

American Celebration of Music in Scotland

Tour #1 (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Edinburgh, Scotland

Day 2

Edinburgh

(D)

Arrive in Edinburgh

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh includes a tour of Edinburgh Castle, which along with its rock, is probably the best known view in Edinburgh. It has been a royal residence since the 11th century, although the majority of buildings you will see are those resulting from its use as a military garrison. See the Honours of Scotland (including the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Royal Scots Regimental Museum. Also see Arthur's Seat, Charlotte Square, St. Giles, the Royal Mile, Sir Walter Scott Monument, St. Andrew Square and other landmarks

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Edinburgh, with its striking medieval and Georgian districts, overlooked by the volcanic sill of Arthur's Seat to the south and the Calton Hill to the north, is widely regarded as one of Europe's loveliest capitals. The city is famous for the arts (it was once known as the "Athens of the North"), a preeminence reflected in its hosting every year of Britain's largest arts extravaganza, the Edinburgh Festival. Its museums and galleries display the riches of many cultures

Day 3

Edinburgh

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit Abbotsford the home of Sir Walter Scott. Abbotsford House is stunningly located on the banks of the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders. The Abbotsford House also sits at the heart of the landscape that inspired the poetry and novels of its creator, Sir Walter Scott. Unlike the homes of other great writers, this is a house that the writer himself designed and as such uniquely embodies a physical representation of the Romantic Movement that he helped to create. The house contains an impressive collection of historic relics, weapons and armor, including Rob Roy's gun, dirk and sword, and an extensive library containing over 9,000 rare volumes. It sits amid formal gardens and a wider landscape that Scott designed and planted

Lunch, on own

*Performance in Edinburgh as part of the American Celebration of Music in Scotland**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Dundee / St. Andrew's

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out



Music Celebrations International
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Morning visit to Dunfermline Abbey. Dunfermline Palace and Abbey are the remains of a great Benedictine abbey founded by Queen Margaret in the 11th century and is today the final resting place of King Robert Bruce, notably minus his heart, along with seven other Scottish kings. The abbey complex encompasses the ruins of a palace built by King James VI in the 16th century, which became home to his queen, Anna of Denmark

Lunch, on own

Continue to St Andrews. On a headland to the north of St Andrews stand the ruins of the city's castle, the main residence of the bishops and archbishops of St Andrews - the focal point of the Church in Medieval Scotland. St. Andrews Castle was the official residence of Scotland's leading bishop (and later archbishop) throughout the Middle Ages. Its scale demonstrated the power and wealth of the bishops, and it was the setting for many important events which determined the course of Scottish history. Today, a siege mine and counter-mine can be explored, and the 'bottle dungeon' viewed

Enjoy walking tour of St Andrews, the charming and historic town that attracts visitors from all over the world. Known worldwide as The Home of Golf, the town also boasts Scotland's oldest university. One of the top universities in Britain, St Andrews is often compared to Oxford and Cambridge for its defining presence and the collegiate feel it gives to the town. St Andrews has also two great beaches, one being the magnificent West Sands, where the famous opening sequence of Chariots of Fire was shot

Recital at St. Andrew's*

Continue to Dundee for hotel check-in

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 5

Dundee

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a day excursion to Highlands for a visit to Blair Castle. Blair Castle is the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to Europe's last remaining private army, the Atholl Highlanders. Blair Castle is nestled in the stunning landscape of Highland Perthshire and has been home to 19 generations of Stewarts and Murrays of Atholl. The castle, with more than 30 rooms on display will showcase a full of Scottish cultural history, architectural design, period furnishings, family portraits, landscape paintings and a colourful military past. The castle grounds feature a magnificent nine acre walled garden, restored to its original Georgian design *(From November to March, this visit will be replaced by Dunkeld Cathedral and free time in Dunkeld Village)*

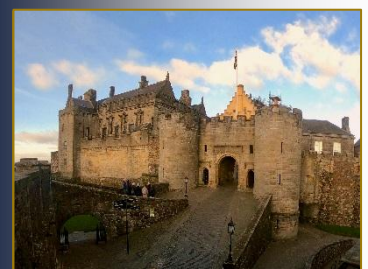
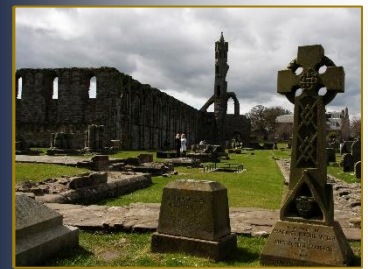
Time at leisure in Pitlochry

Lunch, on own

Visit The Scottish Crannog Centre, an award-winning and interactive centre which shows what Iron Age life was like with a reconstructed prehistoric loch-dwelling. Built as an archaeological experiment based on discoveries underwater, the thatched roundhouse, in the shallows of Loch Tay, is a living museum on the water. It overlooks the remains of 4 of the 18 ancient crannog settlements preserved in the loch, with the picturesque village of Kenmore to the east, and stunning views towards Ben Lawers and Killin to the west

Return to Dundee

Dinner included, and overnight



Day 6**Stirling / Loch Lomond / Glasgow (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Glasgow via Stirling

Excursion to visit Stirling with entrance to the Castle. Over the centuries Stirling has been a much-disputed stronghold, occupying a strategically important position in the Forth valley. The earliest inhabitants were probably of Welsh descent, and it is thought that the name Stirling is a corruption of the term "Place of Striving". No fewer than 15 battlefields lie within close proximity of the castle. Also visit the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre

*Recital at Stirling Castle**

Lunch, on own

Stop at shores of Loch Lomond, and continue to Glasgow

Dinner included, and overnight

Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most highly populated city. In the 1980's and 1990's, Glasgow transformed itself into a vibrant post-industrial city. The city centre, with its ornate Victorian buildings is the stage for the new Glasgow, sparkling with nightlife, shopping, pubs and restaurants that are just about unmatched anywhere else in Scotland

Day 7**Glasgow****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Glasgow, followed by a visit to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Opened in 1901, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum includes 22 galleries. The collection encompasses natural history, Egyptian antiquities, design, architecture, medieval arms and armory, Scottish history, and the history of Glasgow. Kelvingrove re-opened in 2006 after a 3 year, \$34 million dollar refurbishment and restoration

Visit Glasgow Cathedral. Also called St Mungo's Cathedral, is today a congregation of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow. Originally a Roman Catholic Cathedral, the building is a superb example of Scottish Gothic architecture. It is also one of the Scottish medieval churches to have survived the Reformation unscathed. The building is no longer a cathedral, since it has not been the seat of a bishop since 1690. However it is still a place of active Christian worship, hosting a Church of Scotland congregation. The building itself is in the ownership of the Crown, maintained by Historic Scotland

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to the National Piping Centre, an institution in Glasgow dedicated to the playing of the bagpipes. The institution includes not only the Great Highland Bagpipes native to Scotland and used through the British Military, but also the Scottish Small pipes and Irish Uilleann Pipes, as well as other traditional musical instruments

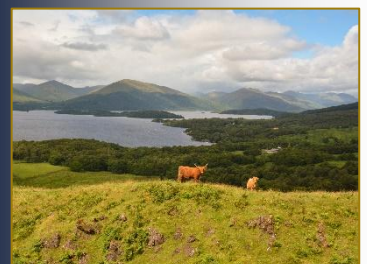
Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 8**Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Glasgow or Edinburgh Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*



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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