

POST-GATHERING GUIDED TOUR OF SCOTLAND – June 1, 2008

Reservations have been closed but a party of two has had to cancel so you can still go if you act fast.

Contact info@escape2scotland.co.uk.

MENU

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ITINERARY

Monday 21 July – Start at Taynuilt/Oban with overnight accommodation at Portree, Isle of Skye
Glencoe, site of infamous massacre
Camus-na-h-Erie, a MacIntyre township until the early 1800s across Loch Leven from Glencoe
Glenfinnan where Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745
Ferry from Mallaig to Armadale on the Isle of Skye
Sleat Peninsula where one tradition says the first MacIntyres left to come to Glencoe.
The Clan Donald Visitor's Centre
The Cuillins mountain range

Tuesday 22 July – Full day on Skye staying at the same accommodations in Portree
The Quiraing and The Storr volcanic rock formations, and Kilt Rock/Singing cliffs
Flora MacDonald's house (Bonnie Prince Charlie's savior)
Folk museum and restored village showing life as it was on Skye in the not too distant past
Dunvegan Castle and garden (Clan MacLeod)
Talisker Whisky Distillery

Wednesday 23 July – From Portree, over the Skye Bridge with accommodations in Inverness
Eilean Donan Castle (most photographed in Scotland)
Journey up the Great Glen (geological fault that produced Loch Linnhe, Loch Lochy and Loch Ness)
Fort Augustus
Loch Ness (Nessie could appear and you'll be there to witness it. What? O' Ye of little faith!)

Thursday 24 July - Full day exploring the Inverness area staying at the same Inverness accommodation.
Cruise on Loch Ness
Urquhart Castle
Culloden Battlefield and the new Centre. See the Clan MacIntyre memorial paving stone on the Culloden Walk to.
Kiltmaker Visitor Center.

Friday 25 July – From Inverness with accommodations in Edinburgh
Cairngorm mountains
Laggan graveyard of Badenoch MacIntyres,
Blair Castle garden,
View of Taymouth Castle of the Campbell's Earls of Breadalbane, bane of MacIntyre existence.
The Campbell's hanging tree and pit at Killin Castle ruin (How many MacIntyres ended up here?)
Drive through the beautiful Trossachs National Forest
Rob Roy's grave at Balquidder Kirk surrounded by more MacIntyre than MacGregor grave stones.
View of the Wallace Monument, Stirling Bridge and Castle
Bannockburn Historic Battle Site.

Saturday 26 July - Guided tour around Edinburgh staying at same accommodation
Old Town
Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile,
Arthur's Seat
Old Grey Friars Church with Duncan Ban MacIntyre's gravestone,
New Scottish Parliament
Princes Street Garden
Sir Walter Scott Memorial and Princes Street
Botanical Garden,

Sunday 27 July - depart at leisure or extend your stay in Edinburgh and do some of the following:
Wonderful art and natural history museums (all free!),

New Town, Charlotte Square, Georgian House,
Royal Yacht Britannia
Rosslyn Chapel (of Da Vinci Code fame)
Holyrood Castle
Stirling Castle

BOOKING CONDITIONS

For those who want information on a Post-Gathering Tour, we will forward your name and address to "Escape 2 Scotland" Tour Company or you can contact them directly at info@escape2scotland.co.uk. They will send you a detailed proposal and a booking form. There is no obligation on your part until you send in the booking form with your deposit.

The tour includes lodging at a 3-star hotel or guest house with breakfast, 29 seat coach with a professional driver and guide. This assumes a minimum of 12 and maximum of 29 people, with double occupancy. Single supplement of \$30 per person per night. Only people attending the Gathering (MacIntyres/Wrights or their friends) will be on the tour. [No outsiders will be added to fill the bus.](#)

Estimated cost per person for six-day tour: **\$1400** at an exchange rate of 1 British Pound Sterling BPS = \$2.00. A completed booking form and a deposit of 75 BPS per person (approximately \$150) is required within 30 days of receiving the formal proposal from the company. If you cancel, the company has the right to keep the deposit but in practice they fully refund the deposit if they receive a cancellation request [in writing at least 6 weeks before the scheduled trip](#). After that, the refund is pro rated on [the total cost](#) of the trip and will be fully non-refundable if cancelled within two weeks before the tour. We think this is a very reasonable and fair policy given the financial risks for the company and is as good as any other company will offer.

