



# Scotland with WILL

*CHR Travel*

**9 Days September 17-25,  
2025 From \$5649\***

- St. Andrews • Dundee
- Pitlochry • Distillery Tour
- Inverness • Dunrobin Castle
- Loch Ness • Fort William
- Falkirk Wheel • Edinburgh
- North Berwick • Archerfield  
Walled Gardens • National  
Museum of Scotland • Abbotsford  
House • Edinburgh Castle

**T**HIS WILL TOUR combines culture and history in the ever-changing breathtaking scenery of Scotland. From castles to whisky to witch trials, this tour is filled with special features and



*Unique tours since 1986*

amazing experiences you won't find together on any other tour. One of the best features of this custom tour is, you will travel with other Friends of WILL who share a common interest. WILL tours fill up quickly because the group size is limited! Don't delay, reserve your seat now!

*Above: The Highlands' Dunrobin Castle;  
below: Fort William*





Above: Where golf was invented, St. Andrews; below right: Fife

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Wednesday: Central Illinois-Chicago O'Hare-Flight

Your WILL host, John Steinbacher, welcomes you aboard our private motor coach to O'Hare. John will assist in guiding the group through the check-in process and to your departure gate. Welcome aboard your non-stop flight to Edinburgh, Scotland and our unique custom tour.

### Day 2 Thursday: Flight arrival Edinburgh-St. Andrews-Dundee

Welcome to Scotland! After clearing customs and immigration we are met by our Tour Manager and private coach. Let our Scottish adventure begin! We head northeast via the coastal fishing village of Fife to St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf; also home to St. Andrews University where Prince William and Kate Middleton met as students.

#### Your Tour Host

#### John Steinbacher

is the Director of Development at Illinois Public Media. He has previously joined WILL donors on tours of Iceland and Belize.



217 422-5002





Loch Ness

Continuing on north we stay overnight in Dundee, the fourth largest city in Scotland located on the Firth of Tay. [A firth is a Scottish term for coastal inlets] Dundee expanded rapidly as the center of the jute industry, which they still produce for use in rope, canvas and carpet. We have a light meal included before turning in for the night. (D)

**Day 3 Friday: Dundee-Pitlochry-Inverness**

After breakfast at our hotel you are in for a sweet treat. We head to the Highlands for our first stop at the Highland Chocolatier. You'll embark on a guided Chocolate Tasting Flight, an unforgettable experience. Learn unique insights into the world of the Master Chocolatier who has received over 40 awards for his chocolate creations. Whether you are a chocolate connoisseur or a casual enthusiast, you're sure to find a favorite and may want to take some selections with you. Next, it's on to Pitlochry to take in the breathtaking scenery and enjoy lunch on your own.

We arrive in Inverness for our Welcome Dinner and a two-night stay. (B, D)

**Day 4 Saturday: Inverness-Dunrobin Castle-Inverness**

Today's exploration takes us further north in the Highlands to visit Dunrobin Castle, overlooking the Moray Firth. Dunrobin is the largest castle in the Highlands. Resembling a French Chateau; the castle's architecture was influenced by Sir Charles Barry, who designed London's Houses of Parliament. Dating back to the 13th century, it has been a continuously inhabited house to the Earls then the Dukes of Sutherland.

Our next visit is to the Glen Ord Distillery, part of The Singleton brand, for a tour and wee dram of whisky. This is the only remaining single malt scotch whisky distillery on the Black Isle. We then return to Inverness and another included dinner. (B, D)

**Day 5 Sunday: Inverness-Loch Ness-Fort William**

Depart for a drive along Loch Ness to hear the tales and perhaps catch a glimpse of Nessie. Continue on to Fort





Falkirk Wheel

## Physical Requirements

Travel in Scotland requires walking on uneven cobblestones, steps and inclines that could be difficult or impossible for those with physical limitations.

## 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!

William, nestled in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's tallest mountain, for an overnight stay. Dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

### Day 6 Monday: Fort William-Glencoe-Falkirk-Edinburgh

We travel through the scenic valley pass of Glencoe where we hear about the treacherous massacre of the Clan MacDonald in 1692.

Enjoy a unique experience at Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boat lift. We embark on this amazing engineering feat for a boat

ride which includes being lifted 35 meters. What an experience!

Next, we head east to cosmopolitan Edinburgh where we stay for three nights. (B)

### Day 7 Tuesday: Edinburgh-North Berwick-Edinburgh

Today's journey takes us to North Berwick, east of the capital city, for a Witch Trials tour with a local guide. This small town had over 70 witches that were put on trial and tortured with some even being executed during the reign of King James





Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford

VI. Our next visit is to Archerfield Walled Gardens for time to explore and enjoy lunch on your own in the award winning Garden Cafe.

Upon returning to Edinburgh we visit the National Museum of Scotland, a 2006 merger of the Museum of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Museum. Here you will learn of the Scottish history and culture, see one of Sir Elton John's suits, and the Jean Muir Collection (costumes) to name a few. Tonight dinner is on your own in Edinburgh. (B)

**Day 8 Wednesday:  
Edinburgh-Abbotsford House-  
Free Afternoon in Edinburgh**

We drive to Melrose in the Scottish Borders to visit Abbotsford House, home of Sir Walter Scott, the author of Lady of the Lake and Ivanhoe. We will have a guided tour of this Baronial style house. Have lunch on your own in the cafe or spend time wander through the gardens.

