

# In the Footsteps of the Reformer John Knox

## A Performance and Historical Tour of Scotland

Standard Tour #2 (7 nights / 9 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 / Edinburgh

Arrive in Glasgow. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Edinburgh. En route, stop for a visit of 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. John Knox preached in the castle and the parish church here in Stirling. Continue on to Edinburgh for Welcome Dinner 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, Edinburgh 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

Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh. Tour 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. We will see the Honours of Scotland (including the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Royal Scots Regimental Museum. Also visit Arthur's Seat, Charlotte Square, St. Giles, the Royal Mile, Sir Walter Scott Monument, St. Andrew Square and other landmarks. ***Lunchtime concert in St. Giles Cathedral as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*** When the reformed Protestant religion was formally ratified by law in Scotland in 1560, Knox was appointed minister of the Church of St. Giles, then the great parish church of Edinburgh. He was at this time at the height of his powers. He spent most of his reformation years preaching from the pulpit in the cathedral's Thistle Chapel. A higher testimony to the worth of a man not without faults was pronounced at his grave in the churchyard of St. Giles by the Earl of Mortoun, the regent of Scotland, in the presence of an immense funeral procession, who had followed the body to its last resting-place: "Here lyeth a man who in his life never feared the face of man, who hath been often threatened with dagger, but yet hath ended his days in peace and honor."

### Day 4 Edinburgh

Morning excursion to Haddington, where John Knox was born and raised. 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. Continue on to St.



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



### **Day 5 Edinburgh / Fort William**

Transfer to Fort William. Stop en route in Perth to 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. *Possible recital in St. John's.* Continue on to Fort William for overnight.



*Fort William lies on the shore of Loch Linnhe in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. The town makes an ideal touring centre from which to discover the beauty of the surrounding countryside. The fort referred to in the town name was built by William of Orange in the middle of the 17th century but it was demolished in 1890 to make way for the new railroad line. Local people find employment in the aluminum works, a paper factory, the Ben Nevis distillery (founded in 1825 by John MacDonald but now owned by the Japanese firm, Nikka Distillers) and, increasingly, tourism.*



### **Day 6 Fort William / Oban**

Take an excursion to the Isle of Skye, renowned for its varied scenery. Board a ferry to Armadale to visit the Armadale Castle and Gardens, situated in a spectacular setting within the Sleat Peninsula of the Isle of Skye called the 'Garden of Skye.' Return to Mallaig via ferry stopping at the Glenfinnan Monument, the scene of the raising of Bonnie Prince Charlie's standard in 1745. Continue on to Oban for overnight.



*The busy town of Oban lies by a sheltered bay in the lee of the island of Kerrera. Since Victorian times the town has been one of Scotland's most popular resorts and it is also an important harbor for services to the West Highlands and the Hebrides. It also makes a good base for excursions into the Highland mountains and lochs. Ganavan Sands behind Dunollie Castle offers opportunities for bathing.*



### **Day 7 Oban**

Full-day excursion to Isles of Mull and Iona. Take a ferry from Oban to Craignure on the Isle of Mull, then take another ferry from Fiannphort to the Isle of Iona to visit the Iona Cathedral and the religious settlement. Now under the administration of the National Trust for Scotland (1979), the island was a Druid shrine long before St Columba landed there in 563. Known originally as "Hy", then "Iona insula", the monastery that St. Columba and his 12 companions founded on Iona served as their base as they sought to convert Scotland to Christianity. The monastery on Iona was destroyed on more than one occasion by Vikings, but it was always rebuilt. The chancel and parts of the 13th century Norman chapel are still intact. Many Scottish kings and chiefs, including Macbeth, were buried in Iona. Return by the same ferries to Oban. *Evening concert in Oban as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*



### **Day 8 Oban / Glasgow**

Transfer to Glasgow. Afternoon sightseeing in Glasgow includes a visit to the Burrell Collection. Shipping magnate Sir William Burrell (1861-1958) bequeathed his marvelous art collection to the city of Glasgow in 1944. Some of the finest early tapestries and embroideries in Great Britain are to be found in this astonishing collection. Farewell Dinner and overnight.

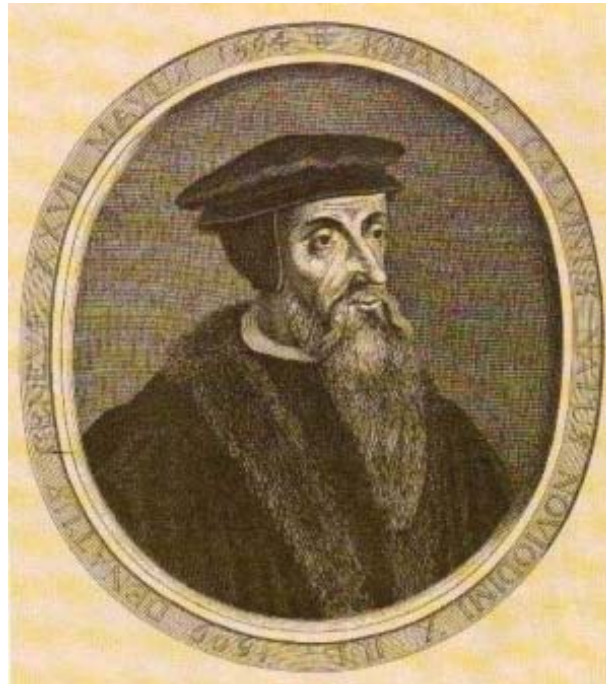


*Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most highly populated city. In the 1980's and 1990's, Glasgow transformed itself into a vibrant post-industrial city. The city centre, with its ornate Victorian buildings is the stage for the new Glasgow, sparkling with nightlife, shopping, pubs and restaurants that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



### **Day 9 Depart for home**

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



John Knox

