WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON
Global Perspectives, *Local* Conversations

SCOTLAND



August 9 - 18, 2027

SCOTLAND

August 9 - 18 , 2027
10 Days / 8 Nights

This ten-day journey presents Scotland through its historic cities, royal castles, Highland landscapes, and enduring traditions. Beginning in Glasgow, the program travels through Loch Lomond, Stirling, and Royal Deeside before continuing north to Inverness and Loch Ness. Along the way, you visit celebrated landmarks including Stirling Castle, Glamis Castle, Dunnottar Castle, and Balmoral Castle, while experiences such as a haggis demonstration, a Highland sheepdog presentation, and a walk through the Hermitage offer a closer look at Scottish life and heritage.

From the shores of Loch Ness, the route turns south through Glencoe and the lower Highlands to Edinburgh. Excursions into Fife introduce the preserved villages of Culross and Falkland, the royal history of Falkland Palace, and the collegiate town of St Andrews. The journey concludes in Edinburgh with its medieval Old Town, Georgian New Town, panoramic viewpoints, and imposing castle, bringing together the landscapes, history, and cultural traditions that define Scotland.

- **Activity Level**: Moderate. The program includes a reasonable amount of walking and requires an average level of physical fitness.
- **Walking Conditions**: Expect cobblestone streets, castle steps, sloping paths, and uneven ground at historic sites and countryside locations.
- **Footwear:** Comfortable, supportive walking shoes with good traction are strongly recommended.
- **Weather:** Scottish weather can change quickly. Pack layers, a waterproof jacket, and a compact umbrella, even during summer.
- **Meals:** The program includes 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 4 dinners. Meals not listed are at your own expense.
- **Arrival and Departure:** The group arrives in Glasgow and departs from Edinburgh. Independent flight arrangements should follow this routing.
- **Travel Documents:** Travelers should carry a valid passport and confirm whether a UK Electronic Travel Authorization or visa is required for their nationality before departure.

