

WILL radio.tv.online presents

The Scottish Highlands & Islands

CHR Travel

9 Days September 10-18, 2018 From \$4428*

• Stirling Castle • Oban • Isles of Mull & Iona • Glencoe • The Highlands • Dalwhinnie • Loch Rannoch • Queen's View • Blair Castle • Pitlochry • St. Andrew's • Edinburgh

THIS WILL TOUR combines culture, history and visits to settings featured in your favorite WILL-TV programs. We take our unique, easy-paced itinerary approach back to Scotland, including stays and visits to Oban on the west coast and the isles of Mull

and Iona. Then we head up to the Highlands staying at Loch Rannoch in the Dunalastair Hotel Suites near Pitlochry. Finally, we return to our favorite, The George in Edinburgh. On a WILL custom tour, we always have a minimum of two night hotel stays to keep the pace relaxed.

Because of our small group size, space is limited! WILL tours fill up quickly, don't delay in reserving your seat!

The Highlands at Glencoe

Itinerary

Day 1 Monday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

We welcome you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago for our overnight non-stop flight to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Day 2 Tuesday: Flight Arrival-Edinburgh-Stirling Castle-Oban

Upon arrival at Edinburgh airport we are met by our tour manager, Victor Seedman. We head west to visit Stirling Castle which was besieged

Stirling Castle





The Saltire, the flag of Scotland, is a white X-shaped cross, which represents the cross of the patron saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew, on a blue sky. It is combined below with St. George's Cross of England (& Wales, left) & St. Patrick's Saltire (middle), to make the flag of the United Kingdom (right)



The abbey on the small island of Iona

several times during the Wars of Scottish Independence. The last siege was in 1746, when Bonnie Prince Charlie unsuccessfully tried to take the castle. We continue west to Oban which Sir Walter Scot popularized by his poem, The Lord of the Isles. Our beautiful, small hotel sits on a horse-shoe-shaped bay on the Firth of Lorn, where we can watch the ferries head out to the Sound of Mull. The rest of the day is free for wandering in town or catching up on sleep!

Day 3 Wednesday: Oban-Isles of Mull & Iona-Oban

Today we board the ferry to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Only 2800 people live on Mull which at 338 square miles is the fifth largest island surrounding Britain. Irish and then, Viking invaders captured the island from the Picts. Wars and intrigue continued through the realm of the Lords of the Isles with the island finally absorbed into the kingdom of Scotland. During World War II the island was off limits as Britain trained 900 escort ship crews for antisubmarine warfare. Leaving from Fionphort, we take another ferry to Iona. We are on foot while on this tiny island. We visit the abbey founded by St. Columba. Iona Abbey is one of the oldest religious centers in Western Europe, serving to spread Christianity throughout Scotland. Returning by ferries back to Oban,

tonight we have our welcome dinner with wine! (B, D)

Day 4 Thursday: Oban-Glencoe-Fort William-Dalwhinnie-Kinloch Rannoch

We travel north to the scenic highlands. We stop at Glencoe, the site of a 1692 massacre of 38 members of the Clan MacDonald by forces of "King Billy" (William III, Prince of Orange). Then we continue through the highlands to Fort William, a Cromwellian wooden fort built in 1654 as a base for English troops to pacify Clan Cameron after the Wars of the Three Kingdoms and named after William of Orange. Weather permitting, we may continue to see the tallest mountain in Scotland, Ben Nevis. Heading northeast we arrive at tiny Dalwhinnie at Loch Ericht. At an altitude of 1150 feet it is one of the coldest villages in the UK and site of the highest-elevation working distillery. We will have a tour and a visit for a wee dram! Then we turn a bit south to Kinloch on Loch Rannoch. It was here that James Small organized former soldiers to run estates seized from clan



Your tour host, Danda Beard, is WILL's Development Director

As the trip gets closer, she will be looking for musical/theater experiences to add to your trip. Interested in finding out about your ancestors? Danda is considering an optional trip to the National Archives in Scotland, let us know if you are interested.





Above: the Isle of Mull; below: Tobermory, Mull

chieftains who had supported the Jacobites in the Battle of Culloden (1746). We stay in Kinloch Rannoch two nights; dinner is included both evenings. (B, D)

Day 5 Friday: Kinloch Rannoch-Loch Tummel-Blair Castle-Pitlochry

We'll make a delightful photo stop at 'Queen's View' from the north shore of Loch Tummel; in 1866 Queen Victoria reportedly declared it her "favorite view" and it was made famous from that point on. Then we travel to Blair Castle, the ancestral home of the Clan Murray, where we visit the castle and gardens.

