

# SCOTLAND

## EDINBURGH, LOCHS, CASTLES & WHISKY



This special post-cruise tour begins right from the pier in Leith. We will visit the key sites of Edinburgh, before heading to the Scottish countryside to visit more castles, a Loch, William Wallace National Monument, and a Scotch whisky distillery. We will stay in premier, five star properties – The Witchery in Edinburgh, and Crossbasket Castle in the country.



Leith Harbor

**DATE:** Jun 03-07, 2019

**DURATION:** 5 DAYS/4 NIGHTS

**\$3,995 (Double)**

**Tour begins at pier in Leith –  
ends at Glasgow or  
Edinburgh Airport**



Royal Yacht Britannia

### Day 1 – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 - Edinburgh

Start your Edinburgh tour with a visit to the **Royal Yacht Britannia** in Leith and discover what life was like on board The Queen’s floating residence. Explore this iconic ship with beautiful State Apartments, Crew’s Quarters, Admiral’s Cabin and Engine Room.

Afterwards, enjoy a **panoramic tour of Edinburgh** with its two distinct areas. The **Old Town**, dominated by a medieval fortress, and the neoclassical **New Town**, dating back from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The harmonious connection of these two contrasting historic areas, each with many important buildings, is what gives the city its unique character and the reason it was awarded World Heritage site status by UNESCO.



Edinburgh

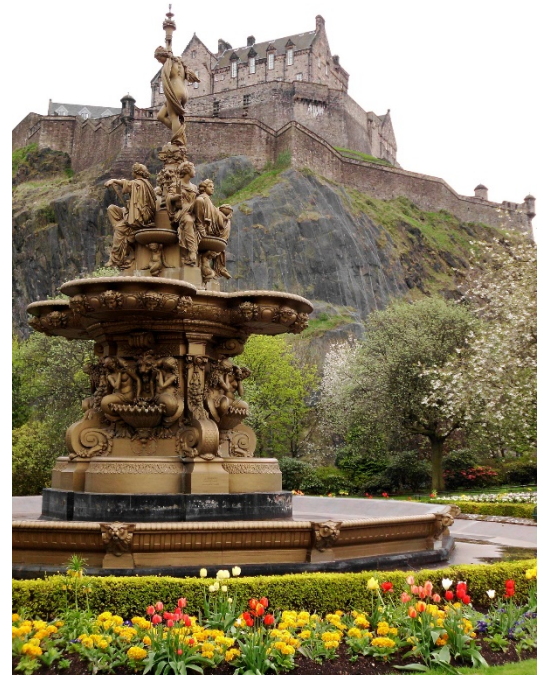
Admire spectacular views across Edinburgh’s skyline whilst enjoying your lunch at the Tower

Restaurant, uniquely located above the National Museum of Scotland.

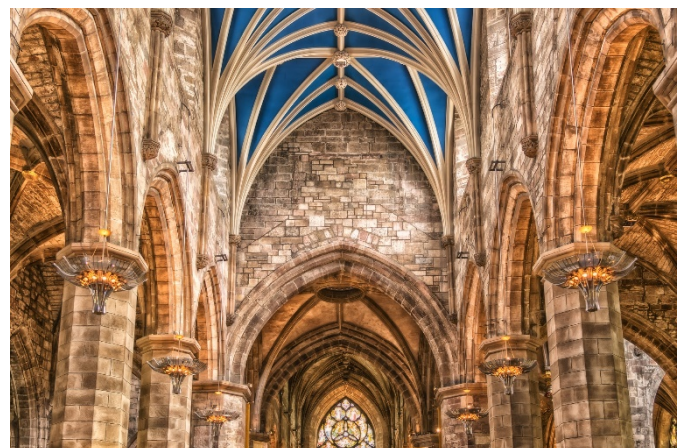
In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the **National Museum of Scotland** and discover Scottish history from the Palaeolithic era to the present day; and see how the lives of everyday Scots have changed through the centuries.

