

**Spirit of Scotland**  
*Hosted by Father David O'Connor*  
*June 9- 17, 2024*



**Saturday June 8**

**Overnight Flight to Dublin**

Today we start our journey by flying across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland.

**Sunday June 9**

**Arrive in Belfast**

This morning you'll land in Dublin Airport. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Tour Guide will meet you. We'll then head to Belfast, **we will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of the city** with our local guide and take in all of its historic and fascinating areas including the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road, the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road and much more. We will then check in to the hotel and freshen up before meeting for our group dinner.

**Dinner & Overnight: Europa (D, B)**

**Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Titanic Belfast Visitor Experience & Pumphouse**

This morning after breakfast we'll take a step back in time to 1912 when we have a **Titanic Belfast Visitor Experience & Pumphouse tour**. First, you'll hear the story of the Titanic in an innovative, interactive, and insightful way. Symbolic inside and out, Titanic Belfast tells the story of RMS Titanic from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. After the tour you'll have the rest of the afternoon and evening to discover more of Belfast at your own pace and enjoy dinner at your discretion.

**Overnight: Europa (B)**

**Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Depart Belfast to Glasgow**

Today we bid farewell to Belfast and ferry across the Irish Sea to Glasgow. Upon arrival in Cairnryan Port we will head for **Glasgow**, where we will take a panoramic sightseeing tour with our step on guide. Glasgow is famed for its Victorian and art nouveau architecture. Following this we will head to the hotel and check in. Tonight, we'll meet with the group for dinner together at the hotel.

**Overnight: Glasgow Clayton Hotel (D, B)**

**Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Isle of Bute**

This morning after breakfast we'll head out to the picturesque **Isle of Bute!** Take in the lush, fertile, rolling hills of the island's heart to the craggy, heather-covered moorlands as well as delightful sandy beaches and views of the Isle of Arran. Once on the island we'll head out to **Mount Stuart House**, one of the most unique mansions in Scotland. The inside includes early innovations such as a Victorian elevator, early telephone system, and a spiral staircase to what is believed to be the world's first domestic heated swimming pool. The blended Georgian and Victorian architecture is surrounded by 300 acres of stunning plant life, exotic flowers, a rock garden, and an arboretum with trees dating back to the estate's beginning. After our tour you'll have some free time for lunch and to explore the pretty town of Rothsay. We'll then take the ferry back and head into Glasgow where you'll have the rest of the evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: Glasgow Clayton Hotel (B)**

**Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Heading for Inverness**

This morning after breakfast we say goodbye to Glasgow and head to **Inverness**. We'll travel alongside the famous Loch Lomond, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty. We will drive through the deep valley of **Glencoe**, notorious for the **Campbell massacre of the Clan MacDonald in 1692**, and we will stop at the spot where *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* was filmed. This is the former location of Hagrid's Hut. The set has now been removed and the hillsides returned to their natural state. We continue on through Fort William and stop at **the Spean Bridge Woollen Mill**, which offers a good selection of quality Scottish goods. After lunch we reach the mysterious **Loch Ness**, taking in all the breathtaking scenery that surrounds it. Make sure to keep an eye out for 'Nessie!' We will pay a visit to **Urquhart Castle** – a ruined castle that sits

beside Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland. Upon reaching Inverness, we will check-in to our hotel, and enjoy dinner together this evening at a local restaurant.

