



Inveraray Castle



Culzean Castle

© Juergen Schomop

Grand Tour of Scotland - Romantic Castles & Royal Connections

June 17 to July 1, 2027 ♦ From \$9,800* per person

On this grand tour, follow in the footsteps of royalty and retreat to beautiful Scotland during the summertime, with its sparkling lochs, sweeping landscapes and quiet valleys. We see how this wonderful country has provided a sanctuary for the Royal Family for centuries, beginning with Balmoral, Queen Victoria's 'dear paradise in the Highlands'. In Edinburgh, we step aboard Elizabeth II's *Royal Yacht Britannia*, offering an intimate glimpse into 'off-duty' royal life, and discover the Palace of Holyroodhouse, The King's official Scottish residence. Our journey reveals Scotland's many faces: the architectural innovation of Glasgow, the longstanding traditions of whisky distilleries, the rich poetic legacy, the grandeur of stately homes and, of course, the stunning scenery. From a must-do drive through breathtaking Glencoe to a cruise on peaceful Loch Lomond, this is Scotland at its most inspiring.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers to/from Glasgow or Edinburgh Airports*
- ♦ 2 nights at the Voco Grand Central by IHG, Glasgow
- ♦ 2 nights at the Marine Troon, Ayrshire
- ♦ 2 nights at the Cameron House Hotel, Loch Lomond
- ♦ 3 nights at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry
- ♦ 4 nights at the InterContinental Edinburgh the George by IHG, Edinburgh
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés at your first hotel
- ♦ Full Scottish/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course dinner, usually served *table d'hôte* style, on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ Any additional meals as listed in the itinerary
- ♦ Entrances to all excursions as listed in the itinerary
- ♦ Porterage where available
- ♦ Services of a tour manager

*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations.

Itinerary

June 17: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Scotland

June 18: Arrival

Upon arrival at either Glasgow or Edinburgh Airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel, the Voco Grand Central by IHG Hotel in Glasgow. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

June 19: House for an Art Lover & Burrell Collection Museum

Our tour begins with a visit to House for an Art Lover, a homage to Charles Rennie Mackintosh's visionary designs from 1901.

Next is the Burrell Collection for a behind-the-scenes guided tour, allowing access to thousands of objects not on public display.

Later, spend the evening at leisure in Glasgow.

June 20: Dumfries House & Culzean Castle

The 18th-century Dumfries House is a wonderful Robert Adam designed Palladian mansion with

an unrivalled collection of Chippendale furniture, which we see on our 'Grand Tour'.

We also visit Culzean Castle. In recognition of Eisenhower's leadership during World War II, the castle's upper floor was gifted to him by the people of Scotland.

June 21: Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute

Our destination on the Isle of Bute is Mount Stuart, a magnificent neo-Gothic mansion with dazzling interiors. Led by a guide, we uncover the secrets of this extraordinary house before enjoying afternoon tea.

Mount Stuart Horoscope Room

June 22: Robert Burns' Birthplace & Hill House Helensburgh

We turn from aristocratic grandeur to poetic heritage with a guided tour of Burns Cottage, the thatched cottage where Scotland's national poet was born.

Next is Hill House, designed by Mackintosh, where delicate stencilling, stained glass and elegant furniture come together in a harmony of Art Nouveau and Scottish tradition.

June 23: Inveraray Castle & Loch Lomond Cruise

Soak up the views of Loch Fyne to Inveraray Castle, the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Argyll, where the castle's collections span the centuries. We take a private guided tour before having time in Inveraray.

We also enjoy the stunning Scottish scenery on a Loch Lomond cruise.

June 24: Scenic Drive – Glencoe, Trossachs National Park & Loch Tay

Sit back and relax on a journey through the spectacular landscapes which Scotland is so famous for.

June 25: Blair Castle, The Queen's Viewpoint & Blair Athol Distillery

Our guided tour of Blair Castle reveals a fascinating blend of Scottish history, aristocratic heritage and personal stories.

We then pause at the famous Queen's View Viewpoint before taking a Signature Tour at the historic Blair Athol Distillery.

June 26: Balmoral Castle & Ballater

Balmoral Castle awaits, the grand Scottish holiday home of the Royal Family, purchased by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria after they were so enchanted by the Highlands. We explore the elegant ballroom, where the famous Ghillies Ball takes place, as well as the exquisite grounds.

Afterward, we travel to the picturesque village of Ballater for some free time.

June 27: Scone Palace & St Andrew's

We enjoy a guided tour at Scone Palace, once the ancient crowning place of Scottish kings, before visiting world-famous St Andrews.

