



Great Gardens & Castles: Scotland



This is your special invitation to join us next June as we travel to Scotland to see beautiful gardens, stunning scenery, and grand castles! Scotland, known for Haggis, bagpipes, the Lochness Monster, and whiskey, also has had an impressive number of castles in its history—up to 4000 by some counts. The number of existing castles today is significantly less, but many of those are surrounded by beautiful gardens. Our journey begins on the southwest coast, moves up to Oban in the Highlands, then east to St. Andrews, Stirling, and Edinburgh. It is two weeks of the finest gardens and castles in all of Scotland!

Dates: June 21 - July 3, 2023

Cost: \$6550.00 per person

(Double occupancy, including airfare from Dulles to Scotland and return)

Deadline to Register: March 15, 2023

Come along with us for this spectacular gardens and castles adventure!



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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Culzean Castle ♦ Drummond Castle ♦ Dunninald Castle
Dunnottar Castle ♦ Inveraray Castle ♦ Stirling Castle
Edinburgh Botanic Gardens ♦ Threave Garden ♦ Little Sparta Garden
Garden of Cosmic Speculation ♦ Arduaine Garden
Benmore Botanical Garden
Highland Cows ♦ Puffins
Isle of Mull ♦ Isle of Staffa ♦ Isle of Iona
St. Andrews ♦ Edinburgh ♦ Troon ♦ Stirling

TOUR AT A GLANCE

The tour begins with a flight from Washington Dulles Airport to Glasgow, Scotland. We immediately travel southwest to the city of Troon to visit local gardens and castles. Leaving Troon, we go north, paralleling the west coast of Scotland on our way to the Highlands in Oban. From Oban we take a 3-island tour and see stunning scenery and historic places on three Inner Hebrides Islands. We then travel to the east coast, stopping at Loch Lomond on our way to Dundee. We take a day trip north of Dundee to see two great castles. Finally, we cross the Tay River, arriving in St Andrews and then Edinburgh for our last 4 nights. We fly home from Edinburgh International Airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight from Washington to Glasgow and return.
- All entrance fees to places on the itinerary
- All breakfasts, several lunches, teas, and dinners
- All fees for guides (tips not included)
- Transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Perfectly located first-class 4-star hotels



Click above to see images from our 2017 tour



NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from your local airport to Washington, DC.
- Trip Insurance
- Tips to drivers, tour guides, and hotel staff
- Additional food not in the itinerary, and other items not listed in the itinerary

ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

Included meals: (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (T) Tea (D) Dinner

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Day One – Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Our Scottish adventure begins with a late afternoon flight from Washington's Dulles International Airport arriving the next morning in Glasgow, Scotland.



Culzean Castle

Day Two – Thursday, June 22

Once we depart the airport, we're off to see a great castle surrounded by wonderful gardens. **Culzean Castle** rises like a fortress overlooking the sea. Steeped in history, it has a very intriguing past: the top floor was given to Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1945 in honor of his leadership during World War II. We visit the interior of the castle and its remarkable gardens before heading to our hotel in Troon. This evening, we enjoy a get-acquainted dinner together. Lodging: **Piersland Hotel, Troon (L)(D)**

Day Three – Friday, June 23

After a hearty breakfast, our coach takes us to some beautiful gardens to the south of Troon. The first is **Threave School of Heritage Gardening**, where future horticulturists learn the art and science of tending Scotland's historic gardens. After Threave, we travel to a unique garden in every way: the **Garden of Cosmic Speculation**. The home and project of an American landscape architect, it has been described as "innovative, bizarre, and inspiring." Lodging: Troon (B)(D)



The Blue Poppy at Threave



The Garden of Cosmic Speculation



Redwoods at Benmore Botanic Garden

Day Four – Saturday, June 24

Leaving Troon, we depart for the Highlands and visit **Benmore Botanic Garden** enroute. Benmore has a great collection of flowering trees and shrubs including over 300 species of rhododendron and over one third of the world's winter hardy conifer species. Later we arrive in the coastal city of Oban, where we stay for three nights. Before arriving, we stop in at **Inveraray Castle** for tea. Inveraray may look familiar as it was featured on *Downton Abbey's* Christmas special. Lodging: Perle Hotel, Oban (B)(T)(D)

Day Five – Sunday, June 25

Just a short drive out of Oban is **Arduaine Garden**. It faces south on the Sound of Jura and benefits from the warmth of the North Atlantic Drift, producing colorful spectacular displays. Here we find beautiful specimens of tree ferns, native to New Zealand. Upon our return to Oban, we tour the **Oban Distillery**, just a stone's throw from the sea and one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt Scotch whisky. We have the remainder of the afternoon free in Oban. Lodging: Oban (B)



Nepal Rhododendron at Arduaine Garden

Day Six – Monday, June 26

Today we discover the wonders of three Scottish islands. We board a ferry from Oban, crossing the Firth of Lorn to Craignure on the **Isle of Mull**. Mull, with its stunning scenery and legendary Highland Cows, is our first of the three islands. Once across Mull we board another ferry to the **Isle of Iona** to see the famous Abbey where the Book of Kells was written. But the highlight of this tour is the awe-inspiring visit to the unique **Isle of Staffa** to see Fingal's Cave. And just maybe, we might have the opportunity to see nesting puffins on Staffa. Lodging: Oban (B)