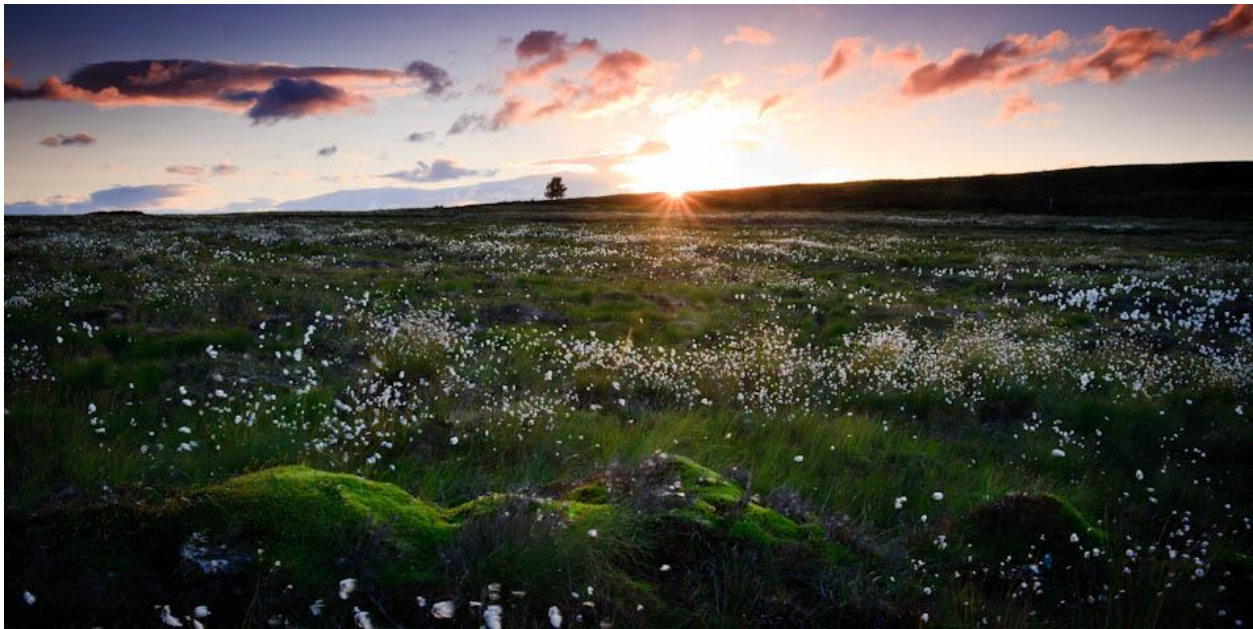
**Overnight and Dinner in local restaurant: AC Hotel Inverness (B)**

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Culloden Battlefield & Clava Cairns**

After breakfast today we'll tour Inverness. We'll stop at the historical **Culloden Battlefield**, where you'll learn the true story of where the 1745 Jacobite Rising came to an end. We'll continue on, visiting the prehistoric site of **Clava Cairns**, the well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery dating back 4,000 years. We'll have free time for lunch before stopping at **Highland House of Fraser** Kiltmakers and Visitor Center where you can shop for kilts, textiles, highland dress accessories, jewelry, and much more! We'll then head back to the hotel where you'll have the rest of the evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: AC Hotel Inverness (B)**



**Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Edinburgh & Pitlochry**

This morning after breakfast we bid farewell to Inverness and travel to **Edinburgh, the Capital of Scotland**. Along the way we'll stop for lunch in **Pitlochry**, one of Scotland's most vibrant and charming places to visit. We'll then continue on to Edinburgh, known for its beautiful scenery, rich clan history, and fine food! After checking-in to the hotel you'll have the rest of the evening to explore Edinburgh at your leisure and grab dinner on your own tonight. Perhaps try some haggis with your pint while you take in the sights of the city!

**Overnight: The Scholar Hotel (B)**

Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>

Discover

**Edinburgh**

Today we'll explore the gothic sites of **Edinburgh!** Our city tour will include **Old Town, the Royal Mile, Princes Street, Charlotte Square, and the Scott Monument, dedicated to Sir Walter Scott and Edinburgh Castle.** Built in 1103 and steeped in history, it's situated as the main focal point of the city. You'll then have the rest of the afternoon free before meeting for a special farewell **Ceilidh dinner.**  
**Overnight and Farewell Dinner: The Scholar Hotel (B)**

Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>

**Homeward Bound**

This morning you'll head to Edinburgh Airport where you will board your flight home. Carry on your photos and memories from your fabulous trip! We look forward to booking your next adventure soon!