For a similar but customized trip for a group of six in a MPV (multi-person vehicle) with a driver/guide, it would be **\$1650** per person.

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WITH CONFIRMED BOOKINGS

CLAN MACINTYRE - Post Gathering Tour - Confirmed Bookings

NAMES	RESIDENCE	#
Ford & Ellen Osborn	California	2
John McGregor's Group	Australia/New Zealand	7
Trevor McIntyre's Group	Australia	3
Stephen E. McIntyre	Texas	1
Elaine McIntyre	California	1
Joan Gardella's Family	Connecticut	4
William & Ruth McIntyre	England	2
Neila McIntyre & Brenda Davis	Maine	2
Catherine Hartsock's Group	California	4
Donald & Maria McIntyre	Illinois	2
Lewis and Karen McIntyre	Maryland	2
P K Murphy	Canada	1
Trela Sexton's Family	Florida	5
Nicole Cyr's Family	Massachusetts	3
John V. McIntyre's Family	New Jersey	4
Ginger Lyell & Lisa Furukawa	North Carolina	2
Emily McIntire's Family & Friend	Indiana	4
Marlene Fox-McIntyre & Iris Fox	Virginia	2
Martha Jernberg & Susan C. McIntyre	Illinois	2
Robert, Desiree & Victoria Stemmer	Virginia/New Jersey	3
Byerley Family	Utah	6
Diane & Gerald Lovelace	California	2
	TOTAL	64

To communicate with the other tour attendees, send an e-mail request to martin.macintyre@juno.com and I'll send you the list of those who want to

communicate. Otherwise, go to the Communication section to see how you can communicate without giving out your e-mail address.

Detailed Tour Program

Monday 21st July 2008

Taynuilt / Oban to Portree, Isle of Skye

On Monday morning you will join your guide on board your luxury mini coach for a 6 day tour that will show you Scotland at its best, including the romantic beauty of the Isle of Skye, the ancient history of mysterious Loch Ness, and ending in the majestic capital city of Edinburgh, one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

The first four nights of your tour will be spent in The North and West Highlands taking in the most magnificent scenery in Europe – wild mountains and lochs, rugged coastlines with mighty sea cliffs and secluded sandy bays, quaint fishing villages and traditional Highland towns.

The tour will leave Oban behind and travel on the beautiful coastal route between Oban and Fort William. You will take a short detour en-route in order to visit breathtakingly spectacular Glencoe, Scotland's most famous and atmospheric glen. This area has been described as hauntingly beautiful, and Charles Dickens even referred to it as "bleak and wild and mighty in its loneliness". It attracts tourists, walkers and mountaineers in their droves to marvel and experience its grandeur. You will drive through Glencoe village and learn of the infamous massacre of the Clan MacDonald in this area in 1692 – it's sure to send a shiver down your spine!

From here you will travel over the bridge at Ballachulish and take an immediate side road on the other side of Loch Leven across from Glencoe to see the ruins of the MacIntyre township and ancestral home of the Camus-na-h-Erie chieftain until the early 1800s. This is the only cadet of Glenoe recognized by the heraldry Court of the Lord Lyon. We will then continue along the banks of Loch Linnhe to Fort William, set amid one of Scotland's most magnificent landscapes and metres from Ben Nevis. The surrounding area of Lochaber is becoming recognised as the Outdoor Capital of the UK, with world class mountain-biking at Aonach Mor and serious walking in the hills around Glen Nevis, situated to the north of the town.

You will now travel on the wonderful 'Road to the Isles,' a route steeped in our dramatic past, and which will take you through the village of Glenfinnan where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. Your journey will allow you to view the world famous 21 arch Glenfinnan Viaduct, which has been used in the recent Harry Potter movies, and offers wonderful views down Loch Shiel. The road eventually leads to the tiny fishing village of Mallaig, where your early afternoon ferry will await to take you over to the Isle of Skye, the most famous of our Islands.

