

ITINERARY

MONDAY 17TH JULY

DAY ONE

GROUP ARRIVES EDINBURGH AIRPORT

DEPARTING FROM THE ARRIVALS LOUNGE WALK TO THE BUS WAITING CLOSE BY.

JOURNEY INTO EDINBURGH TO ARRIVE AT THE DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON

UNLOAD LUGGAGE AND CHECK IN AT THIS TIME
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL, 4 STAR ALL EN SUITE ROOMS WITH COLOUR TV, TEA/
COFFEE MAKING FACILITIES & COMPLIMENTARY WI-FI
SITUATED IN CENTRAL EDINBURGH JUST A FEW MINUTES WALK FROM THE ROYAL MILE,
ST GILES CATHEDRAL AND EDINBURGH CASTLE

EDINBURGH

THE CAPITAL CITY OF SCOTLAND, THE ORIGINS OF EDINBURGH ARE OBSCURE. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS ON AND AROUND ARTHUR'S SEAT. EVIDENCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE THAT THE CASTLE ROCK WAS A PICTISH STRONGHOLD AS EARLY AS THE 5th CENTURY AD. ALTHOUGH, EDINBURGH DID NOT BECOME THE CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND UNTIL WELL INTO THE 12th CENTURY. THE HISTORY OF THIS FINE CITY IS REALLY MOULDED AROUND ONE STREET, THE ROYAL MILE. AT ITS FOOT LIES HOLYROOD HOUSE, STILL A ROYAL PALACE TODAY, WHERE MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS LIVED AND WHERE BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE HAD THE BRIEF TRIUMPH OF HIS CELEBRATION BALL AFTER CAPTURING EDINBURGH IN THE 1745 REBELLION IN HIS ATTEMPT TO PUT THE STUARTS BACK ON THE THRONE. AT ITS HEAD THE CASTLE TOWERS ON ITS GREAT ROCK, MAJESTIC IN ITS SPLENDOUR AND DOMINANT IN ITS ARCHITECTURE. THE CASTLE HILL IS 443ft ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND LIKE ARTHUR'S SEAT, OF VOLCANIC ORIGIN. BETWEEN THE TWO, THE ROYAL MILE WINDS ITS WAY ALONG THE SPINE OF ROCK THAT IS PRE 18th CENTURY EDINBURGH. TALL, MANY STOREYED HOUSES CLING TO THE STEEP HILLSIDES.

YET, EDINBURGH IS NOT JUST ABOUT HISTORY, THE NEW TOWN IS JUST AS PICTURESQUE WITH WIDE STREETS AND CRESCENTS. WITH PRINCES' STREET FLANKED BY GARDENS ON THE SOUTH BEING DESCRIBED BY MANY AS ONE OF EUROPE'S FINEST THOROUGHFARES. EVERYONE IS SURE TO ENJOY EDINBURGH'S SHOPS.

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

TIME TO SETTLE IN BEFORE TAKING A WANDER IN THE AREA
ALSO MEETING UP WITH YOUR IONA TRIP COLLEAGUES ALREADY BOOKED INTO THE HOTEL

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

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TUESDAY 18th JULY DAY TWO

BREAKFAST SERVED FROM 7:30am

**DEPART FROM THE HOTEL AT APPROX 9.15AM WALK TO THE CASTLE READY TO BOOK IN
AT 9.45AM**

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

**WALK BACK TO THE HOTEL EARLY AFTERNOON TO PREPARE FOR CATHEDRAL
SERVICES**

**LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 3.00PM, WALK TO THE CATHEDRAL TO ARRIVE AT APPROX 3.20PM
ROBE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE**

REHEARSE IN THE CHOIR STALLS 4.00PM TO 5.15PM

EVENSONG AT 5.30PM – 6.15PM

READY TO LEAVE THE CATHEDRAL AT 6.30PM

**INDIVIDUALS CAN NOW EITHER WALK INTO THE CITY FOR AN EVENING MEAL APPROX 15
MINUTES OR WALK TO THE**

HOTEL APPROX 15 MINUTES

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

EDINBURGH CASTLE

**THE OLDEST PART OF THE CASTLE IS ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL, BUILT EARLY IN
THE 12th CENTURY. APART FROM THIS WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE EARLY
BUILDINGS ON THE SITE. WE DO KNOW THAT THE CASTLE WALLS BEGAN TO TAKE
THEIR PRESENT FORM FROM ABOUT 1356. SINCE THEN, MANY ADDITIONS AND
CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE.**

