

# Discovering Scotland

May 6 – May 13, 2019

With Optional Iona Retreat: May 6 – May 15, 2019

*A shared tour arranged for*

House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St Paul, MN

Group Leader: Rev. Julia Carlson



Iona Abbey

We are delighted to offer this special opportunity to the members and friends of House of Hope Presbyterian Church

A wonderful tour of Scotland with optional retreat on the Isle of Iona

- Begins with five days traveling together
- Visits to Glasgow, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Inverness.
  - Enjoy beautiful scenery
  - Learn fascinating history
- Discover Scotland's sacred heritage

Then we have two options:

Group 1 will stay on the lovely Isle of Mull, making a day visit to Iona

Group 2 will go to Iona for a four night retreat



**Some Tour Highlights:**

City of Edinburgh  
 Cairngorm Mountain Railway  
 St. John's Kirk of Perth

Isle of Iona  
 Haggis Ceremony  
 St. Andrews

Distillery Visit  
 Culloden Battlefield  
 Loch Lomond

**Accommodations:** Three or four star hotels. Iona accommodation is in good local B&Bs/hotels

**Land Only Rates** (per person sharing Twin/Double; prices shown in US\$):

Group size**	Group 1		Group 2	
	Earlybird Rate Deposit Part 1 by <del>July 8</del> <b>August 19</b> ; Part 2 by November 4, 2018	Regular Rate Deposit after <del>July 8</del> <b>August 19</b> , 2018	Earlybird Rate Deposit Part 1 by <del>July 8</del> <b>August 19</b> ; Part 2 by November 4, 2018	Regular Rate Deposit after <del>July 8</del> <b>August 19</b> 2018
24	3395	3595	4195	4395
30	3245	3445	4045	4245
36	3095	3295	3895	4095
42	2995	3195	3795	3995
48	2895	3095	3695	3895

\*\*this is the combined group size

Single supplement:

Group 1 - \$680, subject to availability (to be paid at same time as part 2 deposit)

Group 2 - \$720, subject to availability (to be paid at same time as part 2 deposit)

Price subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations and changes in government tax rates.

**Your Tour Price Includes:****Group 1**

- Coach travel
- Ferries and tolls
- Professional guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Entertainment per itinerary
- Porterage at hotels where available
- Tipping for waitstaff etc.
- VAT (UK sales tax at 20%)
- 7 hotel nights
- 7 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 6 dinners
- Services of our tour manager throughout

**Group 2**

- Coach travel
- Ferries and tolls
- Professional guides
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Entertainment per itinerary
- Porterage at hotels where available
- Tipping for waitstaff etc.
- VAT (UK sales tax at 20%)
- 9 hotel nights
- 9 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 8 dinners
- Services of our tour manager  
(NB - time on Iona is in the hands of your group leader. Our representative will not accompany you there)

It does not include -

Flights to and from Scotland - Airport transfers – Beverages

Small tip for driver (at your discretion) - Laundry - Personal items

**Registration and Payment Details:** To reserve your place –

At the Earlybird rate

- First payment: Part 1 deposit of \$195 by ~~July 8~~ **August 19**, 2018
- Second payment: \$1200 (\$700 of which is the Part 2 deposit) by November 4, 2018  
(Single supplements must also be paid in full by November 4, 2018)
- Third payment: remaining balance by February 3, 2019

*Please note: Earlybird booking provides a discount of \$200. It also allows the deposit to be made in two payments. The total Earlybird deposit is \$895.*

At the Regular rate

- First payment: Deposit of \$1095 paid at date of booking  
(Single supplements must also be paid in full at same time as deposit)
- Second payment: one half of balance by November 4, 2018
- Third payment: remaining balance by February 3, 2019

Registrations made after February 3, 2019– payment in full required at time of booking - subject to additional charge and availability

Payment by check to: House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55105 .

*This group will be confirmed when we receive Earlybird deposits for at least 24 full rate participants. Reservations made on first come, first served basis.*

**Cancellation:** Refunds will be made only in line with this policy – no exceptions.

Up to the date of the second payment (November 4, 2018) like-for-like exchanges may be made. If someone who has registered is unable to go they can find someone else to take their place. Such exchanges must be for the same room type – eg a couple who had booked a double room could only substitute another 2 people who want a double room. Every such exchange will incur a fee of \$250 per person. From November 4, 2018 exchanges will no longer be possible.