The short sailing over to Armadale across the Sound of Sleat is less than 30 minutes and there should be some great views of both Skye and back across to the west coast of Scotland. The Isle of Skye is without doubt one of the most famous and popular destinations in Scotland, visited for its wild mountains, stunning seascapes and the space to roam free. Sleat is where the MacIntyres are purported to have lived before coming to Glen Noe.

On arrival on Skye you will have time to explore the Sleat Peninsula, which is often referred to as the 'Garden of Skye', and to visit the Clan Donald Visitor's Centre at Armadale Castle Gardens and the Museum of the Isles.

The tour will then continue through Broadford and past the magnificent Cuillins Mountain Range before arriving at Portree, the Island's lively capital and which will be your base to explore the Island. During your stay we will recommend some of the best places to dine in the town, which includes award winning restaurants with outstanding reputations for delicious, fresh food caught locally in the lochs and glens of Skye.

Tuesday 22nd July 2008

Isle of Skye

Today you will have the opportunity to explore the island in the company of your guide. You will firstly travel to the north of the island to the stunning Quiraing mountain pass and the tottering cliffs and pinnacles of The Storr. Here you will marvel at some of Skye's extraordinary geological scenery, and one of the most distinctive landscapes in Scotland, a popular attraction that has been photographed countless times. Nearby is Kilt Rock, which is composed of basalt columns reminiscent of the pleats in a kilt and which has a magnificent waterfall that cascades over the cliffs and down into the sea below.

Further north from here is the house where Flora MacDonald once lived and which now forms part of the Flodigarry Country House Hotel. The tour will take you through Kilmuir where you can view her Victorian era

monument and grave. Flora MacDonald was made famous when she risked her life to save Bonnie Prince Charlie from capture by the English after the unfortunate prince had been beaten by the Duke of Cumberland at the Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746. Flora dressed Prince Charlie as her maid, and helped him to reach Skye, and eventually escape to France. MacDonald later married and emigrated to North Carolina, but eventually returned to Skye, where she died in 1790.

At Kilmuir you will also be able to visit the fascinating Skye Museum of Island Life. This small museum consists of seven traditional thatched crofters cottages, situated on the westward sloping hillside just north of Kilmuir, on the Trotternish Peninsula. The location is superb, with views across to the Outer Hebrides.

The primary focus of the museum is to show what life was like for crofters in years gone by, but there are also exhibits of memorabilia associated with Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie, the crofters' rebellions of the 19th century, clan warfare, and the history and prehistory of the region. The crofters' cottages show the use of traditional building methods and materials that evolved over the centuries to suit local conditions. Walls may be up to three feet thick, with a steeply overhanging roof of thatch made from reeds or rushes. Included in the cottages on show here are a weaver's cottage, barn, smithy, and 'Ceilidh House', where you can view a collection of old photographs and documents relating to island life.

The village of Dunvegan has shops and restaurants and nearby is the impressive Dunvegan Castle. Dunvegan Castle has been the stronghold of the Chiefs of MacLeod for nearly 800 years and it remains their home to this day. Built on a Rock once surrounded entirely by salt water, it is unique in Scotland as the only house of such antiquity to have retained its family throughout the centuries.

The magnificent gardens of Dunvegan Castle remain open all year round and prove of considerable interest to many, following paths through woodland glades, past shimmering pools and burns fed by a cascading waterfall. As the Isle of Skye is essentially made up of barren moorland and hill these woods and gardens are like reaching a hidden oasis and many visitors are surprised at the sheer variety of species of plant and tree which not only survive but thrive at Dunvegan.

You will also have the opportunity to visit Talisker Distillery which is located nearby. Skye's only distillery produces a wonderfully robust and award winning Island malt, bottled at above average strength.

Wednesday 23rd July 2008 **The Isle of Skye to Inverness**

After 2 nights sampling island life, you will leave the Isle of Skye behind, cross the Skye Bridge and travel to the most recognisable and photographed of Scotland's Castles, Eilean Donan. Situated on an offshore islet and magically linked to the mainland with a stone-arched bridge, the first castle was built here in 1230.

