Highlands and Islands
An Exploration of Scotland’s Natural Wonders

A Presidential Trip with Kathleen McCartney, President, Smith College
Featuring Michael Thurston, New Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Helen Means
Professor of English Language & Literature

June 1–12, 2019

Discover the wild beauty of Scotland on specially guided walks through its famous glens and highlands. From mist-shrouded islands, climb windswept cliffs to spy sea eagles flying overhead and seals playing in the waters below. Explore how the country’s fascinating history is entwined in its landscape. Uncover the disparate influences on Scottish culture, from mysterious stone circles and indigenous Pict tribes, to early Christian monasteries and Viking settlements. Fly to the Orkney Islands to experience the unique history and natural wonders of this remote region, which is believed to contain more ancient sites than anywhere else in Europe. Partake of Scotland’s most famous inventions—whisky and golf—with specially arranged tastings at distilleries and an optional day chasing the dimpled ball on one of the area’s celebrated courses.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Immerse yourself in Scotland’s rugged beauty on iconic Highland walks
• Sample uisge beatha (Gaelic for “whisky”) at a famed distillery at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society
• Follow in the footsteps of sixth-century monks on the tiny island of Iona, site of an ancient abbey
• Witness the age-old art of falconry practiced on the lawn of a famous castle
• Enjoy lectures by Michael Thurston, an expert on the poetry of Scotland and the British Isles
• Fly to the Orkney Islands to explore mysterious prehistoric sites, some of the oldest in Europe

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ITINERARY

Saturday, June 1  DEPARTURE
Depart on an overnight flight to Glasgow.

Sunday, June 2  GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
Arrive this morning and transfer to the Blythswood Square Hotel, where rooms have been reserved for early arrival. Gather in the afternoon for a welcome lunch, followed by a walking tour. See the 12th-century Glasgow Cathedral and its crypt housing the tomb of St. Mungo, founder of the seventh century bishopsric, and visit the St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. Conclude with a stroll through George Square, the heart of the city. Tonight, gather for a welcome reception with plentiful hors d’oeuvres.

Monday, June 3  GLASGOW/BENDERLOCH
Drive to Benderloch alongside picturesque Loch Lomond, stopping for lunch at Bridge at Orchy Hotel before continuing to Glencoe National Nature Reserve, known for its rare beauty and haunting history. Enjoy a three-mile walk along the Glencoe Lochan Trail, whose picturesque woodlands contrast starkly with the dramatic mountains of the glen. Continue to the nearby Isle of Eriska Hotel for check-in. This enchanting property is located on a 300-acre island that is home to Highland cattle, grey seals, and countless birds. Dinner is at the hotel.

Tuesday, June 4  BENDERLOCH/ISLE OF MULL
Travel by ferry from nearby Oban to the Isle of Mull, inhabited since 6,000 BCE. Visit 13th-century Duart Castle, home to the ancient MacLean clan, and view the standing stones of Lochbuie. After lunch, continue by ferry to nearby Iona. Scotland’s conversion to Christianity began here in the sixth century when St. Columba of Ireland arrived to found a monastery. Tour the abbey, nunnery, and the infirmary museum, containing the country’s finest collections of stone crosses and grave slabs. Time permitting, enjoy a two-mile hike to the top of Dun 1, an ancient hill fort offering amazing views. Dinner is at the hotel or a nearby restaurant.

Wednesday, June 5  BENDERLOCH/FORT AUGUSTUS
Drive to Fort Augustus, a paradise for walkers with its spectacular views of Loch Ness. Following lunch, enjoy a 4.75-mile trek along the Great Glen Way, passing picturesque lochs and the impressive Caledonian Canal, which leads into Loch Ness. Continue to The Inch Hotel, overlooking Loch Ness, for check-in. The evening is at leisure.
Thursday, June 6  FORT AUGUSTUS
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and boat ride on Loch Ness. After lunch, drive to the Falls at Foyers for a 2.75-mile walk on well-maintained paths. Hike up forested slopes to the falls for stunning views of this spectacular 140-foot cascade, which drops into a gorge leading to Loch Ness. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. **B,L**

Friday, June 7  FORT AUGUSTUS/INVERNESS
Drive to Inverness along the west side of Loch Ness, stopping en route at 12th-century Urquhart Castle, once one of Scotland’s largest fortifications. Arrive in Inverness and check in at the Culloden House, former headquarters of illfated Bonnie Prince Charlie. Lunch is at leisure. In the afternoon, visit Culloden and the Prehistoric Burial Cairns of Balnuaran of Clava, the “Clava Cairns.” There are larger prehistoric sites in Scotland, but none have as much variety and interest in such a lovely setting. Dinner is at a nearby Restaurant. **B,D**

