



Balmoral Castle

A Royal Summer in Scotland with the Edinburgh Tattoo

July 21 to August 2, 2025 ♦ From \$8,800 per person

Join us for an unforgettable 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 flavour of Bonnie Scotland.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Edinburgh*
- ♦ 1 night at the Norton House Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 3 nights at the Old Manse of Blair Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Fairmont Hotel
- ♦ 5 nights at the InterContinental Edinburgh The George Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full Scottish/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course table d'hôte dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & 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.

Itinerary

July 21: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Edinburgh

July 22: Arrival

Upon arrival at Edinburgh Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Norton House Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

July 23: Dunfermline Abbey & Scone Palace

This morning we head to the ancient capital of Scotland, Dunfermline, 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 includes the exquisite tomb of King Robert the Bruce.

Our next stop is Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish kings. There are plenty of treasures

Taste the true flavour of Bonnie Scotland.

enclosed within, while outside, there is a Victorian Pinetum, gardens and nature trails; look out for red squirrels and roe deer 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 24: Blair Castle & Blair Athol Distillery

We head to Perthshire's Blair Castle, home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries and besieged by Oliver Cromwell's army in 1650. Today, the opulent rooms boast collections of weapons, family souvenirs, paintings and furniture.

For a true flavour of Scotland, we then visit Blair Athol Distiller, where we see how the uisge beatha whisky is made on a guided tour.

This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant in Pitlochry.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Stirling Castle

July 25: Braemar Castle, Balmoral Castle & Crathie Kirk

Our first visit today is to Braemar Castle, built by the 2nd Earl of Mar as a hunting base in 1628. It was set alight in the first Jacobite Uprising, then later seized by the Crown. Government troops were stationed here following the Battle of Culloden and it was later transformed into a family home.

Nearby Balmoral is a fine example of Scots Baronial architecture and the Scottish home of British monarchs since it was purchased for Queen Victoria. We enjoy access to the grounds of the estate plus the Castle Ballroom where fascinating displays of art, china and artifacts are exhibited, complete with an audio-guided tour. There is also time to take a peek at Crathie Kirk, the charming place of worship for the Royal Family.

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 26: JM Barrie's Birthplace & Glamis Castle

We pay a visit to the birthplace of JM Barrie, the creator of the much-loved *Peter Pan*. The house is now a museum dedicated to the author's story.



St Andrews



July 29: Edinburgh & Firth of Forth Bridges Bridges boat tour

After breakfast there is some time to spend at leisure in Edinburgh. We reconvene for famous *smørrebrød* open sandwiches at Canny Man's, which has stayed in the Kerr family since its humble beginnings in 1871.

We enjoy a sightseeing cruise on the River Forth, with magnificent views of the UNESCO World Heritage Forth Railway bridge and more.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

July 30: Linlithgow Palace & Stirling Castle

We begin our day at the ruins of Linlithgow Palace. Built by successive Stuart kings, Linlithgow was once a royal rest stop before it was ravaged by fire after British troops ransacked the house searching for retreating Jacobites.

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 and allegedly haunted by Mary Queen of Scots, the fortress looks as it might have in the 1540s and features the Great Hall, lavish chambers, the Great Kitchens and the Chapel Royal.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

July 31: Royal Yacht Britannia & Palace of Holyroodhouse

Today we step aboard the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, which was Elizabeth II's floating Royal residence for over 44 years, used for state visits, official receptions, family holidays and honeymoons. We take a fascinating private tour before enjoying afternoon tea at Scotland's first luxury floating hotel.

This evening we enjoy a private guided tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, The King's official residence in Scotland. Our tour offers a unique opportunity to go behind the ropes in selected rooms and into the West Drawing Room, not normally open to the public.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

August 1: Edinburgh Castle & Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

We discover Edinburgh Castle on an audio-guided tour, one of the most important strongholds in the Kingdom of Scotland, where highlights include the Crown Jewels of Scotland, the Royal Palace and the 16th-century Great Hall.

Next, we travel to the spectacular Glamis Castle, home to the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne and restored in an elaborate French chateau style. As the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret, its legendary tales are brought to life on our guided tour.

Later, we check into the Fairmont Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 27: St Andrews & Highland Games

Today we follow in the footsteps of William and Kate, Prince and Princess of Wales with a guided coach and walking tour in St Andrews, home to a crumbling castle and an ancient cathedral.

We're in for a real Scottish treat this afternoon with St Andrews Highland Games. A unique part of Scotland's heritage and a celebration of Celtic culture, you can expect plenty of unique sports, kilts, bagpipes and whisky.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

July 28: Falkland Palace & Hopetoun House

After checking out of the hotel, the fairytale-like, French-inspired Falkland Palace is our first stop today. 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 was commissioned in 1501 by James IV to create a base for country pursuits.



Palace of Holyroodhouse

In the afternoon we enjoy a guided tour of the imposing Hopetoun House, widely recognized as Scotland's finest stately home. The magnificent interiors reflect the elegance of the Georgian era and are decorated with lovely period furniture, paintings, tapestries and clocks.

This evening, we check into the InterContinental Edinburgh The George Hotel, where we stay for the remainder of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

There is then some time at leisure before our three-course celebratory Scottish meal with wine and a wee dram of single malt whisky, followed by tea or coffee and traditional fudge. Afterward, we are escorted to the Castle Esplanade to take our seats for the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. 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*.

Please note: we advise you to be prepared with waterproofs in case of inclement weather during the Tattoo.

Meals: Breakfast, Pre-Show Meal

August 2: 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.



Edinburgh Castle

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
- ♦ Firth of Forth Bridges boat tour
- ♦ Private guided tour of Stirling Castle
- ♦ Private guided tour of *Royal Yacht Britannia*
- ♦ Afternoon tea at the Fingal Hotel
- ♦ 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