You will continue travelling east until you reach Invergarry and the geological fault line that forms the Great Glen. Travelling north you will follow the banks of Loch Oich before arriving at the picturesque village of Fort Augustus at the southern end of Loch Ness. The village was named after the old military barracks that were blown up by Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlanders in 1746. Running through the village is the River Oich and the impressive Caledonian Canal and lock system, built by Thomas Telford in the early 1800's.

The tour will then continue along the Great Glen, passing through Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit before arriving at Inverness, the Capital of the Highlands, and the destination for the next 2 nights of your tour. Attractively set on the banks of the River Ness, Inverness is the gateway to the Great Glen and the brooding stillness of Loch Ness, 'home' of the Loch Ness Monster.

Thursday 24th July 2008 **Inverness**

This morning we will arrange for you to enjoy a memorable cruise on the legendary and mysterious Loch Ness, visit famous Urquhart Castle and historic Culloden Battlefield.

Jacobite cruises (www.jacobite.co.uk) are vastly experienced in creating memorable tourism experiences, and operate a range of Loch Ness based tours and cruises. Their knowledgeable guides and organisational flair maximise the entertainment potential of Loch Ness and give visitors a real feel for the area. Your tour will involve both a coach and cruise tour on Loch Ness, a visit to the ancient ruins of Urquhart Castle, and entry to the award winning Loch Ness 2000 Monster Exhibition.

The tour will allow you to learn about the loch's rich history, geology and myths, as well as allowing you the possibility of catching a glimpse of the elusive Loch Ness Monster. The beauty and enchantment of Scotland's most intriguing loch will provide you with a truly memorable experience.

After a cruise on the loch you will then pay a visit to Culloden Battlefield, just 6 miles east of Inverness and one of the most iconic and emotive sites in Scotland. This is where on 16 April 1746 the gruesome Battle of Culloden took place, the last major battle to be fought on British soil. You will have enough time here to explore the excellent new visitor centre with the Culloden Walk of stone remembrance plaques. One of them will be:

CLAN MACINTYRE



**BRAVE LOYAL
INDEPENDENT**

On your return to Inverness you will pass through the pretty village of Cawdor with its 14th century castle before visiting the Kiltmaker Visitor Centre, Scotland's only attraction devoted to our famous national dress.

When you visit the Scottish Kiltmaker Centre in Inverness you'll enjoy a fascinating insight into the history, tradition and culture of the kilt - from its origins through to the present day. Set within the world's largest kiltmaking workshop, the Centre creates a colourful, authentic and memorable experience, brought to life with audio-visual, costume and tartan displays in all their brilliance.

Friday 25th July 2008

Inverness to Edinburgh

You will now travel from the Highlands to the Lowlands with a journey through the heart of our country. You will travel through the spectacular Cairngorms mountain range and into the dramatic scenery of Highland Perthshire.

There will be a stop at the Laggan graveyard of the Badenoch MacIntyres, before continuing onto Blair Castle Gardens, The Castle is the traditional home of the Dukes of Atholl. From here you will travel towards Loch Tay with a drive past the Earl of Breadalbane's Taymouth Castle, before viewing The Campbell's Hanging Tree and Pit at the ruins of Killin Castle.

You will then travel through an area known as the Trossachs which has been a major tourist attraction since the early 19th century when Sir Walter Scott's historical novel "Rob Roy" brought eager visitors to the region. In the 21st century its outstanding natural beauty and variety of wildlife has seen the area recognised as a National Park and it marks the southern boundary of the Highland Region.

You will have the opportunity to view Rob Roy's grave at Balquidder Kirk where there are also many MacIntyre grave stones, before travelling onwards through Callander and past the historic city of Stirling. Your journey will provide you with some fine views of Stirling Castle, known throughout history as the 'Key of Scotland', as it controlled most of the north / south movement of goods and people throughout Scotland. It was Stirling Castle that William Wallace, "Braveheart" himself, fought for when he beat the English in 1297, and again by Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314, guaranteeing Scotland's freedom. You will also be able to view The Wallace Monument located on the opposite side of the valley from the Castle. Then onward to Edinburgh.