Saturday, June 8  INVERNESS
Depart early for an optional day of golf at one of the area’s famous courses. Alternatively, journey to Dunrobin to visit the castle, with its beautiful gardens and fine collection of Pictish stones, and watch a falconry demonstration on the castle lawn. The entire group gathers for a late lunch at the legendary Glenmorangie House, followed by a distillery tour and tasting. Return to Inverness for an evening at leisure. **B,L**

Sunday, June 9  INVERNESS/ORKNEY ISLANDS
Begin the day’s touring at magnificent Cawdor Castle, indelibly linked to Shakespeare’s Macbeth. In the afternoon, board a short flight to the Orkney Islands. Arrive in Kirkwall and check in at the Lynnfield Hotel before departing for the Cathedral of St. Magnus, founded in the 12th century by a Viking king. **B,D**

Monday, June 10  ORKNEY ISLANDS
Drive to the Broch of Gurness, one of the finest examples of Iron Age habitations, then explore the Brough of Birsay, an uninhabited tidal island connected by a causeway. Admire its fascinating Pictish, Norse, and medieval remains, and enjoy a 3.75-mile trek in this stunning setting, surrounded by rugged cliffs. Dine tonight on the regional specialties of Orkney. **B,L,D**

Tuesday, June 11  ORKNEY ISLANDS/EDINBURGH
Discover the village of Skara Brae, older than Stonehenge and the pyramids of Giza, and marvel at the Standing Stones of Stenness and Maeshowe Cairn, a 5,000-year-old chambered tomb. View the Ness of Brodgar and nearby Ring of Brodgar, a vast six-acre Neolithic archaeological site discovered in 2002. Return to the hotel and continue to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Edinburgh. On arrival, check in at the legendary Balmoral Hotel. Our farewell dinner is at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. **B,D**
Wednesday, June 12  EDINBURGH/RETURN
Transfer to the airport for flights home.

DISCLAIMER: Participants must be in good health and able to keep pace with an active group. They must be able to hike for up to five miles a day on uneven terrain; walk and stand for periods of two hours at time; climb stairs at monuments (some without handrails) and other locations not handicapped accessible; and board a motorcoach unassisted. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. For walks, participants are advised to bring “broken-in” walking shoes or boots, a sun hat, and comfortable hiking attire.

Please note: This proposed itinerary is the property of Arrangements Abroad may not be duplicated or distributed without written permission. All prices are estimated based on preliminary quotes provided by hotel and service providers, prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of the date of this proposal and are subject to change. Reservations are subject to the Terms & Conditions of Arrangements Abroad.

ACCOMMODATIONS

BLYTHWOOD SQUARE HOTEL, GLASGOW
Overlooking peaceful gardens, this luxurious property combines original Georgian architecture with contemporary design.

ISLE OF ERISKA HOTEL, BENDERLOCH
Ensnconced on a private island, this hotel offers sumptuous views of Loch Linne and the dramatic Morvern mountains beyond, and features a nine-hole golf course and a heated pool.

THE INCH, FORT AUGUSTUS
This historic country lodge hotel overlooking Loch Ness has a bar and lounge with a selection of malt whiskies and a Scottish restaurant featuring locally sourced produce. For active guests there are several walking trails.

CULLODEN HOUSE, INVERNESS
This exquisite Georgian mansion set in a bucolic park was originally a 16th-century Jacobean castle. Its cellars contain rare malt whiskies that have earned the Culloden recognition as a Malt Whisky Embassy by the Scottish Malt Whisky Society.

LYNNFIELD HOTEL, ORKNEY ISLANDS
This intimate country-house hotel has just 10 rooms, each uniquely decorated, as well as a lounge offering over 300 malt whiskies and a restaurant featuring Orkney specialties.

BALMORAL HOTEL, EDINBURGH
Ideally located just steps from Edinburgh’s lively center and its great monuments and museums, this landmark property features five-star accommodations, a Michelin-starred restaurant, and a spacious spa.

Program Rate
$11,999 per person, double occupancy
$13,999 single rate

Rates Includes:
Ten nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary; meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; local beer and house wine at lunches and dinners; airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights; enrichment program of lectures and talks; escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits; gratuities to local guides and drivers; taxes, service charges, and porterage

Not Included:
International airfare; participation for local alumni; transportation and activities deviating from the scheduled program; optional golf greens fees; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than local wine / beer at lunches and dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance.

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HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS WITH SMITH COLLEGE

RESERVATION APPLICATION | JUNE 1 TO 12, 2019

To reserve a place, please contact Smith Travel at phone: 800-225-2029, or fax: 413-585-2015; or complete this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063.

FIRST PARTICIPANT

Name in full as on passport

Home address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

SECOND FIRST PARTICIPANT

Name in full as on passport

Home address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference □ Double □ Single I wish to share a room with __________________________

FORM OF PAYMENT

□ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) □ Debit card □ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

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