

NEW A Royal Summer in Scotland with the Edinburgh Tattoo

July 22 to August 3, 2024 ♦ From \$8,845 per person

You are cordially invited on a summertime tour of regal Scotland, a land of awe-inspiring scenery peppered with storied castles and beloved by royalty for centuries. We discover a treasure trove of sites which played a key role in Scotland's turbulent history, including Stirling Castle, Scone Palace and Edinburgh Castle, and follow in the footsteps of past kings and queens at Falkland Palace, adored by James V and Mary, Queen of Scots, as well as Glamis Castle, forever linked with Queen Elizabeth II's maternal lineage, and iconic Balmoral Castle, the cherished home of the British monarchy since the Victorian period. Along the way we celebrate *Caledonian* culture with a behind-the-scenes peek at a *wee* whisky distillery, a trip to the emblematic St Andrews Highland Games and a truly remarkable evening at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with an exclusive dining package and prime location seats. Set against the city's impressive fortress and a spectacle like no other, the Tattoo combines music, dance, lights and marching bands with daredevil displays of skill and military showmanship; it's the perfect way to experience a real flavor of bonnie Scotland.



Palace of Holyroodhouse



Dumfermline Abbey

Itinerary

July 22: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Edinburgh

July 23: Arrival

On arrival at Edinburgh Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Kimpton Charlotte Square in Edinburgh. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

July 24: Dumfermline Abbey and Scone Palace

This morning we head to the ancient capital of Scotland, Dumfermline, to discover the city's impressive abbey and monastic ruins. Dating back to the 11th century, it was once used as the burial site of Scottish monarchs and there are several reminders and relics of great past rulers to look out for, including the exquisite brass-covered tomb of King Robert the Bruce.

Our next stop is Scone Palace, the family home of the Earls of Mansfield and the crowning place of Scottish kings, from Robert the Bruce to Charles II. There are plenty of treasures enclosed within, with fine collections of furniture, porcelain, ivories, clocks, paintings and other *objets d'art*. Outside, there is a Victorian Pinetum, home to giant Hemlocks, Noble Firs and Sequoias, a specially designed maze, walled and kitchen gardens plus wonderful nature trails; look out for red squirrels, peacocks, roe deer and the rare hawfinch along the way.

Later we check into the Old Manse of Blair Hotel, an exquisite country house and our base for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 25: Blair Castle and Blair Athol Distillery

Today we head to Perthshire's Blair Castle. Home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries, the castle was sieged by Oliver Cromwell's army in 1650 and was also used as an auxiliary hospital during World War I. Today, the opulent rooms boast collections of weapons, family souvenirs, paintings and furniture while in the grounds, you can find the second tallest tree in Britain, a Grand Fir measuring 206 ft.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Edinburgh*
- ♦ 6 nights at the Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel, Edinburgh
- ♦ 3 nights at the Old Manse of Blair Hotel, Pitlochry
- ♦ 2 nights at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews
- ♦ Welcome drink and canapés
- ♦ Full Scottish/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 4 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea and coffee)
- ♦ 1 dinner at a local restaurant
- ♦ 2 lunches at local restaurants
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to and from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.



Edinburgh Castle



Balmoral Castle

For a true flavor of Scotland, we then visit Blair Athol Distillery in the picturesque town of Pitlochry. On our guided tour we see how the *uisge beatha* whisky is made from golden malted barley, water and yeast, distilled in traditional copper pot stills and matured in oak casks.

This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 26: Braemar Castle, Balmoral Castle and Crathie Kirk

Our first visit is to Braemar Castle, which has recently undergone a restoration program thanks to community fundraising efforts. There is so much history to discover here; the 2nd Earl of Mar built the fortress in 1628 as a hunting base, it was set alight in the first Jacobite Uprising and later seized by the Crown, Government troops were stationed here following the Battle of Culloden and after they left, local landowners began transforming the castle into a family home. There have been a host of famous visitors too, from Queen Victoria to the current Royal Family.

The Royal Family didn't need to travel far from nearby Balmoral, a fine example of Scots Baronial architecture and the Scottish home of British monarchs since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert after they were both awestruck by the Highlands. The family have since enjoyed many happy summers here and it was particularly loved by Elizabeth II, who peacefully passed away here in 2022. We enjoy access to the grounds and gardens of the estate as well as the Castle Ballroom where fascinating displays of art, china and artifacts are exhibited, complete with an audio-guided tour.

Please note: *the other rooms of Balmoral are closed to the public.*

There is also time to take a peek at Crathie Kirk, the charming place of worship for the Royal Family when in residence at Balmoral. In 1893, Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of the present church and contributed two beautiful stained glass windows, with her daughter Princess Beatrice donating four bells.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



A land of awe-inspiring scenery peppered with storied castles and beloved by royalty for centuries.

