

Scotland
History, Gardens,
Legends & Lore
August 30th - September 11th, 2018



Day 1- Thursday, August 30th GLASGOW

BD

Arrive into Glasgow Airport and meet with our executive coach and driver. Enjoy a Glasgow **city sightseeing tour** before continuing to **Glasgow Botanic Gardens**. Located in the heart of the city's West End by the River Kelvin, the gardens contain a variety of plant collections, woodland copses and riverside walks as well as the famous Kibble Palace- a magnificent glasshouse containing tree ferns and plants from tropical rainforests.

Overnight Glasgow

Day 2- Friday, August 31st THE TROSSACHS & LOCH LOMOND

BD



Depart Glasgow and travel northwest via the **The Trossachs National Park**. We'll experience the magic of Loch Lomond's magnificent scenery on board a cruise before continuing to **Inverary Castle**- the ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell. The gardens here cover sixteen acres and form one of the most important designed landscapes in Scotland.

Overnight Oban

Day 3- Saturday, September 1st ISLES OF MULL & IONA

BL

This morning, we'll travel by ferry from Oban to Craignure, **Isle of Mull**. The Isle of Mull is the large Inner Hebridean island nestled close to the western mainland and the third largest island in Scotland. Enjoy the stunning scenery as we travel across the island to visit **Duart Castle**. This castle proudly guards the sea cliffs of the island and enjoys one of the most spectacular and unique positions on the West Coast of Scotland. Brought back from ruin in 1911, the castle treasures 800 years of history of one of Scotland's oldest clans, the Macleans, and is one of the last surviving privately-owned Clan Castles in Scotland.

Continue across Mull to Fionnphort for the foot passenger ferry to **Iona** where we will visit the abbey and nunnery. Iona is a holy isle and has been described as the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. St Columba and 12 companions came here from Ireland in AD 563. The monastery they founded was one of the most important and influential in the British Isles. Late afternoon ferry back to Mull and Oban.

Overnight Oban

Day 4- Sunday, September 2nd GLENCOE TO ISLE OF SKYE

BD

This morning we depart Oban travelling north to **Ardchattan Priory Gardens**. A garden has existed here for over 700 years since Valliscaulian monks, from a little-known order in Burgundy, first settled here. With its monastic ruins and beautiful views across the loch, this tranquil spot hosts herbaceous borders, a rockery, ornamental trees and a woodland garden.

Continue to **Glencoe**- a place of history, wildlife, adventure and myths. These mountains were formed through violent volcanic eruptions, and then sculpted by massive glaciers. Fingal, the legendary Celtic hero, is said to have made his home among these towering mountains, while his poet son, Ossian, found inspiration in the landscape. Enjoy the wonderful Scottish scenery as you travel to the Isle of Skye.

Overnight Isle of Skye

Day 5- Monday, September 3rd ISLE OF SKYE

BD

This morning we'll visit **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**- the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years.

Afterwards, enjoy an afternoon driving tour of the **Trotternish Peninsula**- a hilly 50-mile circuit round the northernmost peninsula on the Isle of Skye with fabulous views over the sea in all directions.

Overnight Isle of Skye



Day 6- Tuesday, September 4th LOCH NESS & CLAVA CAIRNS

B



Morning departure from the Isle of Skye and travel to Drumnadrochit for a visit to **Urquhart Castle**. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence and up until the 1500s. The last of the government troops garrisoned here during the Jacobite Uprisings and blew up the castle when they left. Urquhart's iconic ruins remain, offering glimpses into medieval times and the lives of its noble residents.

Travel via the shores of Loch Ness to **Clava Cairns**- a well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery complex of passage graves and standing stones in a beautiful setting.

Overnight Inverness

Day 7- Wednesday, September 5th CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD & CAWDOR CASTLE BD

Today we visit the **Culloden Battlefield**. On April 16th, 1746, the final Jacobite uprising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. Jacobite supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart Monarchy to the British throne, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops. It was the last pitched battle on British soil, and in less than an hour, around 1,500 men were slain – more than 1,000 of them Jacobites. The richly researched and stimulating Culloden Visitor Centre features artefacts from both sides of the battle and interactive displays that reveal the background to the conflict.

Continue to the magical **Cawdor Castle & Garden**. Steeped in history and stunning views, the castle and garden dates back to the late 14th century.

