

In the Footsteps of the Reformer John Knox

A Performance and Historical Tour of Scotland
Part of the *American Celebration of Music in Britain*

Standard Tour #2 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Glasgow, Scotland

Day 2

Glasgow / Perth

(D)

Arrive in Glasgow

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Perth via a visit to Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's strongest and most impregnable fortresses

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

When Sir Walter Scott wrote his novel "The Fair Maid of Perth" he put this pretty town 22mi/35km west of Dundee firmly on the map. Although relatively few historic buildings from this former Scottish capital have survived, the town can claim to have been the scene of a number of important events in the history of Scotland

Day 3

Perth

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to St. John's Presbyterian Church. The parish church of St John which was built in the 15th century and then restored in 1923/1924 by Sir Robert Lorimer and was the stage for the reformer John Knox to launch his campaign against idolatry. His sermon led to the "purging" of churches and the destruction of monasteries.

Lunch on own

In the afternoon, enjoy a visit to the Scone Palace, situated near the old but now non-existent abbey of Scone where Scottish monarchs from Kenneth II to James IV were crowned. In the ninth century Kenneth MacAlpin chose Scone as the royal residence and brought the Scottish coronation "Stone of Scone" here, but in 1297 Edward I took it to Westminster Abbey in London where it remained until being returned in 1996! Porcelain from Meissen, Sèvres and Derby, fine Chippendale furniture, 17th and 18th century ivory carvings and some extremely unusual papier mâché objets d'art (ca.1730) by the Parisian Martin brothers are the principal art treasures on view inside. The surrounding parkland boasts a number of rare trees

Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

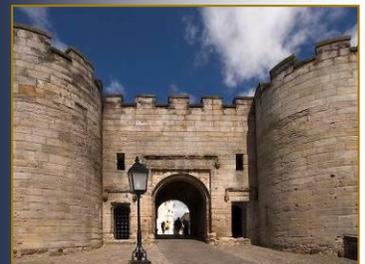
St. Andrews

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to St. Andrews to visit the ruined St. Andrews Castle and St. Andrew's Cathedral. The Castle was the former Bishops' Palace, the residence of the Archbishops of St Andrews

Lunch on own



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Time permitting, view the famous St. Andrews Golf Course where many professional golf tournaments take place
Return to Perth in the evening for dinner and overnight

Day 5 **Perth / Pitlochry / Aviemore / Inverness (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Inverness via Pitlochry and Aviemore, stopping at the Blair Atholl Whisky Distillery Visitor's Centre. This area is a charming and undisturbed niche of Scotland where the people are genuinely warm and hospitable, the landscape glorious and the lifestyle untouched by the perils of the twentieth century. Situated in the heart of Tayside by the beautiful township of Pitlochry and surrounded by the wilds of the Grampians

Lunch on own

Continue on to Inverness for dinner and overnight

Inverness is the administrative center for the Highland region, which consists of the old counties of Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness. The town has benefitted from its sheltered position at the mouth of the Moray Firth and at the northeastern end of the Caledonian Canal. Given the town's favorable location at the gateway to the Northwest Highlands, Inverness has become a busy tourist center and it makes a good starting point for excursions

Day 6 **Inverness (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of Inverness, including visits to the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and St. Andrew's Cathedral. Travel 13 miles outside of town to visit Cawdor Castle. It is most famous for being the 11th century home of Shakespeare's MacBeth and the scene of his murder of King Duncan, but it is historically unproven that either actually came here. Alternatively, go on to Drumnacrochit and take a short ride on Loch Ness, undeniably one of the most famous and beautiful lakes in the world

Lunch on own

Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 7 **Inverness / Dunfermline / Edinburgh (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

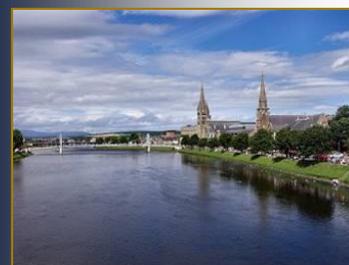
Transfer to Edinburgh

Stop in Dunfermline to visit the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum. In the cottage where the millionaire benefactor was born in 1835 is told the family's story prior to their emigration to the United States. Adjoining the birthplace cottage is the Memorial Hall endowed by Mrs. Louise Carnegie to chart the meteoric business career of her husband, Andrew from bobbin boy, telegraph operator and railroad developer to Steel King of America. Throughout Carnegie's life he gave away \$350 million dollars to provide free libraries, church organs, schools and colleges

Lunch on own

Continue to Edinburgh for dinner and overnight

The City of Edinburgh dates from the 11th-century reign of Malcolm II and Queen Margaret. After the Act of Union in 1707, the city began to spread beyond its old boundaries. It soon became an intellectual capital of Europe, especially during the golden age of the 18th and 19th centuries. To walk in the Old City is a walk through centuries



from the past

Day 8 **Edinburgh** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh, including entrance to Edinburgh Castle

Lunchtime recital in St. Giles Cathedral as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Lunch on own

Enjoy a tour of St. Giles Cathedral. On July 1, 1559, Knox preached for the first time in St. Giles', but within a month the Reformers were driven out of St. Giles' and the priests returned and re-consecrated the church. The last Mass was said in St. Giles' on March 31, 1560. That night the reformers broke into the church and the work of altering the interior began. It took over a year to remove the altars and change the furnishings. The sermon preached by John Knox at St. Giles ignited the wave of Reformation that swept Scotland in the 16th century. His statue in St Giles gives an eerie feeling of a man of extraordinary energy and faith

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9 **Edinburgh / Haddington** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Haddington, where John Knox was born. Enjoy a visit to the Haddington House Gardens, the peaceful medicinal gardens of St. Mary's Pleasance, which is maintained by the Haddington Garden Trust. It includes a wild meadow, sunken garden, and orchard

Lunch on own

Return to Edinburgh for a Farewell Dinner and overnight

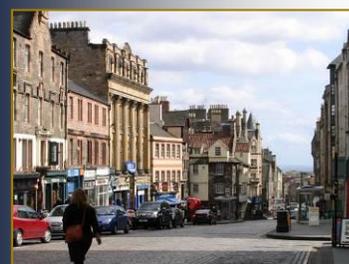
Day 10 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Glasgow's airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. *Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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