<i>Time prior to departure:</i>	<i>Cancellation Fees:</i>
Up to 91 days.....	deposit
75 - 90 days.....	50% of tour cost
61 – 74 days.....	60% of tour cost
15 - 60 days.....	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days.....	100% of tour cost

**Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you obtain adequate insurance coverage.

**Times of Worship:** This is a custom tour for a church group. We aim to include time for –

- A service of welcome
- Morning prayers on the coach
- Evening devotions before dinner on most days
- Sunday service with a Church of Scotland congregation
- Closing worship

**Arrival in Scotland and Tour Departure:**

This is a “land only” tour and begins on Monday, May 6, 2019. Travel arrangements prior to that are at your own discretion. Flights into Edinburgh from the US mostly arrive in the morning. There is no program on Day 1 until early evening when we meet for a welcome dinner. You may, of course, arrive a day or two early or choose to stay on after the tour.

## Our Itinerary

### Day 1 - Monday, May 6: Welcome to Scotland!

Group members will make their own flight arrangements. Arrive Glasgow this morning. Spend the day as you wish and check in to your hotel. Meet your tour manager for an early evening welcome dinner.

*Meals included – welcome dinner*

*Overnight: Glasgow City Center*

### Day 2 - Tuesday, May 7: Edinburgh – The Athens of the North

With our coach loaded we make the 1 hour drive to Edinburgh. Today we'll have an orientation to Scotland's capital. From the cobbled streets of its Old Town to the Georgian grandeur of the New Town, Edinburgh is a truly beautiful city full of history and full of life. Our guide will walk us back in time but will also explain much about modern living in this vibrant city. We see Greyfriars Kirk and hear about the Covenanters. And we end the afternoon at the very modern buildings of the Scottish Parliament. Then our coach takes us north to Perth in time for dinner.

*Meals included – breakfast, dinner*

*Overnight – Perth*

### Day 3 - Wednesday, May 8: St Andrews - The Auld Grey Toon

We begin the morning with a guided tour in the magnificent St John's Kirk of Perth. It was here that John Knox preached the sermon which set light to the Reformation in Scotland. We then turn to the east coast and the charming little town of St. Andrews. One of our excellent professional guides will lead a walking tour. St Andrews boasts Scotland's oldest university where many of the Kirk's ministers have been educated. It is a significant site for the history of the Reformation. We see the castle and cathedral ruins. There will also be free time to browse in the stores or maybe walk along the West Sands. Golfers can look longingly at the Old Course. We return to Perth via the Tay Bridge and city of Dundee. Dinner this evening begins with a haggis ceremony, complete with bagpipes and the poetry of Rabbin Burns. And you can taste a little haggis if you wish.

*Meals included – breakfast, dinner*

*Overnight – Perth*

### Day 4 - Thursday, May 9: Inverness – The Capital of the Highlands

We travel among beautiful scenery today en route to Inverness. We ride the Cairngorm Mountain Railway – an ingenious funicular which takes us all the way to the top. And we make a visit to the Culloden Battlefield Center where we can learn about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites. We arrive at our hotel in the center of Inverness, sometimes called "the capital of the Highlands". Stroll out along the riverbank this evening and find a nice place for dinner.

*Meals included – breakfast*

*Overnight: Inverness*

## Day 5 - Friday, May 10: The Great Glen and Inverness

*(Today's itinerary subject to ferry times)*

We leave Inverness to drive down through the Great Glen and by Loch Ness where we watch out for monstrous events. Near Fort William we see "Neptune's Staircase", an ingenious series of locks on the Caledonian Canal. A distillery visit is also on our program. Our route takes us south past Glen Coe – a beautiful place which witnessed an infamous event in Scotland's history. Arriving in the picturesque west coast port of Oban, we catch the ferry. Less than an hour later our boat docks at Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Here our two group go in different directions.

### Group 1 only -

#### Day 5 – continued:

About an hour by coach brings us to Tobermory. We arrive at our hotel (overlooking lovely Tobermory Bay) in time for dinner.

