



Unexpected Scotland: The Lowlands

University of Wyoming Community Tour

May 19-30, 2023

- Included:**
- 11 nights' accommodation (double occupancy) at following hotels, **or similar**¹:
 - 4 nights at *Mercure Princes Street, Edinburgh*
 - 4 nights at *Abbotsford, Melrose*
 - 3 nights at *Hotel Indigo, Glasgow*
 - 6 Days of Private Bus Transportation
 - 8 Additional meals (*L, D*) listed in itinerary (not including alcohol)
 - Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
 - Customary tips for driver
 - Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
 - Expert guiding by UW faculty
- Not Included:**
- International airfare
 - Travel insurance- **Recommended**
 - Single Supplement Costs - **\$1,800**
 - Any required COVID testing costs
 - Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
 - Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** **\$4,815 per person** x 14 paying participants

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability



Itinerary

Day 1: Friday, May 19, 2023 - Arrival

Arrive into Edinburgh International Airport and make your own way to the hotel. (Edinburgh Tram or taxi takes 30 mins to hotel). Information will be sent out ahead of time.)

This evening, meet together for drinks at **The Balmoral**, the famous 120-year-old hotel, a block's walk from the hotel.

Hotel: Mercure Princes Street, Edinburgh

Day 2: Saturday, May 20, 2023 – Edinburgh: From the Head of the Royal Mile

Edinburgh is a walkable city; for those who may tire, taxis are readily available.

After breakfast, walk or taxi to the Royal Mile (about 10 mins walk) and start the morning with a tour of **Edinburgh Castle**. Next stop, a few minutes' walk down to **Gladstone's Land**, a historic townhouse that offers an immersive experience through what life was like in its 500-year history.

Spend lunch on your own exploring the **Grassmarket**, an area of the Old Town full of history, independent shops and artisan restaurants and cafes.

Next, visit the Museum of Scotland (an 8-minute walk from the Grassmarket).

Spend the rest of the afternoon and evening on your own. We can offer suggestions for dinner. For those that are interested, there is the **Vaults & Graveyards tour** that we can recommend. Or Sandy Bell's, a pub with live Scottish Folk music.

Hotel: Mercure Princes Street, Edinburgh [B]

Day 3: Sunday, May 21, 2023 – Edinburgh: To the Foot of the Royal Mile

After breakfast, walk a few blocks to spend the morning touring **the Scottish National Gallery**. Grab a bite to eat here for lunch before heading to **St. Giles Cathedral**. On the 15-minute walk downhill to Holyrood Palace, see the new **Scottish Parliament** building. Spend the afternoon touring the **Palace of Holyroodhouse and the Queen's Gallery**.

This evening, enjoy the **Taste of Scotland** with an array of Scottish food and a **Whisky tasting**.

Hotel: Mercure Princes Street, Edinburgh [B, D]



Day 4: Monday, May 22, 2023 – Scottish Design: Urban Planning to Engineering

After breakfast, check out and set off across the Firth of Forth's famous bridges to **The Royal Burgh of Culross** (45 min drive), the most complete example of a burgh of the 17th century, and newly famous through *Outlander*. Then drive (25 mins) to Falkirk to visit the enormous **Kelpies** sculptures. Stop for lunch (15 min drive) before touring the **Falkirk Wheel**, a boat lift and engineering marvel that connects the Forth the Clyde canals. Nap on the bus as you head South West through the Borders to **Abbotsford** (1.5 hr drive), the historic Home of Sir Walter Scott and home base for the next several days. This evening, dinner will be together at Abbotsford.

Hotel: Abbotsford- Home of Walter Scott, Melrose, Scottish Borders [B, D]

Day 5: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – A Day at the Home of Sir Walter Scott

After a traditional Scottish breakfast, enjoy the day at **Abbotsford**. Go on a tour of the house and grounds, and learn about the life and times of **Sir Walter Scott**. Break for lunch on your own at Ochiltree's café on the premises. This afternoon, traditional **Scottish dancing** lessons! Then enjoy a talk about Sir Walter Scott and hear about the Getty Challenge. In the evening, the group will walk to a hotel restaurant close by (a 10-minute walk).

Hotel: Abbotsford- Home of Walter Scott, Melrose, Scottish Borders [B, D]

Day 6: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 –The Borders Day 1: History

This morning, set off to see the best of the Borders. After breakfast, drive to **Lochcarron of Scotland's** Visitor Center (8 min), for a quick stop at the world's leading manufacturer of Tartan. Then travel to **Traquair House and Grounds** (30 mins), Scotland's Oldest Inhabited House. Traquair dates back to 1107. Explore the house and gardens before lunch of a group picnic on the grounds. Next stop, **Robert Smail's Printing Works** (25 mins drive), the oldest working letterpress printers in the UK, where you can see just how newspapers were printed before the digital age. Then, head to **Halliwell's House Museum** (25 mins drive), an 18th century building in a cobbled Close. End the day at the local favorite Marmions Brasserie (15 min drive), for a hardy Scottish dinner together before heading back to Abbotsford for the evening.

Hotel: Abbotsford- Home of Walter Scott, Melrose, Scottish Borders [B, L, D]



Day 7: Thursday, May 25, 2023 –The Borders Day 2: Landscape

After breakfast, head out to spend the day enjoying the landscape of the Borders.

