

## World Wide Travel of Cornwall *presents*

# Scotland – Highlands and Castles with a touch of Whisky

A Private Group Journey – 10 Days

Depart May 10, 2017

\$3,649\* per person

Including round trip air from Newark, and all departure taxes and surcharges. \*Single supplement \$580.00.

### Itinerary:

**DAY 1 USA / GLASGOW:** Fly transatlantic overnight from New York to Glasgow, Scotland. Dinner is served and in-flight entertainment is provided.

**DAY 2 ARRIVE GLASGOW:** Arrive at Glasgow airport, and start your Scottish adventure! Enjoy an introduction to Glasgow with a half-day tour before transferring to your hotel for check-in. The remainder of your afternoon and evening are free in Glasgow.

**DAY 3 GLASGOW:** Explore Glasgow at leisure. A hop-on-hop-off bus ticket is included for your convenience (B)

**DAY 4 GLASGOW / STIRLING / FORT WILLIAM:** After breakfast, depart for a visit to Stirling Castle, magnificent both in its situation on a commanding rocky outcrop and in its architecture. Of outstanding interest are the Great Hall and the Gatehouse of James IV, the marvelous palace of James V, the Chapel Royal remodeled by James VI, and the artillery fortifications of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The castle was a favorite royal residence and the birthplace of James II in 1430. Afterwards, continue to Glengoyne Distillery. The distillery was first licensed in 1833 and is Scotland's most southerly Highland distillery and the closest to Glasgow. Nestling in the Campsie Hills, it draws water from a waterfall. The distillery produces Scotland's only unpeated whisky. The tour includes a tasting. Afterwards, take a scenic drive past Loch Lomond, Britain's largest lake, Travel onwards to the Fort William area for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 5 FORT WILLIAM / ISLE OF SKYE:** Enjoy breakfast. Today, depart on a full-day sightseeing journey around Isle of Skye. A short ferry ride from Mallaig brings you to Armadale to the Isle of Skye. This afternoon, visit Armadale Castle and discover the history of the Highlands and Islands through the story of Clan Donald, its most powerful clan. The Estate's principal focal points are the restored historic gardens, and the beautiful walking trails threading through the 40 acres of woodland around Armadale Castle. Part of the Castle has been restored and the striking ruined remains sensitively re-designed, to create an attractive landscape within the gardens. This evening, enjoy dinner and overnight in the Isle of Skye area. (B/D)

**DAY 6 ISLE OF SKYE & LOCH NESS:** Enjoy breakfast. This morning, we depart and head for Eilean Donan Castle which stands on an islet connected by a causeway in Loch Duich. This picturesque and inhabited castle dates back to 1214 and has been the setting for many adverts and movies, such as *Highlander*. In 1719, it was garrisoned by Jacobite troops and was blown up by the English. Now completely restored it displays fine furniture and paintings. Afterwards, travel to Clansman Harbor where we board a Jacobite Cruise to Urquhart Castle. Loch Ness is a striking 38.5 km long loch in the Great Glen (Southwest of Inverness) and forms part of the Caledonian Canal, which links Inverness with Fort William. Up to 213 m deep, the loch contains the largest volume of freshwater of any lake in the British Isles. Famous worldwide for its mysterious inhabitant, the Loch Ness Monster, it is also ideal for cruising and sailing. On the loch banks, you will visit the ruins of Urquhart Castle, one of the largest castles in Scotland which fell into decay after 1689 and was blown up in