Pitlochry Church of Scotland



Commanding a strategic position on the main route through the central Scottish Highlands, it was also a convenient stopping point for royal travelers heading to Balmoral. Queen Victoria allowed the The Atholl Highlanders to be founded as a Scottish ceremonial infantry regiment. Blair Castle is featured prominently in Season 2, Episode 7 of Victoria on MASTERPIECE. The staff there has created a special exhibit on the Victorian era at Blair Castle in celebration. We are sure to remember the beautiful scenes featuring traditional Scottish dancing!

We travel to Pitlochry and have free time this afternoon. May we sug-

Physical Requirements: travel in Scotland requires more walking, steps and inclines that could be difficult or impossible for those with physical limitations. You need to decide whether you can accept that this may make you miss parts of the tour or stay at the hotel and be on your own. Each of our hotels has elevators.





Victoria was filmed at Blair Castle. Shown from left to right: Jenna Coleman as Victoria and Tom Hughes as Albert Credit: Courtesy of ©ITVStudios2017 for MASTERPIECE



Our tour manager, Victor Seedman has led the last seven *WILL* tours in Europe. He started leading tours in the 1980's and has continued to do so while being the Head of Travel, Tourism & Hospitality for the London campus of the University of Gloucestershire.



CHR Travel has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. We have worked with the same people for 32 years, going back to when we visited Yorkshire on *WILL*'s very first tour.

gest a visit to the area's woolen shops? Or, opt for a unique distillery visit. Edradour distillery, dating back to 1825, is a Highland single malt whisky distillery known as Scotland's smallest distillery. We return to Kinloch Rannoch for the evening. (B, D)

Day 6 Saturday: Kinloch Rannoch-St. Andrews-Edinburgh

We travel out of the highlands and to the southeast to St. Andrews, site of Scotland's oldest university and golf course! Golf here dates back to 1552 medieval times and has hosted the Open Championship 29 times since 1873. There are seven golf courses now. St. Andrews was founded in the 8th century as a monastery established by the Pictish king, Oengus I, and became the ecclesiastical capital of Scotland, a position which was held until the Scottish Reformation. We continue on south to Edinburgh where we have the rest of the day free. (B)

Day 7 Sunday: Edinburgh

Enjoy a full day in Edinburgh with a visit to one of two of the National Museums of Scotland, located in the heart of the city. You might take in the National Museum

Bidean nam Bian, a mountain to the south of Glencoe...





A loch in the Highlands

of Scotland, its National Portrait Gallery, or whatever you choose.

Enjoy the rest of the day to explore Edinburgh on your own. (B)

...is the highest point in Argyll.



Day 8 Monday: Edinburgh

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Edinburgh starting off with a visit to John Knox House including a story-telling of *The Preacher & The Queen*. This afternoon we visit Edinburgh Castle (a film site for the 2008 *MASTERPIECE* film adaptation of *The 39 Steps*) in its commanding setting to cap off our visit to the Athens of the North! Tonight we enjoy our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 9 Tuesday: Edinburgh-Flight-Chicago-Central Illinois

We are transferred from our hotel to Edinburgh Airport. After Victor wishes us a fond farewell, our non-stop flight departs for a same-day arrival in the USA. We are taken back to central Illinois with memories of the awe-inspiring highlands, islands and culture of Scotland. (B)

Included meals are noted at the end of each day with the initials for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

- What's Included:**
- Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois
 - Baggage handling
 - Round trip flights
 - Round trip transportation from airport



HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

EXPLORER PASS

Free time suggestions:

Danda and Victor will provide some options for things to do/places to see in Edinburgh. Some may require an additional fee and/or pre-reserving; we will provide reservation assistance. At no extra charge, you will have a **7-Day Historic Scotland Explorer Pass** to use as you wish. Here are some places you could visit in your free time (no transportation included):

- Blackness Castle • Cairnpapple Hill • Craigmillar Castle • Crichton Castle • Dirleton Castle and Gardens
- Linlithgow Palace • Seton Collegiate Church
- Tantallon Castle • Trinity House Maritime Museum



CHARITABLE DONATION

This trip is designed as a fundraiser for **WILL**, your favorite public television and radio station. The more people who travel with **WILL**, the more funding the station receives. A non-refundable donation of at least \$200/person is included in your trip cost. After the trip, you will receive a charitable donation receipt to use as a tax deduction. **WILL** thanks you for your support!



to hotel • Tour manager, transportation, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary • Headsets throughout the tour • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts 4 Dinners • \$188 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Admissions per itinerary • WILL Donation • Led by Danda Beard



Edinburgh

Introducing The



Mostly Mysteries Traveling Book Club

Read one or more of these books to increase your enjoyment of our travel. We'll find time to discuss (in a comfortable pub?) while on the road.