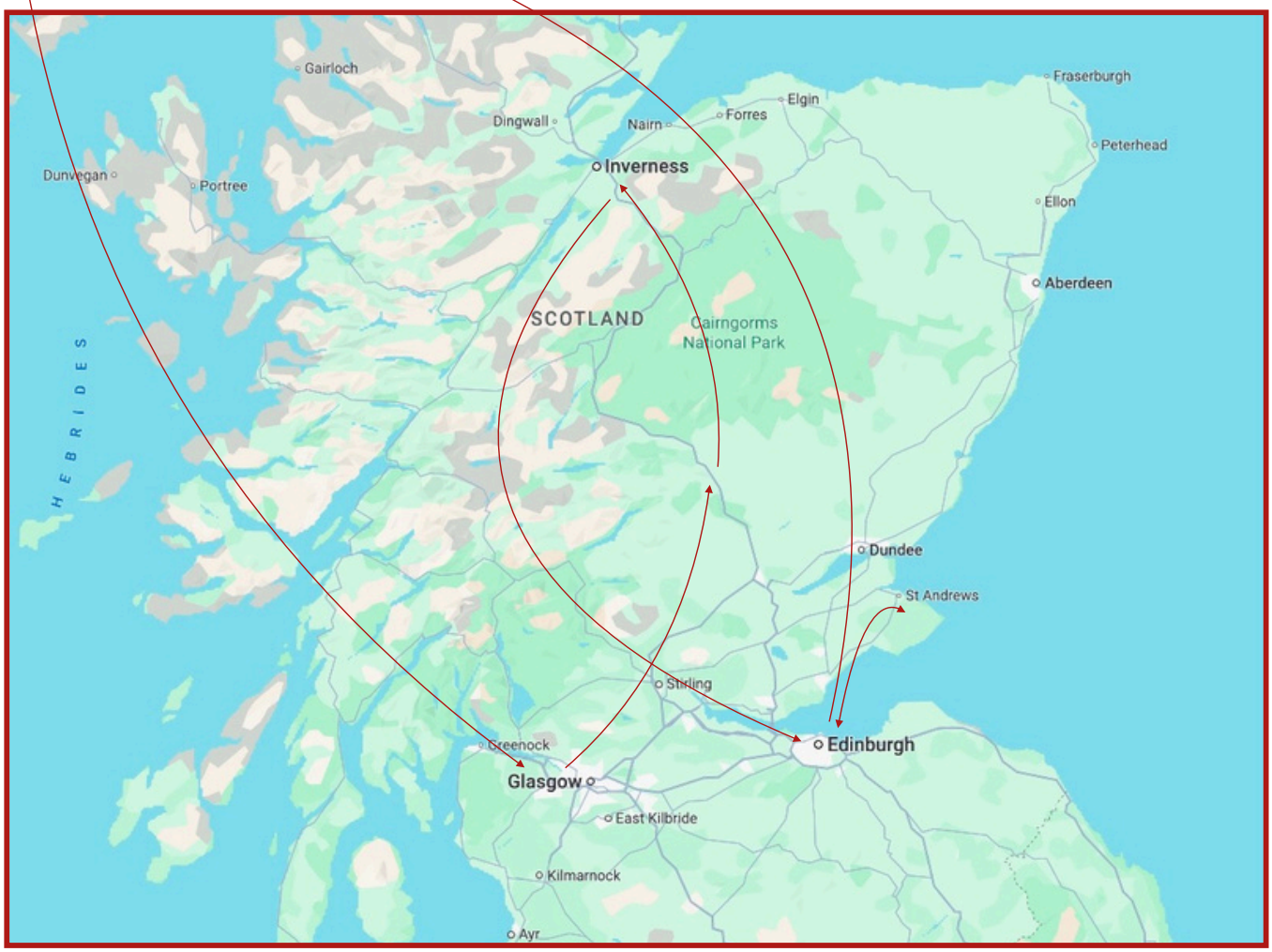


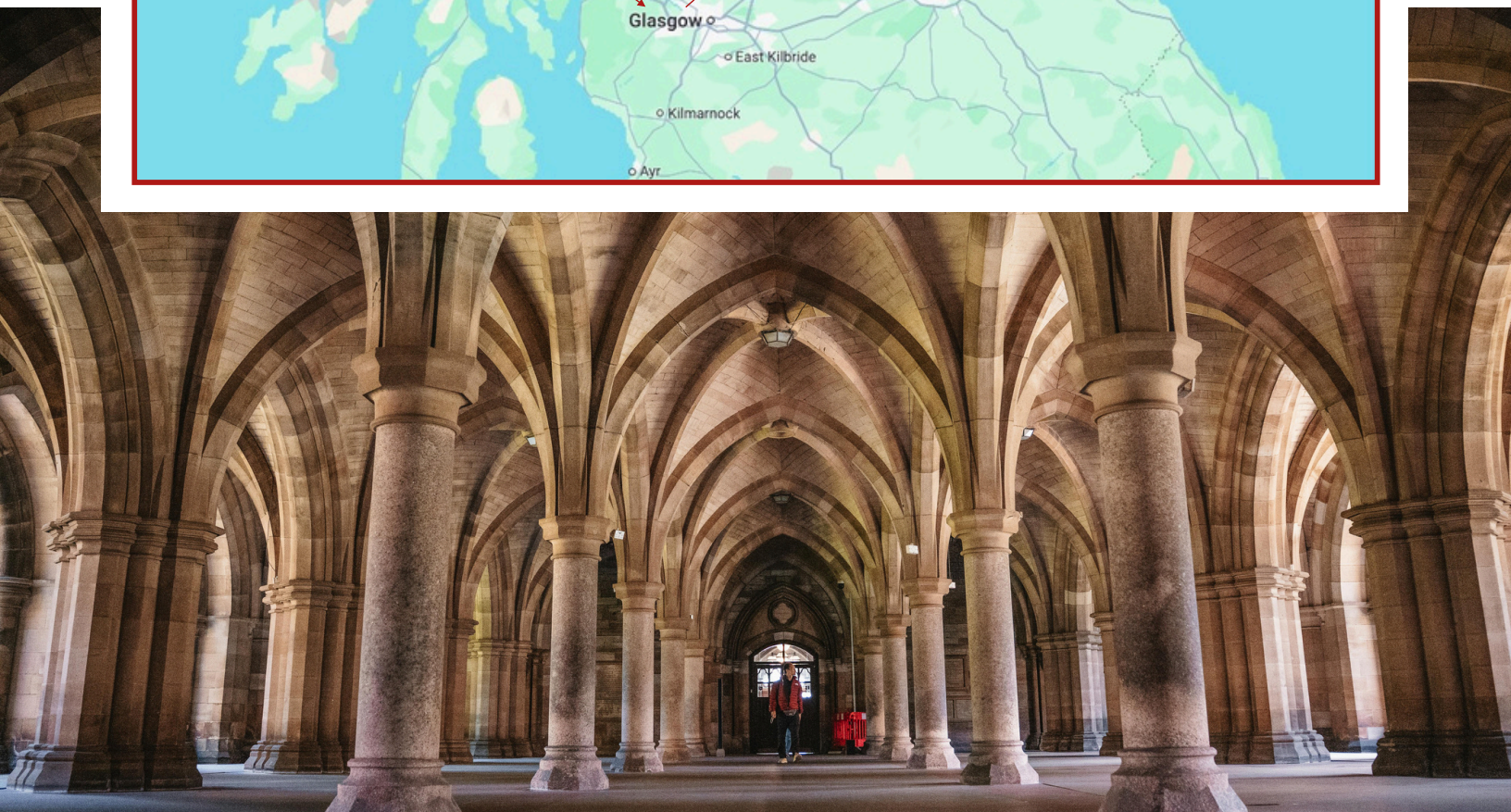


ITINERARY

DAY 1	**Mon, Aug 9**	Leave USA for Glasgow, Scotland	
DAY 2	**Tue, Aug 10**	Arrival in Glasgow - sightseeing	Glasgow
DAY 3	**Wed, Aug 11**	Loch Lomond - Stirling	Dunkeld
DAY 4	**Thu, Aug 12**	Glamis - Dunnottar - Balmoral	Dunkeld
DAY 5	**Fri, Aug 13**	Pitlochry - Inverness	Inverness
DAY 6	**Sat, Aug 14**	Loch Ness - Urquhart - Fort Augustus	Inverness
DAY 7	**Sun, Aug 15**	Glencoe - Rosslyon - Edinburgh	Edinburgh
DAY 8	**Mon, Aug 16**	Culross - Falkland - St. Andrews	Edinburgh
DAY 9	**Tue, Aug 17**	Edinburgh sightseeing	Edinburgh
DAY 10	**Wed, Aug 18**	Departure	

MAP TRAJECTORY







HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Glasgow on guided panoramic and walking tours, including a whisky tasting.
- Cruise across Loch Lomond and visit the conservation village of Luss.
- Experience a traditional haggis-making demonstration followed by lunch.
- Explore Stirling Castle and its connections with Mary, Queen of Scots, and Scotland's Wars of Independence.
- Visit Glamis Castle, the dramatic ruins of Dunnottar Castle, and the royal estate of Balmoral.
- Enjoy a traditional afternoon cream tea in Royal Deeside.
- Walk through the Hermitage to Black Linn Falls and Ossian's Hall.
- Visit the Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder.
- Watch Highland sheepdogs work with their handlers during a farm demonstration.
- Cruise on Loch Ness and explore the medieval ruins of Urquhart Castle.
- Travel through Glencoe and visit the intricately carved Rosslyn Chapel.
- Discover the historic villages of Culross and Falkland, both filming locations for Outlander.
- Visit Falkland Palace and explore St Andrews, the Home of Golf.
- Tour Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town, including the Royal Mile, Calton Hill, and Edinburgh Castle.
- Join an optional visit to Culloden Battlefield.
- Experience the optional Johnnie Walker Experience on Princes Street.



INCLUDED

