

Classic Scotland London to Scotland Return Tour

Introduction

- **10 Days / 9 Nights**
- **Departures all year**
- **First Class Hotels**
- **Any Group Size**

If you decide to fly into London, then our London to Scotland Return tour will take you from the incredible city of London to the beauty of Scotland. In between, you will see “The Best of British”. This tour offers the ultimate in touring experiences with stunning scenery, world famous attractions, places off the beaten track, top class hotels and wonderful food.

For a truly special experience we can add a hot air balloon and helicopter flight, excellent restaurants, theatre performances and themed nights together with boat trips and more. Just ask us!

Trip Profile

Starting from London this tour will familiarise you with the majority of the famous British sites from prehistory to the modern day. Our main focus is to visit the World Heritage Sites such as Hadrian's Wall and the Georgian city of Edinburgh. You will see a good cross-section of history, heritage and culture always keeping in mind the classic image of the countryside.

Depending on the time of year, we may change the itinerary so that you get the best out from the tour and attractions. As with all our tours we aim to give you as full a day as possible so making the most of your vacation.

Why Not? Create Your Own Tour – mix your interests and our routes. You could travel to the South Coast of England to see the White Cliffs of Dover, Portsmouth, Canterbury and Salisbury. Alternatively, you could extend the tour further into Scotland or Wales.

What you should expect to see

- Attractions from all time periods of pre-history to the modern day.
- Different attractions from castles and country houses to modest dwellings and countryside.
- World Heritage Sites including Stonehenge, Durham and Hadrian's Wall.
- Talks and walks by expert guides thus giving an excellent and informed insight into the country.
- We seek out the places other tours go.
- A complete cross-section of Britain's best countryside and scenery.

Itinerary

Day One

We pick you up from the airport and make the short journey to the Tower of London. William the Conqueror began building the White Tower as a symbol of his power over the people of England. Over the centuries, buildings have been added to form today's large complex of buildings. You will see the Crown Jewels and meet the Beefeaters. Nearby is the iconic Tower Bridge over the River Thames. Both these attractions are on the edge of the City, London's trading centre since the Roman times. We will pass through the small streets, stopping at the site where the great fire of London started and other significant spots, before we arrive at St Paul's Cathedral. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the cathedral became a symbol of defiance in WWII. You will be able to go behind the scenes to areas rarely visited. We then return back over the River via the Millennium Bridge to Tate Modern, an old power station converted into a modern art gallery.



Tower Bridge

Day Two

We start the day at **Westminster Abbey**. The resting place of English monarchs for over 1000 years, the abbey is a glorious example of medieval gothic architecture. Just across the road from the Abbey is the seat of the **Houses of Parliament** and, the tower of **Big Ben**. From here, we travel through St James's Park to **Trafalgar Square** - now a fabulous pedestrian walkway and onto the **National Gallery**, home to many world famous paintings including Van Gogh's Sunflowers and Constable's Haywain. Next, progressing north to the oldest public museum in the world, the **British Museum**. Here there are 94 galleries spanning 2 million years of history and culture. Lastly today, we return to the south bank for a flight on the **London Eye**. As one of London's tallest structures, the views from the top are fantastic.



The River Thames

Day Three

We start our journey from your London hotel and take the motorway north to the beautiful university city of **Cambridge**. Set in a series of parks and colleges we will visit **Kings College** and take a short guided tour of the city. You will then have a few hours to explore by yourself, to visit some of the other colleges, have lunch, go punting or visit the world famous museums.

From Cambridge we drive north to **Burghley House**. Described more as a town than a house, Burghley is the most opulent of Elizabethan palaces. Built by William Cecil, the interior displays a parade of collections of art from the C16-19th. From here we make the journey to York.



Kings College, Cambridge

Day Four

York is an ancient city transformed by the Vikings in the C9th into Northern England's principal trading area. There are many wonderful buildings many dating from the medieval period. **York Minster** is one of the most inspiring buildings in the world and the city is a great place to wander exploring the medieval buildings as you go. Leaving York, we travel to **Castle Howard** a C18th baroque masterpiece by the legendary architects Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor. The estate was made famous in the television production of Brideshead Revisited and houses one of the country's premier art collections including paintings by Canaletto and Reynolds. We finally travel to **Rievaulx Abbey**. Once the largest church in England, the abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII but, an excellent exhibition and tour creates an accurate impression of what life would have been like at the time. Then, we can take a superb route through our first National Park - **North Yorkshire Moors**.