**ON COMPLETION OF YOUR VISIT TO THE CASTLE THERE WILL BE TIME TO GET SOME
LUNCH**

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

RETURN TO THE HOTEL AT 2:15pm TO PREPARE FOR YOUR FIRST CATHEDRAL SERVICE

**DEPART AT 3:00pm, WALK TO THE CATHEDRAL TO ARRIVE AT APPROX 3:25pm
*(DO NOT FORGET YOUR VESTMENTS AND MUSIC)***

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL EDINBURGH

**THREE OF THE SOARING SPIRES ON THE FAMOUS SKYLINE OF EDINBURGH
BELONG TO THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN.
CONSECRATED IN 1879 THE CATHEDRAL IS STILL THE HOME TO A THRIVING
CONGREGATION. AFTER THE ABDICATION OF JAMES VII IN 1689 THE REFORMED
CHURCH IN SCOTLAND DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE OF THE STUART SUCCESSION.
TWO CHURCHES THEN CAME INTO BEING; THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ESTABLISHED BY KING WILLIAM AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOYAL TO THE
STUART CAUSE.**

**ST GILES THE EDINBURGH CATHEDRAL CAME UNDER THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH,
WHICH LEFT THE EPISCOPAL MINISTRY WITH NO CATHEDRAL OF ITS OWN. FOR
MANY YEARS THEY WORSHIPPED IN AN OLD WOOLLEN MILL, THEN THE CHURCH
OF ST PAUL IN YORK PLACE, ALWAYS DREAMING OF THE DAY WHEN THEY WOULD
EVENTUALLY HAVE A CATHEDRAL OF THEIR OWN.**

**HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY THAT
THE DREAM STARTED TO BECOME A REALITY. THE WALKER SISTERS LOCAL
LANDOWNERS BEQUEATHED THE RESIDUE FROM THE SALE OF THEIR ESTATE
"DRUMSHEUGH" TO THE BUILDING OF A NEW CATHEDRAL. A TRUST DEED WAS
DRAWN UP WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON THE DEMISE OF THE LAST SURVIVING
SISTER MARY IN 1870. IN 1872 A COMPETITION WAS HELD TO FIND A DESIGN OF
THE NEW BUILDING WHICH WAS WON BY SIR GEORGE SCOTT AND HE WAS ASKED**

TO ADD TWO MORE SPIRES TO HIS ORIGINAL DESIGN. THE FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID ON THE 21ST MAY 1874. THE NAVE WAS OPENED ON THE 25TH JANUARY 1879 AND DAILY SERVICES HAVE BEEN HELD EVERY DAY SINCE.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE CATHEDRAL MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE CHAPTER HOUSE
READY TO ROBE

AFTERNOON REHEARSALS IN THE CHOIR STALLS 4:00pm TO 5:15pm

EVENSONG SERVICE AT 5:30pm

ON COMPLETION OF THE SERVICE RETURN TO THE CHAPTER HOUSE
READY TO LEAVE THE CATHEDRAL BY 6:30pm

YOU NOW HAVE A CHOICE

WALK DIRECTLY INTO THE CITY TO DINE (APPROX 15 MINUTES WALK)

OR

WALK BACK TO THE HOTEL TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EVENING MEAL (APPROX 20 MINUTES WALK)

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

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WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY

DAY THREE

BREAKFAST PREPARED FROM 7:30AM

THIS MORNING IS LEFT FREE TO EXPLORE THE SIGHTS IN EDINBURGH AS REQUIRED

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

WALK BACK TO THE HOTEL EARLY AFTERNOON TO PREPARE FOR CATHEDRAL SERVICES

LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 3.00PM, WALK TO THE CATHEDRAL TO ARRIVE AT APPROX 3.20PM

ROBE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE

REHEARSE IN THE CHOIR STALLS 4.00PM TO 5.15PM

EVENSONG AT 5.30PM – 6.15PM

READY TO LEAVE THE CATHEDRAL AT 6.30PM

INDIVIDUALS CAN NOW EITHER WALK INTO THE CITY FOR AN EVENING MEAL APPROX 15 MINUTES OR WALK TO THE HOTEL APPROX 15 MINUTES

