

# VISIT SCOTLAND, HIGHLANDS, LOWLANDS, AND ISLANDS.

Tuesday, September 2 – Saturday, September 13, 2014

- DAY 1 Tuesday, Sept 2

- Leave Dallas on the 5:00 pm flight for Edinburgh via Heathrow or on US Air flight through Philadelphia and then direct to Edinburgh.

- DAY2 Wednesday, Sept 3



- Arrive Edinburgh Airport 1:30 pm from where we will be taken directly to our hotel, the Balmoral Hotel in the heart of Edinburgh. We will be guests here for the next two nights.
- After a light refreshment, we will take a leisurely stroll to the Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh. These world famous gardens and their beautiful greenhouses offer a relaxing afternoon as we acclimatize to our new surroundings.
- Time for a stroll down Princes Street, the main street of Edinburgh, before an early dinner and welcome bed at the Balmoral Hotel.
- I will be there to guide you.



- DAY 3 Thursday, Sept 4

- Walking tour of Edinburgh
- In the afternoon an optional visit to fascinating Rosslyn Chapel (the De Vinci Code) 20 minutes outside of Edinburgh. This is a beautiful and unusual gem of a church with intricate carvings and stonework.
- Alternatively remain in Edinburgh to enjoy the art galleries and the palaces on your own.
- This evening we will dine at the famous Witchery Restaurant on the Royal Mile. Return to Hotel.

- **DAY 4 Friday, Sept 5**

- Morning visit to Holyrood Palace and to learn about Mary Queen of Scots.
- Leave Edinburgh and drive by way of the Forth Bridge to the stunning Palace of Falkland and its lovely gardens.
- This evening stay at Kinloch House hotel near Blairgowrie where we will stay for the next 3 nights.

- **DAY 5 Saturday, Sept 6**



- Braemar Gathering. This is a very Scottish gathering to display skills such as tossing the caber, stone put, sheaf toss, Scottish dancing, sheep dog trials. Scottish marching pipe bands and so much more.
- It has always been attended by the Queen and Royal Family and I assure you that you will be very close to them.
- Return to Kinloch House

- **DAY 6 Sunday, Sept 7**



- A late start today will give those who want the time to explore their beautiful surroundings and the walled garden of the hotel.
- Visit the private walled gardens of the House of Pitmuies this afternoon.
- Early evening we will visit Glamis Castle, home to the late Queen Mother. The gardens reflect the Queen Mums' love of flowers. This is a very special evening as we dine in the old castle
- Return to our hotel

- **DAY 7 Monday, Sept 8**

- Today we leave our hotel and cross the mountains to the West Coast of Scotland by way of Loch Tay
- First stop a visit to the smallest Distillery in Scotland, Edradour. Intriguing whether you imbibe or not.
- We will stop to see the ancient Fortingale Yew and the 2000 year old Crannog dwelling at Kenmore.
- As we drive through this spectacular scenery, I will show you the home of J.K. Rawlings!
- Then on to the picturesque Creggans Inn where we will stay for two nights.



- **DAY 8 Tuesday, Sept 9**

- This is a day to relax as we drive along peaceful Loch Fynne to Crarae gardens. At this time of year the fall colours should be showing through as we explore this famous garden.
- Spend the afternoon shopping and enjoying in the town of Inveraray, the traditional county town of Argyll with its old jail and the ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, the only man in the UK permitted to have his own personal army.
- Return to Creggans Inn for the night.

- **DAY 9 Wednesday, Sept 10**

- Today a beautiful drive takes us through yet more stunning countryside to the fabulous gardens and house at Mount Stewart. Leave in time for the 3:30 pm ferry to Wemyss Bay. Visit the charming little museum of Largs, with its beautifully decorated chapel nearby. Continue on to Dumfries House Lodge where we will stay for two nights. The Lodge is the only B&B run by Prince Charles Trust! As one would expect, it is beautifully appointed. We will dine at the local Hotel, the Dumfries Arms.

**DAY 10 Thursday, Sept 11**



- Culzean Castle. The castle offers a stunning example of Robert Adams' architectural skill, while the gardens reflect its Georgian elegance. Its imposing site on a high cliff overlooking the sea is magnificent. The castle and its owners have many ties with the US.
- This was a castle the grateful Scottish nation gave to our General Eisenhower who said "This is a place I can relax."
- The garden of the castle is inspirational and will be an array of brilliant colours when we visit.
- Lunch at the castle.
- This afternoon offers your chance for a round of golf on the 2009 British Open Course or even a golf lesson with the Pro at Turnberry, or even an afternoon at Turnberry Hotel Spa. Not your style, then you may choose to visit the Burns House Museum in Mauchline to see the intriguing display of the Victorian Mauchlinware, and to learn about the other traditional industry of this town the making of Curling stones. Still the only place in the world where they are made.
- Close by is the Robbie Burns Home and Museum. Robbie is of course Scotland's great poet.
- Dinner at the Turnberry Hotel. Turnberry and Culzean Castle are 35 minutes from Dumfries House Lodge.

- DAY 11 Friday, Sept 12



- Prince Charles has saved and restored Dumfries House, one of the most beautiful Stately homes in the UK. He has given it to the nation. From former tours with the Curious Traveler you will recognize in the magnificent interiors the talented work of Adam, Chippendale and other artists of a bygone age. We will be able to stroll across from the Lodge to view this House.
- We will have time to view the recently restored gardens before we lunch.
- In the afternoon, we will drive to Glasgow airport, from where we will fly to Heathrow in preparation for Saturday's flight to DFW.
- Dinner and stay the night and dine at the Sofitel Hotel. ALTERNATIVE: Spend the night at the lovely Marr Hall Hotel and fly to Dallas the next morning.

- DAY 12 Saturday, Sept 13

- 12:30 American Airlines midday flight, Heathrow to Dallas. ALTERNATIVE: 10:20 a.m. US Air flight to Dallas via Philadelphia.



Total cost for two people sharing a room is \$6550.00 per person

Single supplement \$1400.00 for a total of \$7950.00 per person

Price includes accommodation and tips at fine hotels, all breakfasts and dinners for 10 days. Membership in the Royal Oak Society, all entrance fees including to the Braemar Gathering and all ground transportation.

Kindly let me know if you are interested as soon as possible as I would like to take just you and your special friends.

I would strongly suggest that you arrive early and enjoy a couple of days rest in Edinburgh before we start the tour.

This will surely be a tour to remember. I am looking forward to traveling with you again. Please join me.

Warm wishes, Andria