

In the Footsteps of the Reformer John Knox

A Performance and Historical Tour of Scotland

Standard Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart from USA via scheduled air service, including full meal, beverage service and in-flight entertainment. The destination is Glasgow, Scotland.

Day 2 Glasgow / Perth

Arrive in Glasgow. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Perth for a 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

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. 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. *Evening concert in Perth as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

Day 4 Perth

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing. First, go to Stirling for a visit to Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's strongest and most impregnable fortresses. The castle's rock has been fortified since the Iron Age, though what you will see today dates largely from the 15th and 16th centuries (*perform a 30 minute recital*). John Knox preached in the castle and the parish church here in Stirling. Continue on 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. 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.



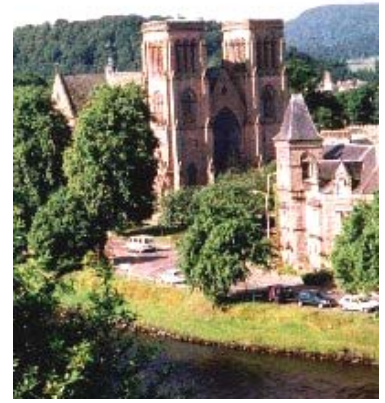
Music Celebrations International

Concert Tours With Integrity

Day 5 Perth / Pitlochry / Aviemore / Inverness

Transfer to Inverness via Pitlochry and Aviemore, stopping for a tour of the Blair Atholl Whisky Distillery. 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. Continue on to Inverness for 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

Enjoy a guided tour of Inverness, including St. Andrew's Cathedral, the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and see Inverness Castle. Travel 13 miles outside of town to visit Cawdor Castle. With its turreted central tower, moat and drawbridge, Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century and was built as a private fortress by the Thaness of Cawdor. 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. The medieval tower was built around the legendary hollytree. Then go on to Drumnacrochit and take a short ride on Loch Ness, undeniably one of the most famous lakes in the world. It is a place of outstanding natural beauty, but it has to be admitted that the world wide fame of Loch Ness owes more to the legend of its famous occupant, the Loch Ness Monster - or 'Nessie' - than the breathtaking location of the loch itself. Return to Inverness. *Evening concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*



Day 7 Inverness / Dunfermline / Edinburgh

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. Continue to Edinburgh for 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

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.* 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.



Day 9 Edinburgh

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. Return to Edinburgh for a Farewell Dinner and overnight.

Day 10 Depart for home

Transfer to Glasgow's International Airport for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.



Statue of John Knox