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

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THURSDAY 20th JULY

DAY FOUR

BREAKFAST SERVICE STARTS AT 7:00am

READY TO LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 8.45AM

MORNING EXCURSION TO STIRLING TO ARRIVE AT APPROX 10.00AM

VISIT ARRANGED TO THE CASTLE ENTRANCE AT 10.15AM

IF TIME ALLOWS TRY AND VISIT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROOD SITUATED JUST OUTSIDE THE

CASTLE GROUNDS

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS AT THE CASTLE

READY TO LEAVE STIRLING AT 2.15PM JOURNEY BACK TO EDINBURGH WITH A
DROP AT ST.MARY CATHEDRAL AT APPROX 3.30PM

ROBE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE

REHEARSE IN THE CHOIR STALLS 4.00PM TO 5.15PM

EVENSONG AT 5.30PM – 6.15PM

READY TO LEAVE THE CATHEDRAL AT 6.30PM

INDIVIDUALS CAN NOW EITHER WALK INTO THE CITY FOR AN EVENING MEAL APPROX 15
MINUTES OR WALK TO THE HOTEL APPROX 20 MINUTES

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

STIRLING

LYING ON THE RIVER FORTH AND DOMINATED BY THE CASTLE, STIRLING IS AN ANCIENT ROYAL BURGH AND WAS OF GREAT STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE DURING MEDIEVAL TIMES. THE CASTLE DOMINATED THE PLAIN WHICH WAS THE NATURAL ROUTE BETWEEN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN SCOTLAND. HENCE, BECOMING THE SCENE OF MORE THAN ONE MAJOR BATTLE BETWEEN THE OLDE ENEMY ENGLAND INCLUDING WILLIAM WALLACE AND HIS VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF STIRLING BRIDGE IN 1297, THE DEFEAT OF THE JACOBITES IN 1215, AND ROBERT THE BRUCE AND HIS VICTORY IN 1314 OVER EDWARD II AT BANNOCKBURN. THE OLD TOWN SPREAD OUT BELOW THE CASTLE IS A FANTASTIC PLACE TO VIEW THE FINEST COLLECTION OF SCOTTISH MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS STILL EXISTING TODAY BOUNDED BY BROAD STREET, ST JOHN STREET, ST MARY'S WYND AND CASTLE WYND, YOU'LL FIND CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE (built nearly 600 years ago, scene of the coronation of James VI in 1567) ARGYLL'S LODGING (1632), MARS WALK, COWANE'S HOSPITAL (circa 1600) TOLLBOOTH & MERCAT CROSS, AND THE OLD JAIL.

TODAY THE TOWN IS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CENTRE AND HAS A THRIVING UNIVERSITY AND EXCELLENT NEW SHOPPING CENTRE NEXT TO THE OLDE WORLDE CHARM THAT MAKES THIS SUCH AN ENJOYABLE PLACE TO VISIT.

STIRLING CASTLE

THE FIRST EVIDENCE OF BUILDINGS AT STIRLING CASTLE IS A WOODEN FORTIFICATION POSSIBLY DATING BACK TO THE 11th CENTURY. WHAT WE SEE TODAY WAS ERRECTED IN THE 13-15TH CENTURIES: PORTCULLIS HOUSE FROM THE LATE 15th CENTURY, THE ROYAL APARTMENTS FROM THE EARLY 16th CENTURY, THE DOUGLAS GARDEN WHERE WILLIAM EIGHTH EARL OF DOUGLAS WAS MURDERED AND HIS BODY FLUNG FROM THE RAMPARTS BY ORDER OF THE YOUNG JAMES II (1430-1460).

A SUPERB DEFENSIVE POSITION GIVES EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE. STIRLING WAS OFTEN A PLACE OF REFUGE FOR SCOTTISH MONARCHS WHEN EDINBURGH FELL INTO ENEMY HANDS. FROM THE CASTLE RAMPARTS THE SITES OF SOME SEVEN BATTLE CAN BE SEEN. TIME AND AGAIN THE CASTLE WAS BESIAGED RELIEVED AND THEN BESIAGED AGAIN DURING THE SCOTTISH STRUGGLES WITH THE ENGLISH. MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS SPENT SOME OF HER CHILDHOOD HERE AND HER CORONATION TOOK PLACE IN THE CHAPEL ROYAL IN 1543. HER SON THE FUTURE JAMES VI WAS ALSO BAPTISED IN THE CASTLE.

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

(café en site)

TIME AFTER VISITING THE CASTLE TO VISIT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE
JUST A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY—DOWN THE HILL

CHURCH of the HOLY RUDE

THE PARISH CHURCH OF STIRLING DATES BACK TO THE 15th CENTURY. IT WAS BUILT ON THE COMMAND OF JAMES IV AND WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE

FINEST MEDIEVAL CHURCHES IN SCOTLAND. THE ROOF IS MADE OF OAK AND IT'S ORIGINAL. IT HAS WITNESSED THE CROWNING OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS IN 1543 AND THE CORONATION OF HER INFANT SON JAMES V1 IN 1567. THE ORGAN IS EXCEPTIONAL AND IS REPUTED TO BE THE LARGEST IN SCOTLAND. WHAT IS NOW THE KIRKYARD WAS ONCE THE CASTLES TILTING GROUND WHERE GREAT TOURNAMENTS WERE HELD. CHECKING CLOSELY SOME OF THE GRAVE STONES, YOU'LL NOTICE BULLET HOLES DATING BACK MANY CENTURIES TO SIEGES AND BATTLES GONE BY.