Mary Stewart, *Wildfire at Midnight* (1953) - *Isle of Skye, mystery*

Nancy MacLeod, *Call the Nurse* - (2012) - *Hebrides, memoir*

Ian Rankin, *Standing in Another Man's Grave* (2012) - *Pitlochry, mystery*

John Buchan, *The 39 Steps* - (1915) - *The Highlands, adapted in 2009 for MASTERPIECE, adventure*

Alexander McCall Smith, *44 Scotland Street* (2005, book 1 of the series) - *Edinburgh, fiction*

EXTRA CREDIT (just kidding, no official credit given for any reading!)

Sir Walter Scott, *The Bride of Lammermoor*, fiction based upon a true story

John Prebble, *Glencoe* (1962) - *Highlands, nonfiction, history*

Kate Atkinson, *Case Histories* (2005) - *Edinburgh, gritty mystery, adapted for MASTERPIECE.*

Accommodations: (7) total number of nights
Perle (2) Perle Oban
Kinloch Rannoch (2)
Dunalastair Hotel Suites
Edinburgh (3) Principal Edinburgh George Street

What's Not Included: • Airline baggage fees if any • Tips to tour manager, driver and local guides • Travel insurance • \$50 discount if balance due paid by check or cash • Optional tours, admissions and meals not noted in itinerary

*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4428, single: \$5386, call for triple price. • Document required for US Citizens is passport (with one blank page) and recommended to be valid through March 19, 2019; no visa or shots at this time. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Insurance coverage is Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2% to cover cancellation charges, for coverage details see www.tourgroupplanners.com/insurance.html. Other terms at www.tourgroupplanners.com/terms.html incorporated by reference. • Price and details are subject to change. If fewer than 21 people go, price is subject to a small group surcharge of \$90. Acct#180910r 29JAN18 17:17

Join us from • Champaign • Decatur
• Springfield • Chicago O'Hare or call for a quote from other cities.

Tour Coordinator is Abbey Luka Abbey@TourGroupPlanners.com & Judy McElfresh Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com; call **217-422-5002** to charge your credit card for the \$1400/person deposit including insurance. Or mail check (**made out to Rio Grande Travel**) to **Tour Group Planners, 363 S Main St Ste 307, Decatur IL 62523**

<http://will.illinois.edu/willtravel>



Where travel dreams become reality.

In a Scotsman's accent, a "Heeland Cooh" is a Highland Cow!



Booking form: To reserve your place,
please fill in & return to Tour Group Planners

WILL Scotland departing September 10, 2018

Full Name as on Passport (including Middle name/initial)

Nickname

Gender

_____/_____/_____
Today

Birth Date

Exact Name as on
ID Verified, for
office use

1 _____

M

_____/_____/_____

F

2 _____

M

_____/_____/_____

F

Address _____

City St Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Credit Card # _____

Expires _____/_____/_____

Name on Card _____

Security Code _____

Check: made out to *Rio Grande Travel*

\$1400/person deposit due, Payment enclosed \$ _____

I want to ride van/motorcoach from: (circle) Decatur / Springfield / Champaign

Or fly from: Chicago or Other: _____

Occupancy 1 2 3 I want to share a room; with _____

Bed Request: 2 twin beds 1 double bed

Medical/Dietary Information: _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

The new DOT ruling bans the practice of increasing the price on air-inclusive vacation packages after payment is received, unless the consumer agrees in writing to the possibility of price increases before any payment is taken. The written consent ensures consumer awareness and acknowledgement of the possibility of a post-purchase price increase (due to taxes, fees and fuel surcharges). Please see other terms & conditions incorporated by reference. Note: Travel Insurance portion of deposit is **non-refundable**. Check here if you do **not** want insurance:

Your Signature _____

My signature acknowledges I understand a minimum \$200/person non-refundable donation to WILL has been made in my name.

Send to:

Group #180910r



363 S Main St Ste 307
Decatur IL 62523



Thank you!





At left: Loch Rannoch



At right: Oban on the horseshoe shaped bay on the Firth of Lorn

Perle Oban was built for first class passengers of the new railways. Taking Oban's sophisticated past and special location on the harbour, it has reopened in May 2017 after a complete refurbishment.

Dunalastair Hotel Suites As one of the longest-standing hotels in the Scottish Highlands, dating back all the way to the late 1700s, this ancient and historic venue has stood at the heart of one of Scotland's most picturesque regions for over 200 years.

The Principal Edinburgh on George Street has been welcoming hotel guests since 1881. At its heart are five listed Georgian townhouses, built in 1775 as homes for Edinburgh's most prosperous citizens. Winner of Scottish Hotel of the Year at the 2017 Scottish Hotel Awards, The Principal is an ideal base from which to explore the city or conduct business. The sensitive, multi-million-pound restoration and refurbishment completed November 2016.



1



2



3



Our hotels

Nights in parenthesis shows length of stay. See numbered photos:

- 1. **Oban** (2) Perle Oban
- 2. **Kinloch Rannoch** (2) Dunalastair Hotel Suites
- 3. **Edinburgh** (3) The Principal Edinburgh George Street (formerly known as The George Hotel)