### Day 2 – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - Edinburgh

After breakfast, meet your guide and make your way to **Edinburgh Castle**, known as the “Jewel in Scotland’s Crown”. From its volcanic rock, it towers over the city, every inch a mighty fortress and defender of the nation. Learn about dramatic moments in the lives of Scotland’s royalty, admire the Great Hall where royal



Edinburgh Castle



St.Giles Cathedral

celebrations and ceremonies took place, and visit cavernous stone vaults which once held prisoners of war from across the world. See the Stone of Destiny – for centuries the kings of Scotland were enthroned upon this enigmatic stone and finally, see the ‘Honours of Scotland’, the Scottish Crown Jewels!

Next stop is magnificent **St Giles Cathedral**. For the better part of a thousand years St Giles’ has been at the physical and spiritual heart of Scotland’s



Palace of Holyroodhouse

capital city and many key moments in history have been played out or around it.

Finish your day exploring the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, a former home of Mary, Queen of Scots and the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland, Queen Elizabeth II. Explore 14 magnificent historic and State Apartments, the romantic ruins of the 12<sup>th</sup> century **Holyrood Abbey** and wander around beautiful royal gardens.



Rosslyn Chapel

## Day 3 – Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Scotland Countryside

After a leisurely breakfast, leave Edinburgh mid-morning and travel to the stunning 15<sup>th</sup> century **Rosslyn Chapel**, made world famous in Dan Brown’s book ‘Da Vinci Code’. Admire stunning carvings, learn about the connection to the Knights Templar and find out more about the myths and legends surrounding the whereabouts of the ‘Holy Grail’.

Enjoy the finest Scottish produce for lunch served in the spectacular surroundings of **Champany**.

Arrive at **Crossbasket Castle**, your base for the next two nights. Afternoon is at leisure to relax and enjoy the grounds before your dinner at the hotel (A La Carte menu)



Crossbasket Castle

## Day 4 – Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Loch, Castle, and Whisky

**Stirling Castle**, located in Stirling and dating from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, is one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland, both historically and architecturally. The castle sits atop Castle Hill, an intrusive crag, which forms part of the Stirling Sill geological formation. It is



Stirling Castle

surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, giving it a strong defensive position. Its strategic location, guarding what was, until the 1890s, the farthest downstream crossing of the River Forth, has made it an important fortification in the region from the earliest times. It was the early childhood home of Mary, Queen of Scots, and played key roles in the Scottish fight for freedom against England.

Over 700 years ago tyranny and terror were the tools being used by England to rule Scotland.

Occupied and oppressed, the Scottish nation sought a hero to challenge the cruelty of King Edward I - someone to take the campaign for freedom into battle, and on to

victory. When the two countries faced each other at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, Scotland was led to victory by a figure destined to become a national hero – William Wallace (Portrayed by Mel Gibson in “Braveheart”). We will visit the 140 year old **National Wallace Monument** to learn more about this Scottish hero for freedom.



Wallace Monument



Loch Lomond

**Loch Lomond** is the largest inland body of water in Great Britain by surface area, 27 sq. miles. The loch lays across the border between the Central Scottish Lowlands and the Highlands. The Loch forms part of the *Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park* which was established in 2002.

Our last visit, **Glengoyne Distillery**, is a whisky distillery continuously in operation since its founding in 1833 at Dumgoyne, north of Glasgow, Scotland. Glengoyne is unique in producing Highland single malt whisky matured in the Lowlands. They do things differently at Glengoyne. They take you closer to the journey, further into the detail, and deeper into the complexity of our spirit. You'll learn a lot about whisky here, and you'll have a lot of fun while you're at it.

Tonight, enjoy a fantastic tasting menu created by legendary French chef Albert Roux and his son Michel Roux Jr.

## Day 5 – Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Farewell

Our adventure comes to an end. Private transfer to the Glasgow or Edinburgh airport for your return flight home.