

American Celebration of Music in Scotland

Tour #3 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Glasgow, Scotland

Day 2

Glasgow

(D)

Arrive in Glasgow

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

Take a panoramic tour of Glasgow. See sights from the magnificent St Mungo Cathedral to the People's Palace and Glasgow Green, explore Glasgow rich past as a religious center and one of the most important industrial cities in Britain. The Victorian architecture of the centre offer a striking contrast to the extensive parks of the West End. Among those, Kelvingrove offers a haven of peace in the city, with amazing views on Glasgow University's striking buildings and the Kelvingrove Museum. Glasgow is home to Scotland's most celebrated architect: Charles Rennie Mackintosh

Also visit 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

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome 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 3

Stirling / Inverness

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

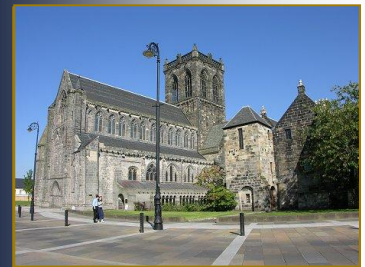
Transfer to Inverness via Stirling

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

Afternoon visit to the Highland Folk Museum. The Highland Folk Museum brings to life the domestic and working conditions of earlier Highland peoples. Visitors to this living history Museum can learn how Scottish Highland ancestors lived, how they built their homes, how they tilled the soil and how they dressed, in a friendly and welcoming environment. An award winning visitor attraction, the Museum not only encapsulates human



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endeavour and development in Highland life from the 1700s to the present day, but offers an opportunity to explore a beautiful natural setting, home to red squirrels and tree creepers, within the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park

Dinner included, and overnight

Inverness is the administrative center for the Highland region, which consists of Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness, which are old counties of Inverness. 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 4

Inverness

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Loch Ness Cruise, and visit to Urquhart Castle. Urquhart Castle offers a taste of the Highlands at their most dramatic. Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life and enjoy stunning views over Loch Ness from the ruins of the greatest castle in the Highlands. Urquhart's stories are also told through a remarkable collection of artefacts left by its residents, historic replicas, including a full-sized, working trebuchet siege engine. The castle has a distinctly Highland heritage and the site has witnessed some of the most dramatic chapters in the nation's history

Lunch, on own

Enjoy panoramic tour of Inverness, and visit St. Andrew's Cathedral. The Cathedral began as the Mission in 1853, on the opposite side of the River Ness. Bishop Robert Eden decided that the Cathedral for the united Diocese should be in Inverness and in July 1862 excavations for the new Cathedral began. The Cathedral is built of Red Tarradale Stone, with a Nave of five bays divided by columns of Peterhead granite. On St Andrew's Day 1985, a new chapel in the south aisle was dedicated to St Andrew, in memory of Norah Sessford, the wife of Bishop George Sessford

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

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 5

Aberdeen

(B,D)

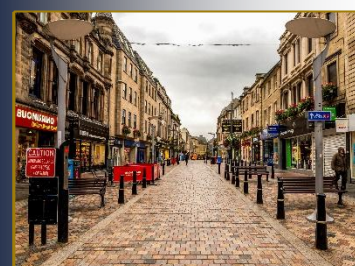
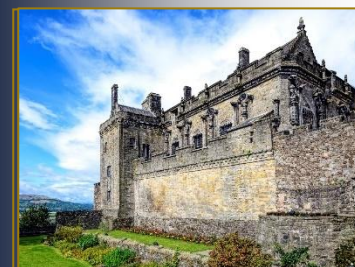
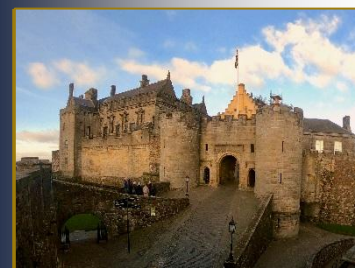
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Aberdeen