Saturday 26th July 2008

Edinburgh

This morning you will be collected from your Hotel and taken on a Panoramic Tour of the city which will allow you to familiarise yourself with the many historic and tourist highlights that Edinburgh has to offer. The fully guided Tour will visit the historic Old Town and the World Heritage Site architecture of the New Town before continuing past the magnificent setting of the unique Botanical Gardens and onto historic Calton Hill. This is a wonderful spot for views across the city and a great place to capture that panoramic photograph of both the Old and New Towns.

From here it is back into the Old Town and on to visit Edinburgh Castle, set high above lush Princes Street Gardens. You will have plenty of time to take in the views from the Castle Esplanade which stretch across the city, over the Firth and Forth and on towards the Kingdom of Fife. We will provide you with entry to Edinburgh Castle, which is the best known and most visited of our historic buildings, and is perched high on an extinct volcano. This instantly recognisable fortress is a powerful national symbol, and part of Edinburgh's World Heritage site.

After a tour of the Castle you will then pay a visit to the Old Grey Friars Church where the gravestone of Duncan Ban MacIntyre can be viewed. From here you will continue down the Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence in Scotland of Her Majesty The Queen. The Palace stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat and opposite the recently opened Scottish Parliament. This fine baroque palace is closely associated with Scotland's rich history and is perhaps best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots, and as the setting for many of the dramatic episodes in her turbulent reign. Mary was twice married in the Abbey at Holyroodhouse and witnessed the brutal killing of her secretary Rizzio by her jealous second husband, Lord Darnley, in her private apartments. The Palace briefly served as the headquarters of Bonnie Prince Charlie during the 1745 uprising and, today, the Royal Apartments are used regularly by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family for State ceremonies and official entertaining.

Sunday 27th July 2008

Depart Edinburgh

Depending on how much time you have before you leave Edinburgh, you could take a stroll through Princes Street Gardens and enjoy the fine views of the majestic Castle. In the Gardens you will find the recently opened entrances for both the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland. Both have excellent collections of paintings, sculptures and architectural drawings as well as a well-appointed café and restaurant providing delightful views over the Gardens themselves.

You may wish to extend your stay in the city which would allow you additional time to visit some of Edinburgh's other attractions, such as the Royal Yacht Britannia or the Botanical Gardens. You may wish to visit Rosslyn Chapel, famed worldwide for the beauty of its carvings and the aura of mystery and magic that surrounds it. This 15th century Chapel has more recently shot to fame by being featured in Dan Brown's best-selling novel, "The DaVinci Code", which has been made into a Hollywood film with scenes being filmed at the Chapel itself.

Alternatively, you may wish to indulge in some serious retail therapy. Shopping in Edinburgh makes for a unique and surprising experience and it matches up to the great shopping cities of the UK with its many designer labels and stylish boutiques. As one of the main shopping areas in the city, Princes Street combines breath-taking scenery with a wide variety of stores. The shops are only on the right hand side of the road, so that you are left with an uninhibited view of the gothic spirals of the Old Town, whilst you browse through the stores. On George Street you will find desirable designer boutiques and clothes, while on the 'Royal Mile' you'll find shops that stock goods made in Scotland, and where you'll find that unique (!) cuddly Loch Ness Monster.

Adding to Edinburgh's trendy image was the introduction of Harvey Nichols to the city's St Andrew Square. Completed in 2002, the store opened its doors in style with a whole host of celebrities turning up to sneak a look - Ewan McGregor even arrived to sell the ladies Burberry kilts. As well as impressive Harvey Nichols the city offers plenty of smaller and more quirky shops which reside down the many winding and cobbled paths of the Old Town - you'll also find Jenners, the "grande dame" of Scottish department stores at the East End of Princes Street.

If you decide to proceed with your booking we will provide you with comprehensive details of all the accommodation, transport and tour arrangements we have described in this proposal. These will be included in an Information Pack along with a full itinerary for your visit to Scotland. The Information Pack will be sent to you when we have received the final balance of your booking.