July 27: JM Barrie's Birthplace and Glamis Castle

We pay a visit to the birthplace of JM Barrie, author and creator of the much-loved *Peter Pan*. The house is now a museum dedicated to telling his story, from growing up immersed in the traditions of a small weaving community to his route to success.

Next, we travel to the spectacular Glamis Castle, home to the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne. Childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret, the original 14th-century castle was extensively restored in the 17th and 18th centuries in an elaborate French chateau style with turrets, towers and a crenelated roofline. The story of the evolution of the castle and its legendary tales are brought to life on our guided tour, and we also explore the gardens, home to yew hedges, wooden sculptures, herbaceous borders and the bubbling River Dean. The stunning Italian garden was lovingly laid out by Elizabeth II's grandmother, Countess Cecilia, and is a kaleidoscope of color during the warmer months.

Meals: Breakfast

July 28: St Andrews and Highland Games

After checking out of the hotel, we follow in the footsteps of William and Kate, Prince and Princess of Wales with a guided coach and walking tour in St Andrews. The young royals met in this pretty town while studying art history at university here, living together as housemates before their relationship soon blossomed. This is also where Lady Louise, Queen Elizabeth II's granddaughter, attends. As well as being a world-class golfing spot, there are plenty of other highlights, from stunning beaches and fascinating museums to a crumbling castle and an ancient cathedral. With such an extensive history, the ruins are fascinating to explore and provide clues about how our Scottish ancestors lived.



Glamis Castle

©Angus Forbes



Linlithgow Castle

We're in for a real Scottish treat this afternoon; St Andrews Highland Games, a tradition beloved by the Royal Family. A unique part of Scotland's heritage and a celebration of Celtic culture, the events range from running, cycling and weightlifting to tug-of-war, solo piping and traditional Highland dancing. You can expect plenty of kilts, bagpipes and whisky, all creating a distinct atmosphere and a highlight of the Fife calendar.

Later we check back into the Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel, our base for the remainder of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast



July 29: Falkland Palace and Hopetoun House

Falkland Palace is our first stop today, a fairytale fortress built in a beautiful French Renaissance style, inspired by the country's grand châteaux. Our visit is a wonderful opportunity to tread the path of royalty and discover a true pleasure palace; Falkland was the Balmoral of its day and past monarchs were simply enchanted by the estate. It was commissioned in 1501 by James IV to create a base for their country pursuits and beloved by Mary, Queen of Scots as a hunting lodge, with the tennis court built for James V, who also died here at the young age of 30. Look out for the elaborate Falkland Bed, supposedly made for James VI, as well as the impressive panelling in the drawing room, the library's intricately painted wall and the recreated royal apartments. There is so much history entwined in the Chapel Royal too; the 17th-century ceiling was painted for Charles I, kings and queens once gathered here, and this is where James V lied in state for a month. Outside, there is a pretty orchard and wildflower meadow plus formal gardens designed by celebrated horticultural designer Percy Cane. After falling into disrepair, the palace was revitalized by the 3rd Marquess of Bute in the 19th century, and his great-grandson is the proud Keeper of the Palace today.

In the afternoon we enjoy a guided tour of the imposing Hopetoun House, widely recognized as Scotland's finest stately home and one of the finest examples of 18th-century architecture

in Britain. Designed by William Bruce and then extended and changed by Scottish architect William Adam, the magnificent interiors reflect the elegance of the Georgian era and are decorated with lovely period furniture, paintings, tapestries and clocks, with beautifully crafted finishes of carving, gilding and plasterwork.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 30: Edinburgh and Underground Vaults

After breakfast there is some time for you to spend at leisure – you may wish to explore the city and its renowned attractions or engage in some retail therapy in Edinburgh's stylish boutiques. We reconvene for famous *smørrebrød* open sandwiches at "the best pub in the world" according to celebrity chef Rick Stein, Canny Man's, which has stayed in the Kerr family since its humble beginnings in 1871.

We then take a trip beneath the bustle of Edinburgh's Old Town, to the dark, damp and eerie Underground Vaults. Largely unchanged since the 18th century, we discover more about the city's history on our tour as we explore a world of streets, tunnels and vaults that were once the main streets of Edinburgh until they were built on top of. But be warned, this tour is not for the faint hearted with tales of ghosts, body snatchers and supernatural happenings to be heard as we explore this fascinating subterranean part of the city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

July 31: Linlithgow Castle and Stirling Castle

We begin our day at the ruins of Linlithgow Palace. Built by successive Stuart kings, Linlithgow was a royal rest stop between Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle and a country retreat visited by Charles Edward Stuart during his march south in 1745. However, in 1746, Linlithgow was ravaged by fire after British troops ransacked the house searching for retreating Jacobites. Today, it is maintained by Historic Environment Scotland and is allegedly haunted by Mary of Guise, the mother of Mary, Queen of Scots.