*Meals included – breakfast, dinner*

*Overnight: Tobermory, Isle of Mull*

## Day 6 – Saturday, May 11: Iona - A Thin Place

We drive across the single track road to Fionnphort and a short ferry ride brings us to this very special island. It was here in the year 563 that St Columba arrived, establishing the Christian faith in this land. In the language of Celtic spirituality Iona is sometimes described as a "thin place" – where the veil between earth and heaven seems almost transparent. We visit the Abbey and learn about Columba. And we hear about the present day Iona Community. We'll also arrange to have lunch with our friends from group 2. We return to Tobermory for the night.

*Meals included – breakfast, lunch, dinner*

*Overnight: Tobermory, Isle of Mull*

## Day 7 – Sunday, May 12: Back to the Mainland

*(Today's itinerary subject to ferry times)*

We pause to share morning worship with a local congregation of the Church of Scotland. Then the ferry takes us back to Oban and we continue on to Glasgow. We'll be passing by the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond on the way.

*Meals included – breakfast, dinner*

*Overnight: Glasgow*

## Day 8 – Monday, May 13: Farewell and Haste Ye Back!

Departures after breakfast

*Meals included: breakfast*

## Group 2 only -

### Day 5 – continued:

From Craignure this group travels across Mull to Fionnphort. The passenger ferry over to Iona only takes a few minutes and completes our journey. Group 2 will now have a retreat on Iona over 4 nights.

### ***Afternoon of Day 5 (May 10) through Morning of Day 9 (May 14) – On Iona***

*This part of the program is directed by your group leader. Our tour manager will not accompany you. Accommodation and meals have been arranged as shown.*

*Meals included –*

*breakfast and dinner each day (ie 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners); group lunch Day 6 (with group 1)*

*Overnight – Iona (4 Nights)*

### Day 9 – Tuesday, May 14: Back to the Mainland

*(Today's itinerary subject to ferry times)*

After breakfast we take the short ferry over to Fionnphort to be met by our coach. We drive back across Mull to Craignure. The ferry takes us to Oban and we continue on to Glasgow. We'll be passing by the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond on the way.

*Meals included – breakfast , dinner*

*Overnight: Glasgow*

### Day 10 – Wednesday, May 15: Farewell and Haste Ye Back!

Departures after breakfast

*Meals included: breakfast*

*The above program is a fair representation of the proposed tour but is subject to change at the discretion of Scotus Tours*

**How Active is the Tour?** We don't take long country hikes. Most hotels we use have elevators and portage for luggage. But, among other things, you do need to be able to –

- Stand or walk with our guides, inside and outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather
- Manage coach steps several times a day
- Occasionally manage your own luggage
- Climb stairs in some hotels
- Walk city streets (Edinburgh has some steep hills and steps)

### **Contact Us:**

Rev. Jim Wallace - Tel from USA: 011 44 757 607 1743 - Email – [office@scotustours.com](mailto:office@scotustours.com)

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*Rev Julia Carlson*

*Back in 2007, a few of us waiting on the pier for the ferry departing Iona reluctantly agreed to board the boat by promising our souls we would return; I made the same promise at the Edinburgh airport in reference to the whole of Scotland. A Celtic theologian wrote, 'Your soul knows the geography of your destiny.' God speaks to us in many ways; in church and beyond the walls of church; in our everyday lives and in wild, new landscapes; through written wisdom and in physically journeying across the sea. This is an invitation to join me as a seeker in Scotland in May, 2019. 'Your soul alone has the map of your future, therefore you can trust this indirect, oblique side of yourself. If you do, it will take you where you need to go, but more important, it will teach you a kindness of rhythm in your journey.'*

*Julia Carlson*



*Dear Fellow Traveler,*

*People are always telling me they would love to visit Scotland. Whether it is the majestic scenery of the highlands which attracts them; or our castles, churches and cities steeped in history; or maybe our proud tradition of hospitality – all these and more combine to make a trip to Scotland an unforgettable experience.*

*For people of faith Scotland also has much to offer. Christianity came to these shores no later than the sixth century. And the impact of the Reformation has extended far around the world.*

*I'm a native Scot and minister of the Church of Scotland. I've also served in the PC(USA). So I am delighted to be offering this tour. I want you to enjoy an outstanding trip; to see the real Scotland; to discover, in particular, our sacred heritage. And I run Scotus Tours to make that possible.*

*Jim Wallace*



*Jim Wallace on tour at Loch Lomond*

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