

THE GREAT SCOTTISH LITERATURE TOUR

Introduction

- 4 Days / 3 Nights
- Any Day Start
- First Class Hotels
- Standard Group Size 1 - 6

Scotland has produced some of the world's favourite authors from Robert Louis Stephenson to Ian Rankin and Arthur Conan Doyle to JK Rowling. Edinburgh has recently been designated the first "World City of Literature" by UNESCO.

Trip Profile

On this tour we will start in the sophisticated capital of Scotland; Edinburgh before travelling in a circular route south the Scottish Borders before travelling back north to the base of the Highlands. On the way, we will explore many wonderful places and towns associated with some of Scotland's favourite writers.

In Edinburgh, there is also the option to visit some of the many pubs associated with the city's writers with an evening tour of some legendary bars.

Why Not? Create Your Own Tour. As with all our tours the attractions you see will take account of your interests and can be adapted to what you want to see.

Itinerary

Day One

From your hotel or airport, we travel into **Edinburgh**. This wonderful city has inspired writers including Robert Louis Stephenson and Ian Rankin. We start with an overview of this World Heritage City seeing the sites that make it famous. Starting at the **Castle**, we will move down the Royal Mile to the new Scottish Parliament building and The Palace of Holyroodhouse. Our first major stop will be the **Writers' Museum**. Situated just below the castle, this museum is principally devoted to Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stephenson. Exhibits include Burn's desk and Scott's chessboard. Just outside the museum is **Markers Court** – a celebration of Scottish writers from the C14th. From here, we take the short trip to the Scott Monument. This wonderful Victorian gothic monument is over 200 feet high and in the heart of the city. We will travel to see the cafe where JK Rowling wrote the Harry Potter books, the sites of Muriel Spark's Miss Jean Brody and the places associated with Sherlock Holmes creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Overnight accommodation will be in the heart of the city.



Edinburgh Castle

Day Two

On the outskirts of Edinburgh is **Swanston**. Here Robert Louis Stephenson spent his summers and it is the setting for his novel; St Ives. Just to the south, is **Rosslyn Chapel**. This C15th church has numerous rich and unusual carvings together with Masonic symbols. It first came to literary prominence when Walter Scott wrote a romantic poem about the area. Recently, it featured as the resting place of the Holy Grail in the DaVinci Code. We will then travel south through the beautiful Southern Uplands to **Abbotsford**. This was the home of Walter Scott and we will see his immense collection of historic relics, weapons and armour with over 9,000 rare books. The grounds are also lovely. Not too far away is **Scott's View** – Sir Walter's favourite view of the Scottish Borderlands. Then, for our final stop, we travel west to **Wigtown** – Scotland's national "Book Town". This is a book lovers haven with over a ¼ million books on sale. You will have time to browse the many shops. Overnight in the Wigtown area.



Abbotsford

Day Three

Today, we will travel north to the area just west of Glasgow. This area of the country is associated with Robert Burns. In the picturesque town of Alloway is the **Burns National Heritage Park and Trail**. This attraction celebrates the life and works of the bard and includes the **cottage** where he was born in 1759, a **museum** and **monument**, as well as sites from his most famous works such as Auld Brig o' Doon and Alloway Kirk. The Tam O' Shanter experience uses modern technology to bring the tale to life. Nearby, is the **Robert Burns Centre** and **Burns House**. For lunch, we will stop at **The Globe Inn** – Burns' favourite pub. You will have the chance to toast him and even sit in his favourite chair.

Then travelling north, time permitting, we will stop in Glasgow, before arriving at **Loch Katrine**. This is the area associated with the Scottish folk hero Rob Roy. Robert Roy MacGregor's story was made famous with the publication of Rob Roy, by Daniel Defoe in 1817, further added to his fame and fleshed out his biography. William Wordsworth wrote a poem called "Rob Roy's Grave". Overnight accommodation nearby.



Robert Burns' cottage

Day Four

This morning we will take the historic steamship on Loch Katrine on the historic steam ship, **Sir Walter Scott**. You can even take the boat one way and cycle or walk back. Then, travelling east, we will stop at **Dunkeld**. Here, the Duke of Atholl built a folly in the C18th called Ossian's Hall. Ossian was an ancient Gaelic bard. James MacPherson wrote the popular "Poems of Ossian" which became blockbusters of his day with notable fans such as Napoleon. From here, we will travel to **Kerriemuir** – a former weaving town close the gateway to the Highlands. It was the birthplace of JM Barrie, creator of Peter Pan. The son of a weaver, he was the ninth of ten children. His birthplace is open as a museum. You can also discover their washroom which became his first theatre. From here, we will travel back to **Edinburgh** through the beautiful Scottish countryside.



Loch Katrine

(4 days, all accommodation with breakfast, **Blue Badge Driver / Guide**, based on the number in your group)

Price per person – please contact us – Toll Free: 1866 464 7389

Accommodation and Tour Details

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation is based on first class accommodation. Lunch and evening meals are not included unless specifically stated in the tour notes. We are able to offer several grades of accommodations from beautiful bed and breakfasts to literary orientated hotels and castles.

Guides and Entrance Fees

Each tour is lead by a fully qualified **Scottish Blue Badge Driver / Guide**. In most instances, entrances to historic attractions are included in the price we will quote you. Distillery tours will vary according to the level of tour you require and between distilleries.

Prices

We aim to offer the best and most competitive price for each of our tours. We use our partners to get the best price at the time of booking. The cost will also depend on the services you require. Please **contact us** for the best price.

Airport Transfers

We can provide transfers from any location and airports or cruise ports. Return transfers from London airports to the start and finish of the tour are not in the tour costs.

Practical Information

Climate

As some of attractions on this tour are out of doors it is advisable to take the correct clothing. With the unpredictability of the climate and forecast, wet weather clothing is essential. Sturdy footwear and waterproof clothing are advised.

Jan 6	Feb 7	Mar 10	April 13	May 17	June 20
July 22	Aug 21	Sept 19	Oct 14	Nov 10	Dec 7

Health

This tour involves a walking on some terrain that can be fairly rough. We ask all our travellers to carefully consider the physical demands of our tours and discuss any concerns that may arise. There is much scope for flexibility within each tour to accommodate a range of limitations and needs, but we do have to be clear what they may be before accepting any booking.

Additionally, if you find walking difficult or any other health requirement, please let us know as soon as possible. There may be motorised wheelchairs available at some attractions. These may be booked if sufficient notice is given.

Taxes

Value Added Tax is applied to most goods. Most travellers can get a VAT refund, but you must ask and the paperwork and procedures can be long and complicated.

Tipping

Some restaurants and hotels will automatically add a 10-15% service charge. Check your bill before tipping further. Taxis, Restaurants, Bell Boys, Porter expect a tip, bar staff in pubs, do not.

Important information

The information in this tour profile is given in good faith and covers the planned excursions, attractions and conditions which should be available on this tour. In some instances, due to unforeseen circumstances, changes in the above itinerary might be necessary. To appreciate this tour to its best, you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

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