- 8 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast.
- Lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary.
- English speaking professional tour guide.
- Private transportation with driver depending on the size of the group.
- Arrival and departure transfers - only for suggested flight arrival & departures.
- All entry fees to places mentioned in the itinerary.

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare.
- Visa fees if applicable.
- Drinks with included meals, except tea or coffee for breakfast.
- Gratuities for guides & drivers.
- Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses.
- Travel insurance.



SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights are on UNITED and partner airlines:

Aug 9 UA 700	**Houston to Newark dep: 4:30 pm / arr: 8:58 pm**
Aug 9 UA 230	**Newark to Glasgow dep: 10:15 pm / arr: 10:10 am on Aug 10**
Aug 18 AC 807	**Edinburgh to Toronto dep: 9:00 am / arr: 11:05 am**
Aug 18 UA 394	**Toronto to Houston dep: 3:50 pm / arr: 6:27 pm**

Economy class: $1,461
Business class: Please Call
per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees as of October 30, 2026

Fares may change based on availability.

Preferred Travel Partner

UNITED

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ACCOMMODATIONS

August 9 - 18 , 2027
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The Address Glasgow

Glasgow

https://www.theaddressglasgow.com/





Dunkeld House Hotel

Dunkeld

https://www.crerarhotels.com/collection/dunkeld-house-hotel/





ACCOMMODATIONS

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BW Inverness Palace Hotel & Spa

Inverness

https://www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/





Hilton Edinburgh Carlton

Edinburgh

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/edicahi-hilton-edinburgh-carlton/







PROGRAM DETAILS

Day 1: Mon, Aug 9 **Leave USA**

Depart the United States today on your overnight flight to Glasgow, Scotland. Settle in for the transatlantic journey; the touring program begins upon arrival tomorrow.

