

# Spirit of Scotland

Monday, May 25 – Tuesday, June 2, 2020

*A tour arranged for*

Oxford Presbyterian Church, OH

Group Leader: Rev. Lawrence Bartel



## Some Tour Highlights

Edinburgh – *Scotland's beautiful capital*    Isle of Iona – *Christian beginnings*  
St John's Kirk of Perth – *Knox and the Reformation*    Loch Lomond – *the Bonnie Banks*  
Haggis Ceremony – *poetry of Robert Burns*    Culloden Battlefield – *Jacobite history*  
Cairngorm Mountain Railway – *brehtaking scenery*    St Andrews – *place of pilgrimage*  
The Great Glen and Loch Ness    Stirling Castle    Pluscarden Abbey

## Land Only Rates - per person sharing twin/double

Group Size	<u>Earlybird Rate</u> <i>Deposit Part 1 by March 31, 2019</i> <i>Deposit Part 2 by June 2, 2019</i>	<u>Regular Rate</u> <i>Deposit received</i> <i>after March 31, 2019</i>	<i>Single supplement - \$670 - due</i> <i>at same time as Part 2 deposit</i>
24	3595	3795	<i>Flights are not included</i>
32	3495	3695	<i>Price subject to exchange rate</i> <i>fluctuations and changes in rate</i> <i>of government taxes</i>
40	3395	3595	

## Your Tour Price Includes

Coach Travel    Ferries and Tolls    Entrance Fees and Entertainment    Porterage  
Tipping (waitstaff)    VAT (UK sales tax at 20%)    Professional Guides    Tour Manager  
8 Hotel Nights    8 Breakfasts    1 Lunch    6 Dinners (incl welcome and closing celebration)  
Not included: Flights; airport transfers; beverages; personal items; driver/guide tip (discretionary)

**Arrival in Scotland and Tour Departure:** This is a "land only" tour and begins on Monday, May 25, 2020. Travel arrangements prior to that are at your own discretion. Flights into Edinburgh from the US mostly arrive in the morning. There is no program on Day 1 until early evening when we meet for a welcome dinner. You may, of course, arrive a day or two early or choose to stay on after the tour.

**Registration and Payment Details:** To reserve your place –

At the Earlybird rate

- Part 1 deposit - \$195 by March 31, 2019
- Part 2 deposit - \$800 by June 2, 2019 (single supplements must also be paid in full)

*Please note: Earlybird booking provides a discount of \$200. It also allows the deposit to be made in two payments. The total Earlybird deposit is \$995.*

At the Regular rate

- Deposit - \$1195 at date of booking (single supplements must also be paid in full)

Then installments to be paid by everyone

- One half of balance by October 6, 2019
- Remaining balance by February 2, 2020

Registrations made after October 6, 2019– payment in full required at time of booking

- subject to additional charge and availability

Booking form and payment by check to: *Oxford Presbyterian Church* (memo line: *Spirit of Scotland*), 101 North Main Street, Oxford, OH 45056. The church can also accept payment by card for an additional fee – call office for details 513-523-6364)

*This group will be confirmed if we receive Earlybird deposits for at least 24 full rate participants. Reservations made on first come, first served basis.*

**Cancellation:**

Up to the date of the first installment (October 6, 2019) like-for-like exchanges may be made. If someone who has registered is unable to go they can find someone else to take their place. Such exchanges must be for the same room type – eg a couple who had booked a double room could only substitute another 2 people who want a double room. Every such exchange will incur a fee of \$250 per person. From the due date of the first installment exchanges will no longer be possible.

Refunds made only in line with this policy – no exceptions

*Time prior to departure:*

Up to 91 days.....	deposit
75 - 90 days.....	50% of tour cost
61 - 74 days.....	60% of tour cost
15 - 60 days.....	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days.....	100% of tour cost

**How Active is the Tour?** We don't take long country hikes. We try to use hotels which have elevators and portorage for luggage where possible. But you must be in good enough health to travel. Among other things you must be able to –

- Stand or walk with our guides, inside and outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather;
- manage coach steps several times a day;
- manage your own luggage;
- climb stairs in some hotels;
- walk city streets (Edinburgh has some steep hills and steps)

**Accommodations:** in good 3 or 4 star hotels

**Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you obtain adequate insurance coverage

## Our Itinerary

**Day 1 – Monday, May 25 - Welcome to Scotland!** Group members will make their own flight arrangements. Arrive Edinburgh this morning. Spend the day as you wish and check in to your hotel. Meet your tour manager for an early evening welcome dinner. *Meals included – welcome dinner Overnight: Edinburgh City Center*

**Day 2: Tuesday, May 26 – Braveheart Territory** Boarding our coach, we leave Edinburgh for a while – we'll return here to see more at the end of our tour. Today we visit the historic city of Stirling. We'll hear about two of Scotland's great heroes, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. Stirling Castle, sitting on a volcanic crag which has been fortified since ancient times, provides a memorable visit. Our journey continues after lunch and we travel via Loch Lomond – you will quickly see why they sing about the *Bonnie, bonnie banks*. We arrive in the lovely little west coast port of Oban in time for dinner. *Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Oban*