The Highland Cow on Mull a.k.a. the Heilan Coo



The formal gardens at Drummond Castle

Day Seven – Tuesday, June 27

By the end of this day, we will have traveled from the west coast of Scotland all the way to the east coast city of Dundee. Along the way, we visit the magnificent **Drummond Castle** with its extensive



Dunnottar Castle

formal gardens. But before that, we make a detour to glimpse Scotland’s most famous loch—**Loch Lomond**. Continuing east, **Glendoick Garden Centre** provides us insight into how the Scots market plants. Lodging: **Hotel Malmaison**, Dundee (B)(L)

Day Eight – Wednesday, June 28

Driving north along the east coast of Scotland, we encounter the great castle called **Dunnottar**. Steeped in history, this romantic and haunting ruin is a photographer’s paradise, a history lover’s dream, and a must-see iconic destination for visitors from the world over.

Later in the day, we visit **Dunninald Castle and Gardens**, a private castle where we meet the owners, walk through their beautiful walled garden, visit the family castle, and then have tea. Lodging: Dundee (B)(L)(T)



Dunninald Castle and Gardens

Day Nine – Thursday, June 29

Today we take a journey through Scottish history with a local guide. We begin in **St. Andrews** at the **Old Course** and end where the hero king, Robert the Bruce, defeated the armies of England’s King Edward II in 1314. In between, we explore **Falkland Palace and Gardens** along with **Stirling Castle**. Lodging: **Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel** (B)





Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Day Ten – Friday, June 30

We begin our day at the remarkable **Edinburgh Botanic Gardens**. The gardens are world renowned for horticultural excellence with over 70 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds providing a tranquil haven in the midst of the busy city. Later in the day we take a walking tour in the heart of old Edinburgh called, **The Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile**. Lodging: Edinburgh (B)

Day Eleven – Saturday July 1

This morning, we travel south to the Scottish Borders to enjoy a garden called **Portmore**. Here we see the ornamental vegetable garden, rose garden, large walled garden, and Victorian glass house. Our next visit is to **Little Sparta**, the garden of the late

poet, writer, and artist, Ian Hamilton Finlay and his wife, Sue. This five-acre private garden is a

showcase for Finlay's concept of fusing horticultural elements with works of art. Lodging: Edinburgh (B)(L)



Portmore Garden

Day Twelve – Sunday, July 2

On our final full day in Scotland, you are free to explore Edinburgh on your own before our farewell dinner together in the evening. Lodging: Edinburgh (B)(D)

Day Thirteen – Monday, July 3

All too soon, our Scottish adventure ends. We leave Edinburgh arriving back at Dulles in the late afternoon. (B)

OUR HOTELS

To find out more about our hotels, click on the hotel names below:

[Piersland Hotel, Troon](#)

[Hotel Perle, Oban](#)

[Malmaison Hotel, Dundee](#)

[Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel, Edinburgh](#)

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COST:

\$6550.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, airfare **included** from Dulles to Scotland and return)

\$1200.00 Single room supplemental fee

While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

Method of Payment: *by check only*, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC

Tour Conditions:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on October 24, 2022, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided. For a more detailed Term and Conditions statement from MCDUFFTOURS, please click **HERE**.

Please note that this tour requires a considerable amount of walking. Since most of the gardens and castles we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on uneven paths with steps without wheelchairs or walkers. The tour also requires one to get on and off small boats. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage. If you cannot walk a mile without difficulty, this tour is most likely not the best tour for you.

Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, bottled water, all breakfasts, dinners, lunches, and teas as outlined in the Itinerary. Also included is the cost of airfare from Washington Dulles to Scotland and return. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, *if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.*

Not included in the Cost

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from home to Miami International Airport is not included.

I understand and accept these terms and conditions:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cancellation and Refund Policy: The total deposit is refundable until March 15, 2023. If you must cancel between March 15 and May 10, 2023, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After May 10, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy is a soprano and was on faculty in the Department of Music, while Robert is a Landscape Architect and was faculty in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. After establishing the first group VT Horticulture Study Abroad program 26 years ago, we now have taken over 1600 garden lovers of all ages to explore gardens in 27 countries on 6 continents.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Please print – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) _____

First name for NAME TAG _____ Phone # _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Passport# _____ Place of issue _____

Date of issue _____ Date of expiration _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Special food requirements or allergies _____

Name of preferred roommate _____

Total Tour Fee is \$6550.00 (double occupancy, per person)

_____ \$1000.00 Deposit due: March 15, 2023

_____ \$5550.00 Final payment of the balance due: May 10, 2023

_____ \$1200.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: May 10, 2023

\$_____ Total payment enclosed

Questions? Ask Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcdufftours@yahoo.com

Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by March 15, 2023 to:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC
4810 Susannah Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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