

The Great Castles of Scotland

AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY FROM LOWLANDS TO HIGHLANDS TO ISLANDS

Special Savings Offer

You save \$400 per person when
you register by 1/31/18!

A SCHOLARLY
SOJOURN

SEE SCOTLAND THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF ITS MOST CELEBRATED LANDMARKS
AS YOU TAKE A PANORAMIC JOURNEY FROM STUNNING EDINBURGH ACROSS
LOCHS AND GLENS AND THROUGH THE LOWLANDS AND HIGHLANDS

TOUR DETAILS AT A GLANCE

2018 DEPARTURE

April 22—29, 2018

PRICE

\$3,495/person (double occupancy)

\$3,990/person (single occupancy)

TOUR BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

TOUR CONCLUDES

Stirling, Scotland

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,199/person*

*See page 10 for details

POST-TOUR EXCURSIONS

From \$199/person*

*See page 9 for details

TO REGISTER

Call us at 1-800-419-3443 or

Use the [online registration form](#)

CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER ONLINE



Eilean Donan Castle

The Great Castles of Scotland

AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY FROM LOWLANDS TO HIGHLANDS TO ISLANDS

The castles of Scotland tell a fascinating story which is unique from that of those found in its southern neighbor, England. In England, the need for fortified residences became less and less several centuries before the same could be said of Scotland. England was generally a flat and productive country which quickly became well ordered under a universal set of laws—English Common Law.

In Scotland, however, arguments between arbitrary rule by lords and princes and the rule of their king and his ministers was hotly disputed for centuries. Indeed, the Scotland we know today didn't exist as a single kingdom until 1493 when the Scots finally annexed the northwestern isles. Even so, regional and inter-tribal warfare continued there until the Jacobite rebellions were finally crushed in the mid-eighteenth century, nearly fifty years after the kingdoms of England and Scotland had merged to form the United Kingdom.

When one considers the centuries of struggle, the bloody disputes between clans, the strife among princes, paupers and lords, all set against some of Europe's most stunning scenery, it is not hard to understand why the castles of Scotland offer a tantalizing prism through which to explore this beautiful nation and its captivating history.

Our fascinating sojourn begins in the Lowlands and makes its way around the country—traveling north through the dramatic Highlands and atmospheric islands before heading east to the coast of the shimmering North Sea and finally concluding in Scotland's heart: the ancient capital of Stirling. Along the way, we encounter 22 of the most stunning castles found in Scotland. Join us on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to explore these majestic structures both inside and out while discovering their hidden secrets and learning the stories they have left for posterity.

ABOUT SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS

Not only our name, but also what we call our flagship tours, Scholarly Sojourns are intellectually-stimulating travel programs that explore fascinating topics in history, literature, archaeology, art history, and science. Designed and guided by distinguished scholars, these engaging journeys provide the unique opportunity to explore a subject on location.

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

DAY 1

EDINBURGH TO DALHOUSIE

Arriving in Scotland today, you make your way to our group rendezvous point in the stunning city of Edinburgh. Here you are welcomed by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director as well as your Tour Leader, Paul Remfry. Following a quick welcome drink with other tour participants, we make our way through the winding, atmospheric streets of Edinburgh's medieval Old Town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—to discover the imposing citadel of Edinburgh Castle. Afterward, we depart the ancient city to visit two nearby border castles that played pivotal roles in Scotland's history. The first is the great fortress Dirleton Castle, which was begun around AD 1240 and which saw significant action during the Wars of Scottish Independence. Next, we travel to mighty Tantallon Castle, perched in a striking position above the North Sea and surrounded by a 50-foot curtain wall. This evening, we stay at historic Dalhousie Castle Hotel where we gather for a formal welcome reception and a special opening dinner in the castle's historic great hall. [R | D]