**Day 3: Wednesday, May 27 – Iona...a Thin Place** The morning ferry takes us over to the isle of Mull. We drive across the single track road to Fionnphort where another short ferry ride brings us to Iona: a very special island. It was here in the year 563 that St Columba arrived, establishing the Christian faith in this land. In the language of Celtic spirituality Iona is sometimes described as a "thin place" – where the veil between earth and heaven seems almost transparent. We visit the Abbey and learn about Columba. And we hear about the present day Iona Community. We return to Oban for the night. *Meals included – breakfast, lunch Overnight: Oban*

**Day 4: Thursday, May 28 – The Great Glen and Culloden** We head north this morning, passing Glen Coe – a beautiful place which witnessed an infamous event in Scotland's history. Near Fort William we see "Neptune's Staircase", an ingenious series of locks on the Caledonian Canal. A distillery visit is also on our program. We drive through the Great Glen and by Loch Ness (watch out for *monstrous* events!). Near Inverness we take some time to see the Culloden Battlefield with its excellent visitor center. Here we can learn something about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites. Our hotel tonight is in Nairn. *Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Nairn*

**Day 5: Friday, May 29 – I will lift mine eyes unto the hills...** We make a special visit this morning to the Catholic Benedictine community at Pluscarden Abbey. It is said to be the only British Medieval monastery still being used for its original purpose. Driving south we ride the Cairngorm Mountain Railway – an ingenious funicular which takes us all the way to the top where we can enjoy the breathtaking view. Our destination is Perth - "The Fair City". *Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight: Perth*

**Day 6: Saturday, May 30 – The "Auld Grey Toon" (St Andrews)** Our morning begins with a guided tour in St John's Kirk of Perth. Here John Knox preached the sermon which set light to the Reformation in Scotland. Then on to the charming little town of St. Andrews. It boasts Scotland's oldest university and is a significant site for the history of the Reformation (isn't there also a golf course?). We'll take a walking tour and enjoy some free time. We return to Perth via the Tay Bridge and city of Dundee. Dinner tonight begins with a haggis ceremony, complete with bagpipes and the poetry of Rabbin Burns. *Meals included – breakfast, dinner Overnight – Perth*

**Day 7: Sunday, May 31 - Edinburgh – The Athens of the North** From the cobbled streets of its Old Town to the Georgian grandeur of the New Town, Edinburgh is a truly beautiful city full of history and full of life. We'll arrive in time to share morning worship with a Church of Scotland congregation. After lunch we'll have an orientation to Scotland's capital. Our guide will walk us back in time but will also explain much about modern living in this vibrant city. We see Greyfriars Kirk and hear about the Covenanters. The evening is free for you to choose dinner in one of Edinburgh's many eating places. *Meals included – breakfast Overnight – Edinburgh City Center*

**Day 8: Monday, June 1 - A Little More Edinburgh** Most of today is free for your own exploring. Tonight we will share worship together and close with a celebration dinner. *Meals included – breakfast, celebration dinner Overnight – Edinburgh City Center*

**Day 9: Tuesday, June 2 – Departures** Haste ye back! *Meals included – breakfast*

*The above program is a fair representation of the proposed tour but is subject to change at the discretion of Scotus Tours*

**Times of Worship:** This is a custom tour for a church group. at your leader's discretion we aim to include time for –  
A service of welcome; morning prayers on the coach; evening devotions in some locations; Sunday service with a Church of Scotland congregation; closing worship.

**Contact Us:**  
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*Rev Lawrence Bartel*

*A place of transformation awaits you and me! Over twenty years ago, I first traveled to study in the Scottish city of Aberdeen. By the time I returned to Ohio, the people and land of Scotland changed my life. Scotland continues to form and reform my faith. I enthusiastically invite you to join me and other gracious, joyful pilgrims on the "Spirit of Scotland." From the cities to the castles, from the islands to the Highlands, we'll encounter the Spirit of God as we explore Scottish history and culture. Join me on a memorable, fun-filled, transformative, journey to Scotland.*

*Lawrence*



*Dear Fellow Traveler,*

*People are always telling me they would love to visit Scotland. Whether it is the majestic scenery of the highlands which attracts them; or our castles, churches and cities steeped in history; or maybe our proud tradition of hospitality – all these and more combine to make a trip to Scotland an unforgettable experience.*

*For people of faith Scotland also has much to offer. Christianity came to these shores no later than the sixth century. And the impact of the Reformation has extended far around the world.*

*I'm a native Scot and minister of the Church of Scotland. I've also served in the PC(USA). So I am delighted to be offering this tour. I want you to enjoy an outstanding trip; to see the real Scotland; to discover, in particular, our sacred heritage. And I run Scotus Tours to make that possible.*

*Jim*



*Jim Wallace  
on tour at Loch Lomond*

**Scotustours.com**