Visit Cawdor Castle (*From November – April this visit will be replaced by Culloden Battlefield, and free time in Dunkeld Village*) Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century, having been built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor, with the ancient medieval tower built around the legendary holly tree – wherever you look, Cawdor Castle is steeped in intrigue and history. The imposing, rectangular tower-house consisted of four storeys and a garret with one entrance to the outside world set at upper first floor level; the perfect design to keep out unwelcome visitors. The ancient castle, which is home to the Cawdor family to this day, has evolved over 600 years and has been lovingly filled with beautiful furniture, fine portraits, intriguing objects and amazing tapestries

Lunch, on own

Afternoon visit to Elgin Cathedral. Elgin Cathedral is one of Scotland's most beautiful medieval buildings, and the inspiration for many an artist. The imposing yellow sandstone ruin is also one of the most important



architectural legacies from that bygone age, whose intriguingly complex building history will reward the patient visitor. The cathedral was the ecclesiastical centre, the spiritual heart, of the diocese of Moray

Continue to Aberdeen

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 6

Aberdeen

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to Dunnottar Castle. This dramatic and atmospheric clifftop fortress ruin was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland. Steeped in history, this romantic and captivating ruin is a photographer's paradise, a history lover's dream and an iconic destination for visitors from around the world

*Lunchtime Recital at Stonehaven**

Lunch, on own

Return to Aberdeen for a panoramic city tour. From the stunning sight of the mile-long Union Street, carry on over the Union Bridge, the largest single-span granite bridge in the world. Make your way to Old Aberdeen and explore the picturesque campus of the University of Aberdeen, complete with Kings College, the Chapel and the Old Town House. The striking glass-building of the Sir Duncan Rice Library, opened in 2012, offers a stunning futuristic contrast to the historical campus. Also drive along the sea front, through Aberdeen Harbour and take a short walk in Footdee, a picturesque fishing village at the heart of the city

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 7

St. Andrew's / Edinburgh

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Excursion to St. Andrew's for walking tour. The area is a 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

Lunch, on own

Continue to Edinburgh

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

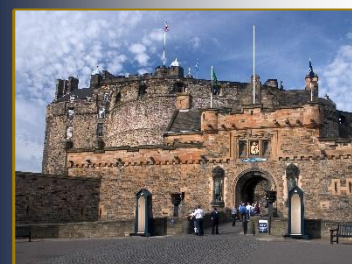
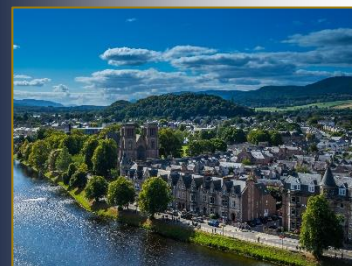
Day 8

Edinburgh

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning panoramic tour of Edinburgh. Edinburgh is one of the world's finest capital cities, because of its cultural diversity and impressive history. The medieval streets run through the whole city telling their own story about the 1000 year old traditions and myths of Edinburgh. Throughout your city



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tour you will get to know different parts of this city, such as the Royal Mile, the Princes Street Gardens, the Calton Hill and many more. Also have a fantastic view of the city and Leith – the port of the city and many more
Lunch, on own

Visit Edinburgh Castle. Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grand and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history. Edinburgh Castle has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Today the castle continues to attract visitors to its rocky perch. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbind with its wonderful story

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

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9

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

Time at leisure in Melrose

Lunch, on own

Return to Edinburgh and spend the balance of the day at leisure

Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 10

Depart for home

(B)

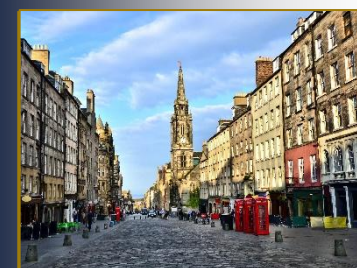
Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the 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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