DAY 2

DALHOUSIE TO INVERARAY

Departing Dalhousie Castle Hotel this morning, we explore Craigmillar Castle—a well-preserved edifice that dates from the 14th-Century and is famed as the place Mary Queen of Scots came to convalesce in November or 1566 following an illness after the birth of her son, the future James VI. Next, our journey takes us west along the great divide of Scotland to visit Bothwell Castle, which commands a prominent location above the River Clyde just outside Scotland's largest city, Glasgow. Following lunch, we continue to Dumbarton Castle which sits at the base of a 240-foot high plug of volcanic basalt known as Dumbarton Rock—a site which has a long, fascinating, and somewhat mysterious past. Its earliest residents were known to have traded with the Romans. This evening we take a scenic drive along the famous “Bonnie, Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond” and then up and over the ‘Rest and Be Thankful’—one of Scotland's highest mountain passes—to reach picturesque Inveraray, set upon the banks of Loch Fyne. After checking into our atmospheric lodging, the remainder of the evening is left free to explore and dine in the charming town center. [B]



Bothwell Castle

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

DAY 1: SUNDAY

April 22

Edinburgh to Dalhousie

DAY 2: MONDAY

April 23

Dalhousie—Inveraray

DAY 3: TUESDAY

April 24

Inveraray—Glencoe

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY

April 25

Glencoe—Skye

DAY 5: THURSDAY

April 26

Skye—Elgin

DAY 6: FRIDAY

April 27

Elgin—Kildrummy

DAY 7: SATURDAY

April 28

Kildrummy—Stirling

DAY 8: SUNDAY

April 29

Tour concludes in Stirling



Edinburgh Castle

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Tour leader Paul Remfry is arguably one of the greatest castle scholars of our era who frequently appears as an expert on television documentaries exploring the history of castles
- ◆ Experience in-depth tours at 22 of the most significant and stunning castles in Scotland
- ◆ Enjoy a private, guided walking tour of Edinburgh's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ◆ Visit historic St. Andrews—one of Scotland's oldest cities and famous as the birthplace of golf
- ◆ Experience the dramatic scenery of Glencoe and enjoy a night on the atmospheric Isle of Skye
- ◆ An afternoon visit to the charming Victorian seaport of Oban, famous for its exquisite seafood

"Your attention to detail is way beyond any tour operator I have ever worked with!"

- Paula F., Travel Agent,
Mahwah, NJ



Inveraray Castle

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

DAY 3

INVERARAY TO GLENCOE

We enjoy some time to shop and explore in Inveraray this morning. Some may wish to stroll the beautiful gardens of Inveraray 'castle' which has been home to the chief of Clan Campbell since the 17th century. We depart midmorning and travel along the banks of Loch Awe to visit Kilchurn Castle—a 15th-Century fortress that became a comfortable residence and later a garrison stronghold. It now contains the oldest surviving barracks on the British mainland. Afterward we continue north to the Victorian port of Oban where we take time for lunch, shopping, and exploring its atmospheric harbor before visiting nearby Dunstaffnage Castle, which stands where the open sea meets Loch Etive. This afternoon, our trek continues north to haunting Castle Stalker—a four-story tower house set on a small island in an inlet off Loch Linnhe. This evening, we rest our heads in the rustic village of Glencoe, which affords some of the most dramatic Highland scenery in Scotland. After settling into our lakeside lodging here, we gather for a special group dinner and conversation. [B | D]

DAY 4

GLENCOE TO SKYE

Heading north from Glencoe this morning, we travel to the nearby Highland town of Fort William, which hides the fascinating remains of Inverlochy Castle—the site of two of the most important battles in Scotland's history. The structure is unique in that it has remained essentially unaltered since its original construction during the reign of King Alexander III in the 13th century. After our visit, we travel west through rugged and evocative Highland landscapes to the port of Mallaig where we embark for our ferry crossing to the magical Isle of Skye. Following the enjoyable voyage, we experience a scenic drive across Skye, traversing the spine of the island as we make our way to haunting Dunvegan Castle—the seat of Clan MacLeod. We enjoy a private tour here and also have time to visit the impressive gardens or take a short boat ride to see the nearby permanent seal colony—the only one in Scotland. Our visit concludes with a highlight of the tour: a champagne reception in the castle's gardens. This afternoon, we drive around the rugged Trotternish Peninsula, home to some of the island's geologically-fascinating sites such as the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr. This evening we stay in the post-card perfect harbor of Portree where we are free to explore, dine, and enjoy a beautiful Skye sunset. [B | R]