Overnight en route **Meals: -**

Day 2: Tue, Aug 10 **Arrive in Glasgow**

Welcome to Scotland. Upon arrival at Glasgow Airport, meet the local representative and transfer with the group into Glasgow. After check-in, the afternoon is free to rest after the overnight flight or begin discovering the city independently.

Later, join a local guide for a walking introduction to Glasgow. As you pass through the city center, learn about its history and architectural character, and take part in a whisky tasting along the way.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner.

Overnight in Glasgow **Meals: D**

Day 3: Wed, Aug 11 **Glasgow • Loch Lomond • Stirling**

After breakfast, set out on a panoramic tour of Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. Pass through Merchant City, the historic university area, Glasgow Green, and George Square while learning about the city's history and its distinctive Victorian architecture.

Continue to Loch Lomond National Park and stop in Luss, a well-preserved conservation village on the shore of Scotland's largest freshwater loch. Board a ferry for a scenic cruise across Loch Lomond to Balmaha on the eastern shore, where the coach meets you for the short drive to the Haggis Experience.

Learn about the origins, ingredients, and spices used in Scotland's traditional haggis, and watch a master Haggis Maker demonstrate its preparation. Lunch follows with haggis, tatties, and neeps; a vegetarian alternative is available.

After lunch, continue to Stirling, the ancient capital of Scotland, and visit Stirling Castle. This historic royal stronghold was the seat of Mary, Queen of Scots, and played an important role in William Wallace's fight for Scottish independence. Travel onward to the Pitlochry and Dunkeld area for dinner and an overnight stay.

Overnight in Dunkeld **Meals: B –L- D**





Day 4: Thu, Aug 12 **Glamis • Dunnottar • Balmoral**

This morning, travel toward Forfar to visit nearby Glamis Castle. Surrounded by extensive gardens and preserved grounds, the castle served as the official residence of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne for more than 600 years.

Continue to Stonehaven to see the ruins of Dunnottar Castle, dramatically positioned on a cliff above the North Sea. The fortress was once the home of the Earls Marischal, among Scotland's most powerful families. William Wallace, Mary, Queen of Scots, and the Marquis of Montrose are all connected with the castle's history.

Dunnottar is also remembered as the place where a small garrison resisted Cromwell's army for eight months, helping to save the Scottish Crown Jewels from destruction.

In the afternoon, travel into Royal Deeside in Aberdeenshire and visit Balmoral Castle, the private Scottish home of the British Royal Family. Prince Albert purchased the estate for Queen Victoria in 1852 and expanded it into the present-day castle. The property remains privately owned rather than forming part of the Crown Estate, and it served as the summer residence of Queen Elizabeth II, who died there in 2022.

Later, enjoy a traditional afternoon cream tea before returning to Dunkeld.

Note: If Balmoral Castle is closed because the Royal Family is in residence or for another event, the visit is replaced by Crathie Kirk, where members of the Royal Family attend church while staying at Balmoral.

Overnight in Dunkeld **Meals: B**

Day 5: Fri, Aug 13 **Dunkeld • Pitlochry • Inverness**

After breakfast, take a woodland walk through the Hermitage near Dunkeld to see the rushing waters of Black Linn Falls and Ossian's Hall, an eighteenth-century viewing pavilion overlooking the waterfall.

Continue to Pitlochry for lunch at leisure. Afterward, visit the Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder, which helps migrating salmon bypass the hydroelectric dam, or use the time to explore the town independently.

Later, visit a local farm for a Highland sheepdog demonstration amid the surrounding countryside. Experience part of a traditional working day with Highland shepherds and watch up to eight trained dogs work as a team, maneuvering sheep and ducks through a series of obstacles.

The handlers explain the commands and whistles used for each dog and describe how the animals respond to different signals while completing their tasks.
Continue north to Inverness for dinner and an overnight stay.

Overnight in Inverness **Meals: B - D**





Day 6: Sat, Aug 14 **Loch Ness • Urquhart • Fort Augustus**

After breakfast, board a cruise on Loch Ness, the most voluminous lake in the United Kingdom. It contains more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined, and its dark waters and dramatic Highland setting have inspired generations of stories about the elusive Loch Ness Monster.

