



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

Next, we travel to the spectacular Glamis Castle, home to the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne and restored in an elaborate French château 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

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 a meal at Brea Scottish Restaurant in Stirling 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

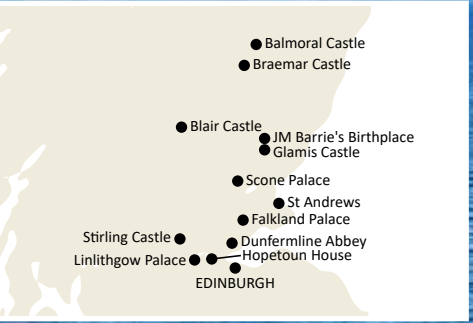
Today we step aboard the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, which was Elizabeth II’s floating Royal residence for over 44 years, used for state visits, official receptions, family holidays and honeymoons. We take a fascinating private tour before enjoying afternoon tea at Scotland’s first luxury floating hotel.

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.



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

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**.

Please note: featured prices are inclusive of the National Trust membership discount. If you are not a National Trust Member, there is a \$150 increase on the prices shown.

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 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 full passport and we recommend that it is valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. At the time of printing, tourist visas are not required for US or Canadian citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US or Canadian 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?

Yes, 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 where available, 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.

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



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:

91 days or more 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