This morning, explore **Floors Castle** (20 min drive), an elegant estate house, grounds and gardens. Take a tour of the house.

Then head to the town of Melrose (25 mins drive) for lunch and a wee wander before walking over to the **Trimontium Museum**, the site of largest Roman Fort north of Hadrian's Wall. Learn about Roman army life and the Northern expansion of the Roman Empire.

Next head to **The Great Tapestry of Scotland** (10 mins away). This museum houses a modern tapestry of the Story of Scotland- crafted by 1,000 stitchers to illustrate 12,000 years of Scottish History in 160 panels.

Last stop for the afternoon, drive to **Dryburgh Abbey**, on the banks of the River Tweed, and the final resting spot of Sir Walter Scott. Stop by **Scott's View**, a beautiful vista over the River Tweed, to learn about the Wizard Michael Scott and the twisted Eildon Hills (12 min drive).

This evening at Abbotsford, enjoy dinner together and the join in the Getty Challenge.

Hotel: Abbotsford- Home of Walter Scott, Melrose, Scottish Borders [B, D]

Day 8: Friday, May 26, 2023 – The West & Remaking Scotland

After breakfast, check out and set off for the West coast.

Nap on the way to **Crawick Multiverse** (1 hr 45 min drive), where an open-cast coal mine has been reclaimed as Celtic land art by the famed Charles Jencks. (Those not keen on an early morning walk can stop for a cuppa in Sanquhar, with its history of religious resistance to the king, and its teeny tiny 1712 post office).

Then head to **Culzean Castle** (1 hr drive) on the Firth of Clyde. Upon arrival grab a bite to eat for lunch at one of their cafés, before touring the cliff top castle, gardens, beaches, smuggler's caves and woods. Next, drive to the nearby village of Alloway to see **Robert Burns's Cottage** (20 min drive) and sing a chorus of his most famous poem (you know what it is...). Tour the Museum to learn more about Scotland's national Bard.

While in Alloway, have a proper Scottish super together at the **Brig O'Doon**, and get a picture on the famous bridge.

After dinner drive to Glasgow (45 mins) and check into the hotel.

Hotel: Hotel Indigo, Glasgow [B, D]



Day 9: Saturday, May 27, 2023 –Glasgow: West End

After breakfast, travel to the West End, to Glasgow University and visit the **Hunterian Museum** (7 min drive). Get a personal tour by one of its curators.

Pop into the famous Art Nouveau **Mackintosh House** in the Hunterian Art Gallery on the way to lunch on your own. Possible lunch venues include the new union that celebrates the physician James McCune Smith, Glasgow's first African American graduate, or the many options a few steps away in the vibrant **Ashton Lane** or Byers Road (7 minute walk).

Meet up again to stroll through the **Kelvingrove Park** to the newly refurbished **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** (12 min walk). Tour the famous Museum to learn more about Glasgow and Scotland.

This afternoon, take the famous Glasgow Subway (or a taxi) to the “Merchant City” to learn about **the Tobacco Lords** and **Glasgow's Caribbean connections**, on a walking tour with guide Kevin Scott (2 hours). If you're all walked out, Glasgow cafes, such as the Willow Tea Rooms, are worth a visit.

This evening, dinner on your own and time for exploration.

(We can offer recommendations and hold a few reservations at popular restaurants, like Stravaigin, Ubiquitous Chip or others. Glasgow was once “the curry capital of Europe” and chicken Tikka Masala was invented in Glasgow, try Ashoka Ashton Lane or one of several Indian restaurants in the City Centre.)

Hotel: Hotel Indigo, Glasgow [B]

Day 10: Sunday, May 28, 2023 – Systems in Motion Around Glasgow [Bus]

After a leisurely breakfast, drive to **Loch Lomond** (30 mins drive) for a boat trip on Loch Lomond. Enjoy 2 hours exploring the Loch.

Back on shore, set off for the **Glengoyne Distillery** (20 mins drive), “One of the most beautiful distilleries in Scotland.” A tour of the distillery is followed by a tasting. (1 hour and 15-minutes).

Head back to the city to attend a show at the **Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre**, a Glasgow institution that shows the city's rich international heritage and lively contemporary culture. (45 mins)

This evening, dinner on your own- lots of options around the Hotel. Suggested activity: **The Ben Nevis**, a pub that is famous for its live Scottish Folk music from 8-11pm on Sundays. (5 min drive from hotel)

Hotel: Hotel Indigo, Glasgow [B]



Day 11: Monday, May 29, 2023 – The Lowland’s Industrial Past

After breakfast, check out and depart Glasgow for **New Lanark** (45 min drive), historic mills and village on the Falls of Clyde. This World Heritage Site showcases 18th-century innovations in industry and society that attempted to change workers’ lives for the better. Have lunch on your own onsite, before setting off for **Newtongrange** (1 hr. drive). Tour the National Mining Museum, with its remarkable dioramas and the best-preserved Victorian colliery buildings and equipment in Europe—all within sight of Edinburgh.

Depart for Edinburgh, where you will check into the hotel.

Tonight, join together for the Farewell dinner at the historic **Grain Store** (10 min walk from hotel, on Victoria Street/ today’s “Diagon Alley”)

Hotel: Mercure Princes Street, Edinburgh [B, D]

Day 12: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 - Departure

Check out of your hotel and set off for your return flight or further adventures in Scotland or Europe.

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