Disembark at Urquhart Castle to explore one of the Highlands' most striking medieval sites. The ruins command wide views across Loch Ness and contain historical artifacts and replicas, including a full-sized working trebuchet siege engine.

Urquhart Castle has witnessed more than a thousand years of Scottish history. Its strategic position drew it into the Wars of Independence and later struggles between the Scottish Crown and the MacDonald Lords of the Isles. The castle grounds are also said to offer one of the best vantage points for watching for Nessie.

Continue to Fort Augustus, located on the 60-mile-long Caledonian Canal between Inverness and Fort William. From the village and its canal locks, enjoy long views down Loch Ness before returning to Inverness for an afternoon at leisure.

Optional excursion: Culloden Battlefield. Visit the site of the final battle of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. At Culloden in 1746, the exhausted Jacobite army made its last attempt to restore the exiled Stuart line to the throne. The battle ended in less than an hour and left an estimated 1,300 men dead, approximately 1,250 of them Jacobites.

Overnight in Inverness **Meals: B**

Day 7: Sun, Aug 15 **Glencoe • Rosslyn • Edinburgh**

After breakfast, depart Inverness and travel toward Fort William on the shore of Loch Linnhe. Continue into Glencoe, one of Scotland's most photographed landscapes, where water, volcanic forces, and ice shaped the steep-sided valley. Pause at a viewpoint for photographs of the surrounding mountains and glens.

The route continues through the lower Scottish Highlands to Callander, where lunch is at leisure.

Travel onward toward Edinburgh and stop at Rosslyn Chapel. Its elaborate stone carvings and mysterious symbols have long prompted stories about the Holy Grail, and the chapel gained wider recognition through Dan Brown's novel and the film The Da Vinci Code.

Arrive in Edinburgh in the late afternoon. The evening and dinner are at leisure.

Overnight in Edinburgh **Meals: B**





Day 8: Mon, Aug 16 **Culross • Falkland • St Andrews**

After breakfast, travel into Fife, a region at the heart of Scotland's history for six centuries. Along the way, pause in Culross and Falkland, two carefully preserved villages whose streets and historic buildings have appeared as filming locations in the television series Outlander.

Visit Falkland Palace and Gardens, the former hunting lodge of Mary, Queen of Scots, and see one of the few surviving Royal Tennis courts.

Continue to St Andrews, known throughout the world as the Home of Golf. The town is also home to Scotland's oldest university, whose defining presence gives St Andrews a collegiate character often compared with Oxford and Cambridge.

Enjoy a traditional fish and chips lunch, followed by a walking tour of the historic center. See the exterior walls and ruins of St Andrews Cathedral, once the largest church in Scotland, and learn about the town's principal landmarks. Nearby West Sands beach provided the setting for the opening sequence of Chariots of Fire.

Return to Edinburgh for the evening and overnight.

Overnight in Edinburgh **Meals: B - L**

Day 9: Tue, Aug 17 **Edinburgh**

Begin with a panoramic tour of Edinburgh, one of Europe's most historic capital cities. As you travel through the medieval Old Town and Georgian New Town, hear stories connected with the city's thousand-year history and traditions.

The tour introduces the Royal Mile, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Princes Street Gardens, Calton Hill, and other landmarks that define Edinburgh's skyline and character.

Continue to Edinburgh Castle, which has served through the centuries as a royal residence, military garrison, prison, and fortress. Ascend Castle Hill and follow in the footsteps of Scottish kings and queens as you explore the historic stronghold.

Visit the Crown Room to see the Honours of Scotland, the oldest Crown Jewels in the United Kingdom, together with the Stone of Destiny used in the coronation of Scottish and British monarchs.

The afternoon is free for independent exploration or last-minute shopping.

Optional excursion: Johnnie Walker Experience. Visit Johnnie Walker Princes Street for a 90-minute guided journey through the history and craft of one of Scotland's best-known whisky brands. Interactive projections and live presentations trace the story from its nineteenth-century origins to the present day. The experience also includes a personalized whisky tasting tailored to individual flavor preferences and three crafted cocktails.

This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner.

Overnight in Edinburgh **Meals: B - D**

Day 10: Wed, Aug 18 **Departure**

Your Scotland journey concludes today. After breakfast, transfer to Edinburgh Airport at the appropriate time for your return flight to the United States.

You leave with memories of Glasgow's streets, Loch Lomond and the Highland valleys, Scotland's royal castles, Loch Ness, the villages of Fife, and Edinburgh's historic skyline.

Meals: B




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