modern celebration of Beltane, evolving with its participants.