REJOIN THE COACH AT THE DROP OFF POINT AS DIRECTED BY THE DRIVER AT 2:00pm
LOAD IN AND READY TO LEAVE AT 2:15pm

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FRIDAY 21ST JULY DAY FOUR

BREAKFAST SERVICE STARTS AT 7:00am

READY TO LEAVE THE HOTEL AT 8.15AM,
MORNING EXCURSION TO ST ANDREWS TO ARRIVE AT APPROX 9.45AM
GUIDED TOUR OF THE TOWN ARRANGED AT 10.00AM
TIME AFTER THE TOUR TO SPEND IN THE TOWN.

LUNCH OWN ARRANGEMENTS

(THE RUINED CASTLE, RUINED ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, VISIT THE FAMOUS GOLF COURSE JUST A SHORT WALK OUT OF THE TOWN)
REMEMBER IT IS ALSO THE UNIVERSITY TOWN WHERE PRINCE WILLIAM MET KATE.
READY TO LEAVE ST ANDREWS AT 2.00PM TO ARRIVE BACK IN EDINBURGH WITH A DROP AT ST MARY CATHEDRAL AT APPROX 3.30PM

ROBE IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE

REHEARSE IN THE CHOIR STALLS 4.00PM TO 5.15PM

EVENSONG AT 5.30PM – 6.15PM

READY TO LEAVE THE CATHEDRAL AT 6.30PM

INDIVIDUALS CAN NOW EITHER WALK INTO THE CITY FOR AN EVENING MEAL APPROX 15 MINUTES OR WALK TO THE HOTEL APPROX 20 MINUTES

EVENING MEAL OWN ARRANGEMENTS

St ANDREWS

SOME HISTORIANS BELIEVE THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT IN ST ANDREWS, MAYBE DURING THE EIGHTH CENTURY, WAS IN THE AREA OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH AND WAS POSSIBLY A FISHER SETTLEMENT BUILT INLAND FROM A FORTIFIED AREA ON THE HEADLAND (LATER THE CASTLE). THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF THE NAME "ST ANDREWS" WAS IN THE TWELFTH CENTURY WHEN MENTION WAS MADE OF THE "FISHING SETTLEMENT."

MUCH OF THE PALE GREY AND GOLDEN STONE USED TO BUILD THE OLD HOUSES IN THE TOWN WAS TAKEN FROM WHAT WAS THE LARGEST CATHEDRAL IN SCOTLAND, NOW A MAJESTIC RUIN ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE TOWN. BESIDE IT STANDS THE 12th CENTURY St RULES TOWER NAMED AFTER THE SAINT WHO ACCORDING TO LEGEND WAS SHIPWRECKED HERE IN THE 8th CENTURY WHILE CARRYING THE BONES OF THE APOSTLE St ANDREW. CROSSES IN THE COBBLED STREETS MARK THE SITES WHERE MARTYRS WERE BURNED AT THE STAKE. ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TOWN STANDS THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB; THE SENIOR GOLF CLUB IN THE WORLD WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THE RULES OF THE GAME. BESIDE THE LINKS, THE WEST SANDS

STRETCH FOR OVER 2 MILES. IN MORE MODERN TIMES IT IS OF COURSE THE UNIVERSITY WHERE PRINCE WILLIAM MET CATHERINE MIDDLETON.

GUIDED TOUR OF ST ANDREWS ARRANGED

SOME MORE SIGHTSEEING IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON
THE OLD CASTLE, RUINED CATHEDRAL, HARBOUR EVEN A WALK ALONG THE LOVELY SANDS

TIME TO REBOARD THE COACH AT THE DROP POINT AT 2:00 PM

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SATURDAY 22ND JULY

DAY FIVE

BREAKFAST SERVICE – TIME TBD

TODAY IS A MOVE DAY,

SHORT JOURNEY TO EDINBURGH AIRPORT
DROP OFF AT DEPARTURE TERMINAL TO CATCH FLIGHTS

**GOD SPEED WITH A SAFE JOURNEY
AND HAPPY LANDINGS**