1692 to prevent it being occupied by Jacobites. Most of the existing remains date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Later, continue to Inverness for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 7 SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS / PITLOCHRY:** After breakfast, visit Culloden Battlefield. Just 5 miles from Inverness, the historic Culloden Battlefield is one of Scotland's most significant battle sites, commemorated by the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre and protected by the Scottish National Trust. It was here, on the Culloden Moor that Bonnie Prince Charlie and an army of 5000 Jacobite Highlanders faced off against the Duke of Cumberland and his 9000 Hanoverian Government troops on April 16 1746. It was one of Britain's most important battles and the last to be fought on British soil. Onwards to Nairn where you visit Cawdor Castle. The castle dates from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, having been built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor, with the ancient medieval tower built around the legendary holly tree. 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. Later, head to Pitlochry for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 8 PITLOCHRY / ST. ANDREWS / EDINBURGH:** This morning, visit Scone Palace, the home of the Earl of Mansfield. Scone is a castellated palace, enlarged and embellished in 1803, incorporating the 16<sup>th</sup> century and earlier palaces. The Moot Hill at Scone, known in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, was the site of the famous Coronation Stone of Scone (The Stone of Destiny), brought there in the 9<sup>th</sup> century by Kenneth MacAlpine, King of Scots. In 1296, the Stone was seized by the English and taken to Westminster Abbey. In 1997 the Stone was returned to Scotland and is now in Edinburgh Castle. Afterwards, drive to the delightful town of St. Andrews that overlooks the North Sea. This town is known throughout the world as the home of golf, it was here that the first modern golf course developed. Visit St Andrews Castle, a picturesque ruin which was the chief residence of the bishops, and later archbishops, of St Andrews. They were Scotland's leading churchmen, and lived in a manner reflecting their exalted status. They also had to be prepared to defend themselves and the property of the Church – hence their strong castle. You will also visit the ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral. Onwards to Edinburgh where your evening is free. (B)

**DAY 9 EDINBURGH:** Enjoy breakfast in your hotel. Afterwards, meet with your tour director in the hotel lobby. Today, start off with a city tour of Edinburgh where you will appreciate the contrast between the 18th century Georgian "New Town" with its wide, tree lined streets and elegant squares and the medieval "Old Town". The Royal Mile is the backbone of the old quarter, running from the Palace of Holyrood House to Edinburgh Castle. You will visit Edinburgh Castle which dominates the city from its 400 foot rock where you will see the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, now back in Scotland where it belongs. You can also visit the private apartments of Mary Stuart and St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest building in the city which dates back to the 11th century. Later, visit the Palace of Holyrood House, most often called Holyrood Palace. Like its majestic companion, it's riddled with some of Scotland's most potent history. The Abbey in the grounds was founded in 1128, and the palace itself is baroque. These days Holyrood Palace is the Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth II, but it's probably best known for its association with another royal figure, Mary Queen of Scots. Later, return to your hotel and enjoy your afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner in your hotel (or your group might prefer dinner and traditional entertainment at the Spirit of Scotland Show). (B/D)

**DAY 10 EDINBURGH / USA:** After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home to the US. (B)

**Package Includes:**

- Round-trip air from Newark to Scotland
- Glasgow – 2 nights, 4-Star Grand Central Hotel
- Fort William – 1 night, 4-Star Ballachulish Hotel
- Isle of Skye – 1 night, 3-Star Hotel TBA
- Inverness – 1 night, 4-Star Kingmills Hotel
- Pitlochry – 1 night, 4-Star Atholl Palace
- Edinburgh – 2 nights, 4-Star Mercure Haymarket Hotel
- Breakfast each morning, except day of arrival
- 5, three-course dinners

- Luxury coach for services as per itinerary
- English speaking guide for airport meet & greet, and panoramic Glasgow city tour
- Professional English speaking Tour Director (Days 4 – 9)
- Half-day Glasgow City Tour with English speaking guide
- Stirling Castle
- Glengoyne Distillery
- Armadale Castle Gardens
- Eilean Donan Castle
- Urquhart Castle
- Jacobite Cruise on Loch Ness
- Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre
- Cawdor Castle
- Scone Palace
- St. Andrews Castle and Cathedral
- Edinburgh Castle
- Holyrood House
- Hotel portorage of one suitcase per person
- Portfolio of documents
- 24-hour emergency customer service while in Scotland