Return to Edinburgh for a free afternoon to stroll the Royal Mile, shop along Princes Street or visit a local museum or art gallery. Those

who wish can enjoy an included guided tour of Edinburgh Castle.

It's hard to believe, but tonight is our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 9 Thursday: Edinburgh-  
Flight-Chicago/O'Hare-  
Central Illinois**

After our last breakfast in Scotland we are taken to the airport where we bid a fond farewell to Scotland and our Tour Manager. Our non-stop flight arrives back in Chicago the same day. On arrival at O'Hare, we clear customs and board our private motor coach back to Central Illinois. We take with us newly formed friendships and fond memories of the warmth of the Scottish people and the rugged beauty of the country. (B)

*Included meals  
are noted each day  
with the initials of  
Breakfast or Dinner.*



**CHR Travel** has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. We have worked with the same people for 39 years, going back to when we visited Britain on **WILL's** very first tour.

National Museum of Scotland.





Above: Edinburgh; below: The Highlands; lower right: Archerford Walled Garden

## Traveling Book Club

Read one or more of these books to increase your enjoyment of our travel.

Lewis Grassic Gibbon, **Sunset Song** (1932) – voted Scotland's favorite book

Susanna Kearsley, **The Winter Sea** - (2020) – A dual-time historical love story

Ian Banks, **The Crow Road** (1992) – A family saga set in the early 90s

Muriel Spark, **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** (1961) – The story of an eccentric teacher and her students

*Some viewing to get you ready!*

**Guilt** – darkly comic Scottish thriller from MASTERPIECE

**Annika** – A Scottish police procedural with wit from MASTERPIECE

**Miriam and Alan: Lost in Scotland** – Miriam Margolyes and Alan Cumming return to their Scottish roots

**Lucy Worsley Investigates – The Witch Hunts** – Worsley examines the British witch-hunting craze that began in North Berwick, Scotland.

**Accommodations:** (7) total number of nights  
 Dundee (1) Indigo Hotel  
 Inverness (2) Leonardo Hotel  
 Fort William (1) Nevis Bank Hotel  
 Edinburgh (3) Courtyard by Marriott

**What's Included:** • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois • Round trip flights • Tour manager, transportation, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary • Baggage handling at hotels • 12 Meals: 7 Breakfasts & 5 Dinners • \$654 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Led by WILL's John Steinbacher





Above: North Berwick; below: traditional whisky, haggis, neeps, & tatties

**What's Not Included:** • Airline baggage fees if any • Baggage handling at airports • Optional tours and meals not noted in itinerary • Tax/fuel surcharges in effect if any • Tips to Tour Manager, driver and local guides • Travel insurance • ETA, Electronic Travel Authorization £10

\*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$5649, single: \$6718. • Documents required for US citizens is passport valid through 9/25/25, however, we suggest it be valid thru 12/25/25 and an Electronic Travel Authorization; no visa or shots at this time. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Travel insurance coverage for cancellation, medical, baggage and more is the Vacation & Cruises Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2% of trip cost. For coverage details see [tourgroupplanners.com/insurance](http://tourgroupplanners.com/insurance). Other terms at [tourgroupplanners.com/terms](http://tourgroupplanners.com/terms) incorporated by reference. • Price is based on a group size of 21 or more. If less than 21, a small group surcharge of \$110 applies. Price and details are subject to change. Enjoy a \$50/person discount by paying your balance by check. Acct#250917r

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



Tour Coordinator is Amy or Becky, email: [Amy@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Amy@TourGroupPlanners.com) or [Becky@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Becky@TourGroupPlanners.com); call **217 422-5002** to charge your credit card for the **\$1700** per-person deposit. Or mail a check (payable to **Rio Grande Travel**) to **Tour Group Planners, 363 S Main St Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523** Final payment due 5/17/25.

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

#### Electronic Travel Authorization

All US citizens will need an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for travel to the United Kingdom. The cost is £10. This can be done online and takes about 3 days for authorization. We suggest completing this process by the end of July because if you are denied, you will need to apply for a visa. If you need assistance, we are here to help. [www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta)



## Your Hotels

Nights in parenthesis show the length of the stay. See the numbered photos:

1. Dundee (1) Indigo Hotel
2. Inverness (2) Leonardo Hotel
3. Fort William (1) Nevis Bank Hotel
4. Edinburgh (3) Marriott Courtyard



**1** The boutique **Indigo Hotel** near the city centre and waterfront was a textile mill built in 1822 and retains bare-brick walls, hardwood timber floors, and bespoke touches referencing the city's jute, jam, and journalism past.



**2** **Leonardo Hotel** in Inverness is near Moray Firth (access to the North Sea) and Loch Ness where we may get a glimpse of "Nessie." This is our base for the far north of Scotland and its scenic Highlands.



**3** **Nevis Bank Hotel** on the Great Glen is next to the West Highland Way and near the parade, a square at the centre of this Highlands town founded as a fort in Cromwell's time. Six miles to the east is Ben Nevis, the highest peak in Britain.



**4** **Courtyard by Marriott** is adjacent to the Edinburgh Playhouse, Greenside's Nelson Monument, and Calton Hill, with its sweeping view of the city skyline and Edinburgh Castle.