Castle Howard

Day Five

Travelling north we spend the morning in **Durham**. The city is dominated by the stunning Cathedral and Castle, relics of the Norman Conquest. A short walking tour will introduce you to these and the other attractions. After lunch, we drive towards Scotland through the evocative scenery of this area which is steeped in a turbulent history. The castles of the coast are visible for miles around and they provide a vivid impression of the past. We visit **Alnwick Castle**, seat of the influential Percy family. The castle has a magnificent garden and extensive state apartments, remodelled by Robert Adam in the C19th. We then continue our tour, north to one of Christendom most important sites at **Lindisfarne Island**. Founded in AD635 as a small wooden church, this small island became the focal point for the early expansion of the Christian faith in England.



Durham

Day Six

Driving west through some of England's best but least visited countryside. **Hadrian's Wall** which lies on a volcanic escarpment, dominates the scenery. The Romans built the wall, probably as a formal way to collect taxes from the trade between their Empire and Scotland. Some of the best preserved roman artefacts and buildings anywhere in the world have been discovered here. We stop at the excavated forts of **Housesteads** - the best preserved Roman fort in Europe.

From here we make travel into Scotland to the capital of this beautiful country; Edinburgh. This is a World Heritage City with a huge variety of attractions and a long and turbulent history. For the afternoon, we will walk the **Royal Mile**. Starting at the high point of the **Castle**, we will stroll down hill stopping at **St Giles Cathedral** - then home of the Scottish Church and order of the thistle, before ending the tour at the Queen's Edinburgh home, the **Palace of Holyrood House**.



Hadrian's Wall

Day Seven

Today, we travel south to towards the heartland of England. On the way, we will see some of the most iconic countryside anywhere on the planet – The **Lake District**. This is an area of glacial erosion that created an awe inspiring set of lakes, interspersed with tumbling rivers and rugged mountains. We take a steam boat trip along the areas best lake, **Ullswater**. You can then explore the market town of **Grasmere**, famous for the home of William Wordsworth at your leisure or visit his home – a typical house of the Lakes and his time, **Dove Cottage**.

From here, we will drive south to overnight in the English Midlands and close to Stratford-upon-Avon.



The Lake District

Day Eight

Today at our overnight stop, **Stratford-upon-Avon** we visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Here there are 4 other houses associated with the great bard and we also tour **Anne Hathaway's Cottage** - the home of Shakespeare's wife. Stratford lies at the northern edge of the Cotswolds and for the rest of the day, we drive south through this most quintessentially English of regions. There are many beautiful villages and towns presenting an exquisite view of England. On the way to **Upper and Lower Slaughter**, Stow-on-the-Wold and many unknown villages. The best garden in England is generally regarded as **Hidcote Manor**. This is a spectacular arts and crafts garden created as a number of outdoor rooms each with their own plants and features. It was built by the American Lawrence Johnston at the beginning of the last century.



Shakespeare's Stratford

Day Nine

We spend the morning in the wonderful World Heritage City of **Bath**. We will have a walking tour to familiarise ourselves with the town. Here you will see the three phases or architecture that make this city so unique: Queens Square, the Circus and Royal Crescent. At the heart of the city are the **Roman Baths**. These are Britain's only hot springs at a temperature of 46 C. There has been a settlement here for millennia and an award winning museum tells the story. Close by is the **Abbey**. This fantastic building is the last gothic church to be built in England. You then have free time to visit some of the numerous other attractions such as the Jane Austen Centre and the numerous gift shops. Travelling east, we arrive at **Lacock**, a whole village preserved as it was over 200 years ago. **Lacock Abbey** was also the birthplace of modern photography as the home of William Fox Talbot and was featured in the Harry Potter films.



Royal Crescent - Bath

Day Ten

Further to the east is the largest pre-historic stone circles surviving in England, at **Avebury**. Built over 4500 years ago, the stones form a series of ceremonial avenues and are surrounded in mystery. Close by is **Silbury Hill**, a man made hill once believed to be higher than the pyramids and the **Long Barrow** is a prehistoric burial site into which you can walk.

From here, we drive south to **Stonehenge**, an awe inspiring stone circle and one of the wonders of the world. Built in stages over 1500 years our tour will bring the stones to life. Finally we head to **Oxford**, England's premier seat of learning and a fantastic ending to our tour. You will see some of the colleges which students such as Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher studied.

We then return to London or to the beginning of your next Classic England tour.



Stonehenge

(10 Days, all accommodation with breakfast, personal 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 country houses and castles.

Entrance Fees

Each tour is lead by a fully qualified guide. In most instances, entrances to historic attractions are included in the price we will quote you.

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 prices.

Departure Dates

We aim to depart all year. Changes to the itinerary may take place according to entrance times of the attractions.

Practical Information

Climate

The very nature of this tour means that you will be out of doors for long periods of time. With the unpredictability of the climate and forecast, wet weather clothing is essential. Sturdy footwear and waterproof clothing are advised. There is a general guide to temperature, below but these are average daily maximum temperatures in Southern England (in degrees centigrade).

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

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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