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

DAY 5

SKYE TO ELGIN

Departing Skye this morning, we drive along the picturesque shores of Loch Alsh to what is perhaps Scotland's most photographed castle—Eilean Donan. The mighty seat of Clan Macrae stands guard at a strategic location where Loch Alsh converges with Loch Long and Loch Duich. Following our visit, we drive east toward the shores of Loch Ness where we embark for a stunning afternoon cruise which takes us to iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle. After our visit, we enjoy a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic lunch against the breathtaking backdrop of the loch and castle and then continue north toward the historic lands of the Thanes of Cawdor. Here we experience yet another tour highlight: a private visit to Cawdor Castle guided by its current resident—the Dowager Countess Cawdor. This evening, we travel to the town of Elgin where we lodge for the night at the stately Mansion House Hotel. After checking in, the remainder of the evening is free to explore and dine on our own. [B | L]

DAY 6

ELGIN TO KILDRUMMY

Departing Elgin this morning, we travel to explore nearby 12th-century Duffus Castle—perhaps the finest example of a motte-and-bailey castle in Scotland. Afterward, we head south through the picturesque Spey River Valley to visit Balvenie Castle, built in the 12th century by a branch of the powerful Comyn family (the Black Comyns). Our visit here also allows us time to take a quick peak into the Glenfiddich Distillery—one of Scotland's largest single-malt whisky producers—which sits just below the castle. Our journey then takes us west into Aberdeenshire to explore Huntley Castle—seat of the mighty Gordons of Huntley. The unique L-plan castle includes a well-preserved five-story tower with an adjoining great hall. Following our visit, we enjoy another Scholarly Sojourns Signature picnic lunch—this one upon the banks of the River Deveron, which runs just alongside the castle. This afternoon, we continue through verdant Aberdeenshire to visit the ruins of ancient Kildrummy Castle and explore its unique 'shield-shaped' design and numerous independent tow-



Castle Stalker

BOOKING IS EASY!

1) CALL TO REGISTER OR USE OUR ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Call us at 1-800-419-3443. Our friendly customer service team is ready to assist you Mon—Fri, 9:00AM—5:00PM (EST). Or, you can complete the [online registration form](#) anytime.

2) WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION BY EMAIL

Within 24 hours you will receive an email confirmation of your registration along with some additional information and an invoice for the deposit due.

3) RETURN THE PAPERWORK AND PAY YOUR DEPOSIT

Simply review the registration documents and pay the deposit within 14 days to finalize your booking.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

SAVE WITH SOJOURN COMBINATIONS!

Save \$250 per person and receive a free transfer between locations when you book two consecutive sojourns.

THIS TOUR COMBINES WELL WITH:

SCOTCH WHISKY IN DEPTH



Dunvegan Castle

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Attend a Highland ‘ceilidh’ (a traditional Scottish celebration) complete with bagpiper and the opportunity to learn Scottish folk dances
- ◆ Enjoy a private tour and champagne reception at Dunvegan Castle, the seat of Clan MacLeod
- ◆ Take a private, guided tour of Cawdor Castle led by the Dowager Countess Cawdor herself
- ◆ Enjoy a cruise along Loch Ness to the haunting ruins of iconic Urquhart Castle
- ◆ Take a private, guided walking tour of historic Stirling and its massive castle
- ◆ Travel through both of Scotland’s stunning national parks: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Cairngorms National Park

The absolute most amazing vacation I've ever been on...

-Jessica H., San Francisco, CA



Dunnottar Castle

Day-to-Day Tour Summary

ers. Afterward, we check in at adjoining Kildrummy Castle Hotel—an atmospheric, Georgian manor house which becomes our group’s private home for the night. Here where we enjoy dinner together and then experience yet another highlight of the tour: a Highland ‘ceilidh’ (a traditional Scottish celebration) complete with bagpiper and the opportunity to learn some Scottish folk dances. [B | L | D]