For lunch we are treated to some Scottish tapas at Christie's in Falkirk before a private guided tour of the impressive Stirling Castle. Originally built in the 12th century, with additions and renovations undertaken over the years, the castle has played a key role in Scottish history. Once home to the doomed Mary Queen of Scots, who is said to roam the castle to this day, it was also an important outpost during the Wars of Scottish Independence. The fortress looks as it might have done in the 1540s and features the Great Hall, lavish chambers, the Great Kitchens and the Chapel Royal, and there are also interactive exhibitions in the Palace Vaults.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

August 1: Royal Yacht Britannia and Palace of Holyroodhouse

Today we step aboard the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, which was Elizabeth II's floating Royal residence for over 44 years, used not only for state visits and official receptions but also for family holidays and honeymoons. Our fascinating private tour includes the Bridge, the State Apartments, Royal Bedrooms, Crew's Quarters, the Engine Room and more.

This evening we enjoy a private guided tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, The King's official residence in Scotland. It was also previously home to Mary, Queen of Scots and used during filming of the 2019 movie of the same name. We learn about the dramatic events which occurred during her reign here, admire the State Apartments and take a peek where Bonnie Prince Charlie once held a glittering ball. Our tour also offers a unique opportunity to go behind the ropes in selected rooms and into the West Drawing Room, used by members of the Royal Family as a private sitting room and not normally open to the public.

Meals: Breakfast

August 2: Edinburgh Castle and Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

We make our way to Edinburgh Castle, one of the most important strongholds in the Kingdom of Scotland, which has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history including the unsuccessful Jacobite blockades during the 1715 and 1745 risings. Highlights here include the Crown Jewels of Scotland, the Royal Palace and the 16th-century Great Hall, which we discover on our audio-guided tour.

There is then some time at leisure before our special Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo experience begins. We start with a three-course celebratory Scottish meal with wine and a wee dram of single malt whisky, featuring a map of Scotland highlighting where our food has been sourced, followed by tea or coffee and traditional fudge.

Afterward we are escorted to the Castle Esplanade to take our seats in a prime location for the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, set against the stunning backdrop of the Scottish capital's ancient fortress. Hosted each year, the show brings together musicians and performers from every part of the world for a fabulous display of international culture. There is so much to marvel at, including the Massed Military Bands, the famous Lone Piper, daredevil displays, Highland dancers and a grand finale featuring fireworks and an emotive rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*. We also include an official souvenir program as a memento of this wonderful event.

Please note: we advise you to be prepared with waterproofs etc. in case of inclement weather during the Tattoo. It will go ahead whatever the weather.

Meals: Breakfast, Pre-Show Meal

August 3: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Edinburgh Airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.



Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Guided tour of Blair Athol Distillery
- ◆ Audio-guided tour at Balmoral Castle
- ◆ Guided tour of Glamis Castle
- ◆ Guided tour of St Andrews
- ◆ Ticket to St Andrews Highland Games
- ◆ Guided tour of Hopetoun House
- ◆ Guided tour of Edinburgh Underground Vaults
- ◆ Private guided tour of Stirling Castle
- ◆ Private guided tour of Royal Yacht Britannia
- ◆ Private out-of-hours guided tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse
- ◆ Audio-guided tour of Edinburgh Castle
- ◆ Hospitality package at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

**Please inform us at the time of booking of any special dietary requirements.*



Royal Yacht Britannia

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

Call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785** to register by phone (preferred method) **Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm (EST)** or register online at **www.nationaltrusttours.com**.

When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance payment must be paid to us no later than 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Of course, full payment can be made at the time of booking if you prefer and for bookings made less than 8 weeks before the tour departs this will be a requirement.

How can I pay?

We accept debit and credit cards (except American Express), for deposits and full payment.

What paperwork will I receive?

When your booking is confirmed, we will email you a booking confirmation document along with a copy of our full Terms and Conditions and the reading list. Approximately 28 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalized information and tour itinerary details.

Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, this is essential; we can only accept a booking on the basis that you have taken out a full and comprehensive travel insurance policy to cover the full duration of your trip. We will ask you to confirm this to us. If you choose not to take out travel insurance, this is done so against our advice and at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a declination form indemnifying us from any responsibility or cost in the event of medical emergency or repatriation. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you upon tour confirmation. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers. For details, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

Do I need a passport and visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a passport which must be valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. At the time of printing, tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US citizen or you are combining your visit with business, it is your responsibility to check the requirements for visiting the UK, you can do this by visiting the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website to determine whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

We have a small number of rooms on each tour that are sold with no single supplement; once these are sold out we charge a supplement for any additional single rooms which varies for each tour. You can contact us to enquire about single supplement prices. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been hand-picked for their high quality of accommodation and service. However, in some instances room upgrades are available and we would be happy to assist you to arrange these should you be interested. For more information on the hotels please visit our website.

