

A Custom Designed Itinerary to Scotland highlighting

Hogmanay

by

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DEC 28/ DAY 1: ARRIVAL / KELSO. (BASED ON AM/ NOON FLIGHT ARRIVAL)

Upon arrival into Edinburgh airport, guests are greeted by an expert guide and escorted to a waiting and private deluxe coach. Your first stop is Rosslyn Chapel, featured in the hugely successful novel and movie 'Da Vinci Code'. From here travel the short distance to **Roxburghe Country House Hotel** – www.roxburghe.net -, where 2 nights are included in deluxe rooms. Time to relax before a special “Welcome Dinner” at the hotel.

DEC 29/ DAY 2: LOCAL. This morning you will depart Roxburghe House for a “surprise” – a very nice one! This will be followed by a visit to Cringletie House, where a 3-course luncheon will be included (the chef here, Paul Hart, has just been awarded the prestigious “Chef of the Year” for Scotland, so you can bet the meal will be superb!), followed by a private whisky tasting with a local manufacturer. Return to Roxburghe Country House, where time to relax before dinner is included.

DEC 30/ DAY 3: EDINBURGH. After a leisurely breakfast you will depart Roxburghe Country House with your driver and guide and travel back to Edinburgh. Here we'll include a comprehensive guided tour of the city, including entrances to Edinburgh Castle, perched atop an extinct volcano. It's the birthplace of James I, who was cruelly snatched away from his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots. Along the Royal Mile, heart of medieval Edinburgh, there are several places of interest including St. Giles' Cathedral, the High Kirk of Edinburgh and the church where John Knox preached. Also included is entrance to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland and the former home of Mary, the Queen of Scots. This is where Mary's second husband rudely burst in on her one day and murdered her secretary in cold blood! Lunch will be included in a local pub. In the afternoon we include a visit to the Royal Yacht “Britannia.” The yacht was a servant to the Royal family for over 40 years and offers a unique insight into how they lived and entertained. Later to **Channings Hotel** – www.channings.co.uk -, where 4 nights are included in superior rooms. The evening is at your leisure to explore this amazing city. Edinburgh is truly Europe's festival city and this is Hogmanay time! The traditional Scottish Celebration is one of the world's most spectacular and popular New Year's celebrations. With street parties, firework displays, torchlight processions and free concerts, there is truly lots to do.

DEC 31 / DAY 4: EDINBURGH/ STIRLING. Today you will travel north with the driver and guide for a half day visit to Stirling, a medieval town dominated by its royal castle, to which we include entrance. This is where Mary, Queen of Scots, and, later, her son, James VI, lived. The castle sits on a high crag and was one of the strongest and most impregnable fortresses in Scotland. Nearby is Bannockburn, where Robert Bruce defeated the English.

On the edge of town is the monument to William Wallace, who earlier defeated the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge (uphill climb with many steps). A quick visit to the William Wallace memorial (if suitable weather conditions) before heading back to Edinburgh for a free afternoon and time to prepare to ring in the New Year. Dinner tonight is included and reserved for 7.00 PM. Afterwards, Channings have arranged street party passes to Hogmanay to enable you to individually enjoy the festivities, plus there will be plenty of entertainment in the hotel!

JAN 1 / DAY 5: EDINBURGH. ‘Happy New Year’! After brunch in the hotel you have a free day to relax – and to recover from the New Year’s Eve celebrations. Tonight dinner is included at the hotel, where again entertainment is also included.

JAN 2 / DAY 6: ST ANDREWS. Today depart Edinburgh with your driver and guide and head northeast to St. Andrews. You cross the Firth of Forth Bridge and follow the Fife Coastal Tourist Route to enjoy spectacular seascapes and breathtaking views. The route takes you through coastal towns and villages including Aberdour and Burntisland, before the East Neuk of Fife. In the East Neuk of Fife – “neuk” is Scottish for “corner” – Scotland’s early European trading links are visible in the Dutch influence in the local architecture of attractive fishing villages such as Earlsferry, Elie, St. Monans, Pittenween and Crail. Continue to St. Andrews, “the birthplace of golf”, where a guided tour of the town is followed by some free time. You will then travel to Glamis Castle, where we have arranged for Glamis to open exclusively for you. You will be greeted by a Scottish Piper, and will enjoy afternoon tea/coffee & shortbread on arrival, followed by a private guided tour. Glamis is the childhood home of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Tonight we have included a very special “Farewell Dinner.” You will gather in the bar in the cellar of Channings for an exclusive VIP whisky tasting and pre-dinner cocktails, followed by a 5-course gourmet dinner in the restaurant

JAN 3 / DAY 7: DEPARTURE. After breakfast you will be transferred to Edinburgh airport. Our services end upon arrival.

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