DAY 7

KILDRUMMY TO STIRLING

Following breakfast, we travel east to the coast of the North Sea where we encounter the ruins of massive Dunnottar Castle—a dramatic fortress perched upon a rocky headland that is almost completely surrounded by the crashing waves of the sea. It is not surprising that portions of the 1990 film *Hamlet* were shot here. Afterward, we travel south along the North Sea coast to what is perhaps Scotland’s most-celebrated historic city: St. Andrews. Named after Saint Andrew the Apostle—Scotland’s patron—and home to its oldest university, the city is also world-famous as the birthplace of golf. Here we enjoy time for lunch and to explore before visiting dramatic St. Andrews Castle, which rests on a promontory above the crashing surf of the North Sea. Later, we travel west to see petite Loch Leven Castle—a picturesque structure on an island in Loch Leven where Mary Queen of Scots, was imprisoned for nearly a year. This evening we arrive in Scotland’s formidable ancient capital, Stirling, where we gather for a special reception and closing dinner together after checking into our historic hotel. [B | R | D]

DAY 8

STIRLING

Following breakfast and our final daily briefing, we walk to visit the last great castle of our tour—magnificent Stirling Castle, which is one of the largest and most historically-significant castles in Scotland. The imposing citadel dates from AD 1110, and several Scottish monarchs have been crowned in its halls, including Mary, Queen of Scots. Following our visit, we gather with Paul Remfry and other participants for some closing remarks before saying our farewells. It is perhaps fitting that our tour draws to a close here in Scotland’s heart, where the unique historical threads of this country—Highland, Lowland, battles, clans, and Kings—all intersect and seem to weave themselves together in one colorful tartan. [B]

Lodging



Dalhousie Castle Hotel - Edinburgh

Set within acres of wooded parkland on the picturesque banks of the River Esk, the magnificent, 13th-century fortress of Dalhousie Castle Hotel has the distinction of being Scotland's oldest inhabited castle. Although just 8 miles from Edinburgh's city center, the stunning surroundings, opulent guest rooms, and award-winning restaurant create the illusion of a secluded resort.



The Mansion House Hotel - Elgin

Located in the picturesque town of Elgin, the Mansion House Hotel displays quintessential Victorian charm and offers the rare opportunity to experience the style and elegance of a bygone era. The hotel is ideally tucked away in a secluded location along the graceful River Lossie, but yet is just steps away from Elgin's wide array of shops, restaurants, and friendly pubs.



Kildrummy Castle Hotel - Kildrummy

Set in the heart of beautiful Aberdeenshire and surrounded by acres of beautifully-manicured gardens, Kildrummy Castle Hotel overlooks the ruins of the original, 13th-century Kildrummy Castle. Each of the 16 guest rooms is beautifully furnished and the hotel's graceful and inviting public areas—including a restaurant, library, lounge and bar—beg guests to relax and unwind.

For a complete list of lodging on this tour, please visit www.scholarlysojourns.com.



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Paul Remfry is arguably one of the greatest living castle scholars of our era. He is a meticulous researcher who has spent over 30 years studying medieval history, genealogy, and architecture. As a historian with a passion for telling the stories of castles and the people who once lived in them, Paul lectures throughout the United Kingdom and also frequently appears as an expert on television documentaries exploring the history of castles. He has also written extensively about castles, abbeys, and battles and his list of published works now includes some 20 books and over 50 booklets and scholarly articles for academic and archaeological journals. His scholarship is widely praised as superlative and his research approach to the study of castles has garnered widespread acclaim from the academic community.



Stirling Castle

"We had already been to Scotland on two occasions, however this experience was marvelous and incomparable."

—Jane M., Wilmington, DE

CASTLES YOU VISIT

EDINBURGH CASTLE

DIRLETON CASTLE

TANTALLON CASTLE

DALHOUSIE CASTLE

CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE

BOTHWELL CASTLE

DUMBARTON CASTLE

KILCHURN CASTLE

DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE

CASTLE STALKER

INVERLOCHY CASTLE

DUNVEGAN CASTLE

EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

URQUHART CASTLE

CAWDOR CASTLE

DUFFUS CASTLE

BALVENIE CASTLE

HUNTLY CASTLE

KILDRUMMY CASTLE

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE

LOCHLEVEN CASTLE

ST. ANDREWS CASTLE

STIRLING CASTLE



Cawdor Castle

Our Visit to Cawdor Castle

Our visit to Cawdor Castle will surely be one of the most memorable highlights of the tour. The elegant design and masterful masonry of Cawdor Castle are breathtaking in and of themselves, however, the juxtaposition of the marvelous stonework and the stunning beauty of the exquisitely-manicured gardens offers a breathtaking feast for the eyes. The history of the castle is every bit as fascinating—dating to the late 14th-century, Cawdor has been inhabited by the descendants of the Thanes of Cawdor for over 600 years.