Can you arrange extra hotel nights?

Yes, if you decide to arrive a few days before the start of the tour or leave a few days after the end of the tour, we are happy to arrange extra nights' accommodation. However, this service is only available at hotels that feature in the tour on which you are traveling and a \$35 administration fee is charged for this service.

Are meals included?

All breakfasts are included on all tours. Certain lunches and dinners are also included and you should study the tour itinerary in this brochure to determine what meals are included on your chosen tour. Meals not mentioned are not included and all beverages are at your own expense throughout the tour.

What do I do about any dietary requirements?

Please inform us at the time of booking, we will pass your information on to the hotel, property or restaurant who will do their best to accommodate your requirements.

How many passengers will be in the Albion Journeys tour group?

Typically, between 10 and 30.

What is the role of the Tour Director?

Our friendly Tour Director will meet you for a welcome dinner at the beginning of each tour. Their role is to facilitate the smooth organization of all operational aspects of the tour. If you have any queries or experience any issues during the tour, they are there to assist you.

Will the excursions change?

Please note that we plan our tours far in advance and the order and availability of excursions may be subject to change. In the event of a property not being available to visit, we will substitute with a similar visit, and you will be informed of the full details.

How much walking will there be on these tours?

As much or as little as you like. Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, as with many historic houses and gardens, you may experience some uneven flooring and steps along the way. Of course, you will always have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us.

What are the arrangements for luggage?

The standard luggage allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person restricted to a maximum weight of 20kgs (44 pounds). We do provide portage at each of the hotels used on our tours, however, as with all things of a personal nature, it is your responsibility to ensure your suitcase is loaded onto the vehicles we use throughout the tour.

What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime. In the evening many participants prefer to wear smarter dress for dining. While gentlemen may choose to wear a jacket in the restaurant in the evening, at most hotels this is not obligatory, we will of course inform you if any hotel does have a dress code. It is advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many historic properties request ladies do not wear high heels which may damage flooring.

Can you arrange my flights to the UK?

Albion Journeys do not arrange your air travel for our tours; this is your responsibility and gives you the flexibility to decide on your own routing.

What should I budget for tipping?

While it is not compulsory, it is customary to tip the coach driver and Tour Director as well as offering a small gratuity to the transfer drivers to acknowledge the services they have provided. As a guideline we suggest a rate of £5 (about \$6.50 as of this printing) per day for your coach and transfer drivers and £10 (about \$13 as of this printing) per day for your Tour Director. Gratuities for hotel staff and the tour guides you may meet at properties are at your discretion.

For more information, please telephone the Tours Program at the National Trust at **(888) 484-8785**

- web: www.nationaltrusttours.com
- email: info@nationaltrusttours.com

All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions excepted.



Windsor Castle



Nostell Priory



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Hatfield House Gardens



Charlecote Park

Terms & Conditions Extract

It is important that you read the following booking conditions extract and the full booking conditions shown on our website at albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions. These online booking conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read them and the extract below carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified.

1. VACATION PAYMENT: When you make a booking you must pay a deposit for every person named on the booking. Deposits per person and the balance due date (the period before the departure date on which your full balance normally becomes due) are:

Deposit	Balance due date
\$1,000 (USD)	90 days before departure

If you cannot make a payment by card at the time of booking, please speak to one of our Reservations staff to discuss other options. You can make payments against your balance anytime between making the booking and the balance due date. If the balance is not paid on time we reserve the right to treat your booking as canceled by you and apply cancellation charges as set out in clause 3 below. For bookings made after the balance due date, the full amount is due at the time of booking.

2. OUR AGREEMENT: A contract is formed when we issue to you the booking confirmation document and terms and conditions. It is important you read through these and any other documents you receive and advise us of any inaccuracy within 14 days of the document date. By accepting the booking is correct you agree to our terms and conditions.

We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out. This contract and all matters arising out of it will be governed by English law and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

3. VACATION CANCELLATION BY YOU: If you want to cancel your booking after we have confirmed it with you either verbally, over the telephone or by email, you can do so over the phone or in writing. The following cancellation charges will apply:

More than 91 days prior to departure	\$1,000 (USD)
90 days or less before departure	100% of the program cost is non-refundable

If any member of your party is prevented from traveling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

Full terms and conditions will be provided with your booking confirmation. They are also available on request or via our website: albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions.

Bookings are accepted on the basis that you have read and understood them.

ALBION
Journeys Inspired By Heritage