Overnight Inverness

Day 8- Thursday, September 6th LEAULT FARM & PITLOCHRY B

Travel south via the Cairngorm Mountains to **Leault Farm** where we'll enjoy a 45-minute demonstration amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland. We'll see up to eight dogs working as a team maneuvering sheep and ducks through various obstacles.

Continue to Pitlochry for a guided tour of **Edradour Distillery**. Renowned as the smallest and most picturesque in Scotland. Visitors see intimately how the making of this handcrafted 'Water of Life' remains a living tradition in the twenty first century.

Overnight Pitlochry

Day 9- Friday, September 7th DRUMMOND CASTLE & SCOTTISH CRANNOG BD



Drummond Castle Gardens is one of Europe's and Scotland's most important and impressive formal gardens. Dating back to the 17th century, the gardens were redesigned and terraced in the 19th century. The formal gardens that you see today were replanted in the 1950s, but preserve many of the original features, including the ancient yew hedges and the remaining beech tree planted by Queen Victoria. Visitors are welcome to visit the gardens, although the castle is closed to the public.

This afternoon we visit the **Scottish Crannog Centre**- a unique reconstruction of an ancient loch dwelling in the heart of beautiful Perthshire. Discover what life was like 2,500 years ago.

Overnight Pitlochry

Day 10- Saturday, September 8th HIGHLAND GAMES & THE KELPIES

B

Today we experience the **Pitlochry Highland Games**- traditional events such as Caber Toss, Tug of War, Wrestling as well as Highland dancing and a Pipe Band. Don't forget your kilt!



Depart Pitlochry and travel south to Edinburgh with a stop at the **Kelpies**- 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures, standing next to a new extension to the Forth and Clyde canal, and near River Carron.
Overnight Edinburgh

Day 11- Sunday, September 9th EDINBURGH

BD

Morning visit to the **Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden**. Comprising 70 acres of stunning scenery, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh captures the imagination of everyone who visits. Reflecting the international research and conservation work of RBGE, the garden is home to the largest collection of wild-origin Chinese plants outside China. Other points of interest include the Scottish Heath Garden, recreating the plantings and landscape of the Scottish highlands, the world-famous Rock Garden, which is home to over 5,000 alpine plants, and the 165m-long Herbaceous Border, backed by an outstanding century-old beech hedge. This afternoon, enjoy an **Edinburgh city sightseeing tour**.

Overnight Edinburgh



Day 12- Monday, September 10th EDINBURGH

BD

Today is a completely free day to explore the sights. World class museums, castles, historic walks and shopping are just a few of the experiences that Edinburgh has to offer.

Overnight Edinburgh

Day 13- Tuesday, September 11th HOME OR SCOTTISH BORDERS

B

This morning we transfer to the airport for the return trip home or travel south if continuing on to the Scottish Borders tour.

B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, T=Tea

Please note that gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit, the group will be hosted as specified.

Inclusions:

- 12 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located where available
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- 4-star air-conditioned coach with professional driver/guide extraordinaire Mark Mulvey (from Ireland trip-he's all that AND a bag of chips)
- all sightseeing and garden visits entry fees per itinerary
- tour manager, Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes

Costs:

Tour is priced in Pound Sterling and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

Scotland (30 Aug.- 11 Sep.) only: **GBP (Great Britain Pound)** 3257- double occupancy

Based on today's rate of exchange: \$4,372

Single supplement: **GBP** 1020 ...based on today's ROE \$1,370

Airfare:

\$1195 on Iceland Air from Seattle to Glasgow roundtrip.

Please note that the secured group air is for both tours (29 August- 19 September). If you are just going on one of the tours, I can help with your reservations.

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is non-refundable.

Final payment is due June 1st and is non-refundable.

A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make **checks payable to Travel Leaders** and along with your reservation form, mail to the address below:

Travel Leaders
Attn: Dee Montpetit
5611 196th ST SW
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended and is an additional **TBD** per person. More details to follow.

Documentation:

You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity to enter Great Britain. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

For more information, contact:

Dee Montpetit at **425-208-6515** or email: **dee@mapetitegardens.com**

Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Passport Information:

Passenger One: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passenger Two: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Special requests:

Single requesting share: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____

Seat requests: _____

Frequent flyer number: _____

Either Alaska Airlines, Iceland Air or Finnair