Countess Cawdor

We were somewhat apprehensive to try an organized tour, but this experience was phenomenal.”

-Barbara B., Annapolis, MD

Perhaps the most special element of the visit here is that our tour will be led by the current resident—the Dowager Countess Cawdor herself, who graciously shares personal stories about the history of the castle and its artifacts as she shows us around. With her, we make our way through some of the castle’s most private and impressive spaces—the graceful Drawing Room, its walls adorned with magnificent family portraits; the Dining Room, with its formidable fireplace; the Tapestry Bedroom, with its elegant wall hangings; and the Old Kitchen, which amazingly was in active use from 1640 to 1938. Outside we see three picturesque gardens, each of which was lovingly fashioned as a backdrop to highlight the castle’s splendor.

Tour Map



Kilchurn Castle

POST-TOUR EXCURSIONS

Extend your trip and see even more of Scotland with one of our post-tour excursions. We list some of the most popular options below, but can also create unique, customized itineraries to match your travel wishes.

ST. ANDREWS AND FIFE

Travel from Edinburgh to stunning St. Andrews where you can play (or walk) the historic Old Course, visit the ancient university, and explore the ruins of the medieval castle. 2 days/2 nights including transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from: \$199/night/person

ROSSLYN CHAPEL & BORDERS

Travel south from Edinburgh for a night in a 14th-century castle, visit stunning Rosslyn Chapel and the border towns of Melrose and Jedburgh where you explore the stunning medieval abbey ruins. 2 days/2 nights including transportation, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from: \$249/night/person

EDINBURGH IN DEPTH

Spend two additional days and nights in Edinburgh where you explore the sites of your choice and enjoy a variety of shopping, dining, and nightlife options. 2 days/2 nights including transfers, lodging, breakfasts, and entrance fees from: \$199/night/person

"We seemed to get special treatment everywhere we went. This made a good tour a fabulous tour."

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC



St. Andrews Castle

Tour Details & Registration Information

THE GREAT CASTLES OF SCOTLAND

2018 DEPARTURE

April 22—29, 2018 (Sojourn #1301817)

PRICE

\$3,495/Person (double occupancy)

\$3,990/Person (single occupancy)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

TOUR BEGINS

Edinburgh, Scotland

TOUR CONCLUDES

Stirling, Scotland

OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE:

From \$1,199/Person*

*Includes round-trip, economy airfare, airport transfers in Scotland, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

TO REGISTER

Call us: 1-800-419-3443 - We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

Visit us at: www.scholarlysojourns.com - Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$500/person deposit
Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all of our tour participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

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PRICE INCLUDES

Eight-day travel program of sightseeing, tours, and presentations led by Paul Remfry; 7 nights accommodation in distinctive, 4-star hotels; 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners, 2 receptions; the services of a dedicated Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who accompanies the group; ground and water transportation; entrance fees; gratuities (except for hotel porters); all other activities described in the day-to-day summary. **Included meals are indicated in brackets following each daily description: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; R = Reception.**

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare; airport transfers; meals not indicated in this detailed itinerary; beverage options other than water, wine, beer, or soft drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, metro or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; travel insurance; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting point for this tour is the Grassmarket in Edinburgh's Old Town. Those making their own travel arrangements should plan to arrive here by 11:00AM on Sunday, April 22nd. You will be greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who will assist you boarding the tour coach. An optional shuttle will be offered from Edinburgh Airport for those arriving on flights earlier that morning.

CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

Your sojourn concludes at approximately 11:00 AM on Sunday, April 29th in Stirling, Scotland. An optional shuttle will be offered for those wishing to travel from here to Edinburgh Airport or city center. If making your own flight/travel arrangements, please allow for enough time to travel to the airport after the program ends.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your tour or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the public. We are also happy to provide itinerary suggestions should you wish to do additional travel in Scotland.



SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS | www.scholarlysojourns.com

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