June 28: Dunfermline Abbey, Andrew Carnegie Birthplace & Palace of Holyroodhouse

We discover the striking Dunfermline Abbey, home to Robert the Bruce's tomb. Just a short stroll away is the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum, set in the weaver's cottage where the great philanthropist and industrialist was born.

After some time for an early dinner at leisure back in Edinburgh, we take a private, out-of-hours tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. We are immersed in centuries of royal history, from the turbulent times of Mary, Queen of Scots, to the elegant State Apartments still used by the King today.

June 29: The Royal Yacht Britannia, St Giles Cathedral & Edinburgh Castle

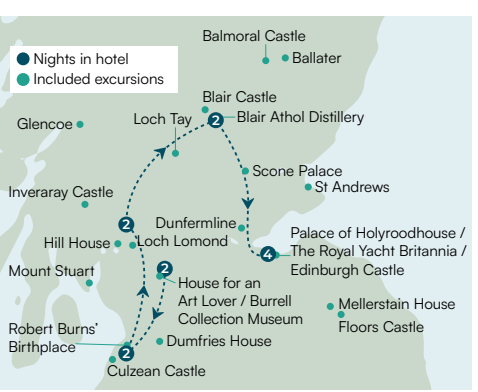
After an early breakfast, we step aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, once the floating residence of Elizabeth II. As we wander the decks on our private tour, imagine the royal voyages across the globe, the glittering receptions and quiet family moments that unfolded at sea.

Afterward, we discover St Giles' Cathedral, followed by the mighty Edinburgh Castle. From ancient sieges to royal births, there is plenty to uncover before our champagne afternoon tea.

June 30: Mellerstain House & Floors Castle

Our final day takes us to the exquisite Mellerstain House, one of Scotland's finest stately homes, and Floors Castle, a striking sight with its fairytale turrets and French-style architecture. Here we are treated to a guided tour and lunch.

This evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner together at the hotel.



July 1: Departure

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

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

**Single supplement applies: \$2,800.*

Key Highlights

- ♦ Delve into royal connections at Balmoral, Holyroodhouse, the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, Dumfries House and St Andrews
- ♦ Admire stunning landscapes and scenery, from Loch Lomond to Royal Deeside, and with a drive through Glencoe
- ♦ Explore world-famous art and architecture in Glasgow, featuring House for an Art Lover and the Burrell Collection
- ♦ New for 2027, enjoy a trip to Ayrshire to visit Dumfries House, Culzean Castle and sites associated with Robert Burns
- ♦ Stay in unique hotels, including one overlooking the 18th hole of the iconic Royal Troon Golf Club

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, please visit savingplaces.org/membership-benefits to sign up. Thank you for your support.

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 120 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. National Trust Tours makes travel insurance available to its customers through USI Travel Insurance Services. Information will be sent to you upon request or with your confirmation letter from National Trust Tours.

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. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK or Republic of Ireland, however for travel to the UK a new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will now be required.

Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA) are being introduced for visitors to the UK who currently do not require a visa for short stays, they are digitally linked to a traveller's passport and ensure more robust security checks are carried out before people begin their journey to the UK, helping prevent abuse of immigration systems.

An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to 6 months at a time and is valid for 2 years or until the holders passport expires — whichever is sooner.

An ETA does not permit entry to the UK — it authorises an individual to travel to the UK. British & Irish citizens do not need an ETA.

Apply for an ETA

Applications can done via a smartphone app — UK ETA app or on line at Apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) — GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This is a simple process, and decisions are usually communicated within 3 days.

It remains your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel documentation for your trip.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

Yes, all our featured hotels charge single supplements and prices are shown on the tour pages. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been handpicked 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.

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 our featured hotels and a \$35 administration fee is charged.

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 Tour Directors?

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. Note also that tours described as being led by property owners, curators and head gardeners are always subject to availability of the individuals concerned.

How much walking will there be on these tours?

Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, but with many historic houses you may experience some uneven flooring along the way, and some rooms and levels may be inaccessible other than by stairs. You will, however, usually have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. Due to the distances covered, garden tours and guided city walking tours will often require slightly higher standards of mobility. It is essential that you inform us of any concerns at the time of booking, so that we can assess the suitability of your chosen tour in line with your specific requirements.

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). Unless stated otherwise 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.

All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions except. All dates are subject to change.



Holkham Hall



Hever Castle



Bodnant Garden



Tower of London

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)	120 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:

121 days or more prior to departure	\$1,000 (USD)
120 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.