

# SCOTLAND & LONDON

2<sup>nd</sup> October – 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024

## LAND-ONLY ITINERARY



### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

- Arrive into London at Heathrow airport. Transfer to Hotel will be via Heathrow Express (included in tour cost).
- Check into Hilton Paddington Hotel and settle in – check in time is 4pm
- Due to varying traveller itineraries we will be offering, as an **optional extra**, a private (with guide) London Sightseeing experience; taking in Westminster Abbey, Tower of London & Panoramic Tour of London taking in Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge and The Shard. More information on this tour will follow at a later date.
- Lunch and dinner is at your own leisure.



### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October –

Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D) included

- This morning, after a unhurried breakfast, we will visit Liberty of London and explore the 6-floor Tudor building and all of the treasures that Liberty has to offer. We will enjoy a lunch at Arthur's Café within Liberty before leaving the store to enjoy an afternoon at your leisure. You may wish to explore the SOHO area down to Piccadilly Circus or catch the Tube to another location of your choice.
- Tonight is our Welcome Dinner at the hotel with fun activities and lots of chatter!



#### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – (B)**

- Today is a free day for you to explore your bucket-list locations. Or you can choose to join Helen and Michelle as they spend the day visiting *possible* locations like the V & A Museum, Harrods, Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court, The London Eye, and more.
- Lunch & dinner at your own leisure

#### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – (B), (D)**

- This morning, we will meet in the lobby early as we will spend the whole day on a private tour to Stonehenge and Bath. Our dedicated guide will educate us on the history of these locations as we visit them in person, including the Roman Baths! You will feel the wondrous vibe of the ancient Stonehenge stones as well as learn how smart the Romans really were! Lunch at own leisure.
- Group Dinner at hotel.

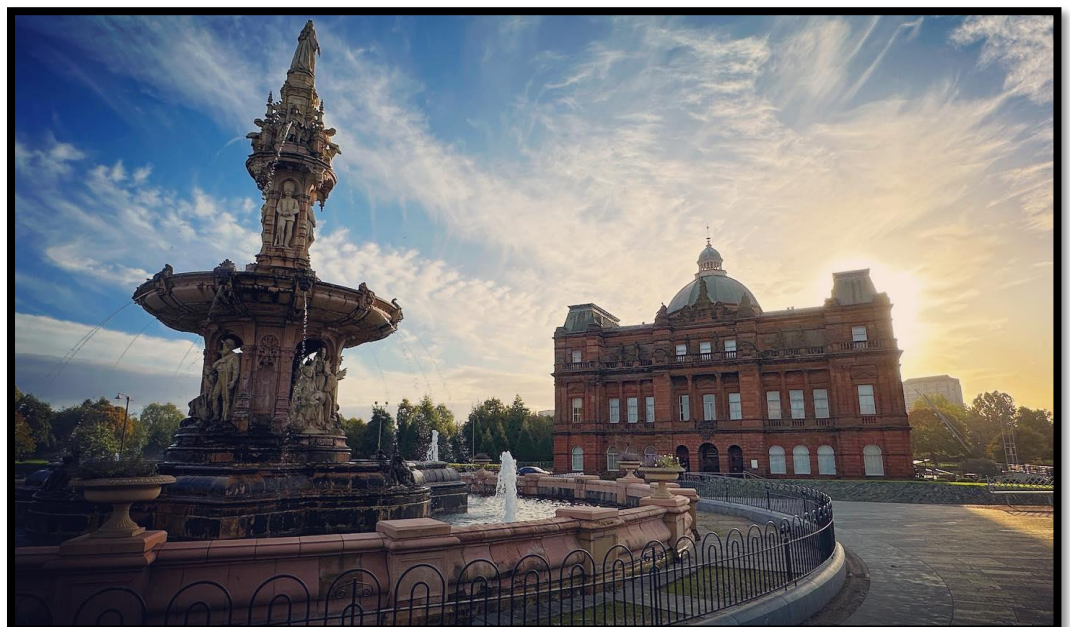


#### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October – (B), (D)**

- Today is a free day to explore London on your last day. You might like to take in the famous Portobello Markets or do a trip out to Windsor Castle. Whatever you choose to do it make the most of the London hustle and bustle before we take you out for the evening to see ABBA Voyage where you can kick your heels up while watching this amazing show from our group's two private dance booths (with seats) at the ABBA Arena!
- Group dinner

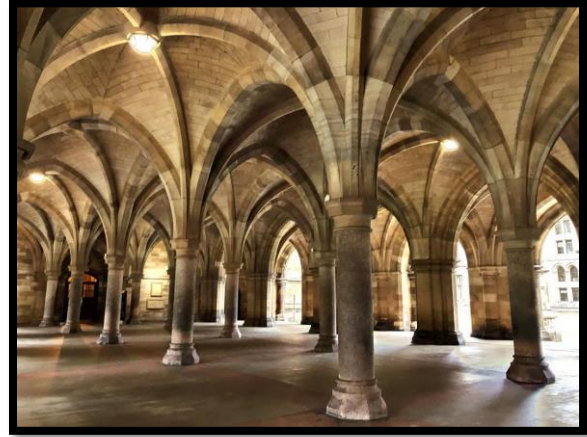
#### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October – (B), (D)**

- We will check out of our London hotel early and make our way on the LNER train to Glasgow where we will enjoy the spectacular scenery of England and Scotland during our trip.
- Arrival into Scotland's largest city will see the group checking into the Radisson Blu hotel, right near Central Station and from there Helen and Michelle will take you to explore possible locations like the informative The People's Palace exhibition, Glasgow Green and if time permits, Kelvingrove Museum.
- Group dinner at hotel.



### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (L)

- Today we will meet in the lobby early to go on a coach and walking tour of Glasgow with a private guide. We will learn about Glasgow's history and the events that has helped shape into the cultural and cosmopolitan city that it is today.
- After our tour we will be dropped off at the famous Mackintosh At The Willow tearooms where we will have a private tour and learn about architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his talented wife, Margaret Macdonald, and the relationship with their patron and business woman, Miss Catherine Cranston. Fascinating history and wonderful architecture will surround you while we also privately dine for lunch in the famous and exquisite Salon de Luxe. After this amazing experience we will head back to the hotel where you will have the late afternoon and evening to yourself.
- Dinner at own leisure.



### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** – (B)

- Today is a free day where you can explore the many icons of Glasgow, take in a museum, join a walking tour to explore Glasgow's famous street art, visit the Cloisters at Glasgow University, get in some cultural time at Kelvingrove or just enjoy fantastic shopping along the infamous Buchanan Street.
- Lunch and dinner at own leisure.

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October** - (B), (L), (D)

- This is the start of our road trip up towards the Highlands and the Outer Hebrides. Our bus will pick us up early and we will travel to the edges of Loch Lomond and hopefully visit a quaint and picturesque village to grab some amazing photos. From here we travel to Inveraray Castle, which is home to the Dukes of Argyll and is the seat of ancient Clan Campbell. We will explore the castle with a private tour guide and then enjoy a lunch in the castle's café before heading towards the amazing Glencoe. The breathtaking scenery will astound you and you will experience the quintessential views of the Scottish Highlands. We will arrive early evening to our hotel, Premier Inn, Fort William.
- Group Dinner at hotel.

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October** - (B), (D)

- We'll be up early on the road as we have a lot to see today! Starting with Glenfinnan and the famous Viaduct of the Harry Potter movies. There'll be some time to explore the Glenfinnan icons and take in the amazing scenery from the viewpoint. We'll grab a quick lunch at the local supermarket to take on the bus and then travel towards Urquhart Castle on the edge of Loch Ness, keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse Nessie! At Urquhart you'll wander through the ancient ruins while enjoying 180° views of the loch. After our castle visit we will head straight to Ullapool to catch the 4:30pm ferry to Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis. We'll check late into our hotel, The Cabarfeidh Inn.
- Group dinner on the ferry





### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- After breakfast we meet our local guide who will take us around Lewis to key places, including the Calanais Standing Stones, (which are older than Stonehenge), a working Blackhouse and Blackhouse village, Shawbost Peddle Weavers and other scenic and historic locations and we will end back in the town of Stornoway where we can explore the local shops & pubs.
- Group Dinner at hotel



### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (L), (D)

- This morning we start our day more relaxed. Our morning will be at leisure, where we may get in a crafting session together in our hotel, or depending on weather we could explore a few iconic locations a little further south on the Isle of Harris.
- Mid-afternoon we will meet Gordon, a Harris Tweed Weaver, and he will give you a talk and demonstration on how to use a pedal weaver and the requirements of weaving a Harris Tweed fabric.  
There may be opportunity to purchase tweed from Gordon by the yard.
- Group Lunch & Dinner.

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- We must be up super early today so we can catch the 7am ferry back to the mainland and travel on to Inverness, the heart of the highlands. We'll have group breakfast on the ferry. Our arrival into the city will see us meeting our two private tour guides where we will split our group in half to go on an exclusive walking tour to learn about this very pretty city on the edge of Loch Ness. After our tour we will have free time. You may choose to visit Culloden battle field, or explore the city and its hidden gems like Leaky's Bookstore, Victoria Market or the local distillery. We will check into the Kingsmills Hotel late in the afternoon.
- Group Dinner at hotel



### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (Afternoon Tea)

- You will have the morning at your leisure. Choose to relax at the hotel or venture into town to explore, or visit other tourist attractions in the area. Lunch at own leisure.
- Just after midday we will board our coach to visit Johnston's of Elgin, a cashmere woollen mill, where we will experience a private mill tour and afternoon tea. If time permits, we will also visit the ruins of Elgin Cathedral.
- This evening will be an 'optional outing' where you can join Helen and Michelle for a night of bingo at the Carlton Bingo Hall. Dinner and drinks are available at your cost in the hall.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- Today we are off to Pitlochry and on the way we will be stopping at Carrbridge to see the old packhorse bridge, one of the oldest stone bridges in the highlands. From here we will head on to the Dalwhinnie Distillery for an optional Expressions Tour and Masterclass Experience (combined with chocolate). Those who choose to not to do the tour will continue to House of Bruar, further down the road, where they will have an extended shopping experience until the rest of the group arrives for a late lunch. House of Bruar is an upmarket shopping village, from clothing and artwork to housewares and accessories.
- After our lunch and shopping experience it's just a short drive to our accommodation at The Blair Atholl Palace Hotel.
- Group Dinner at hotel.





#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- Today is totally at your leisure. Choose to sleep in and relax at the hotel with a spa treatment, walk the hotel grounds or wander into the village centre to browse the local shops. You can even choose to visit the Blair Atholl Distillery for another fabulous tasting tour. Pitlochry is a pretty village and will be sure to give you the last taste of Highland hospitality.
- Tonight, we will meet in the Hotel Bar for group pre-dinner drinks, celebrating our time in the Highlands, before moving to the restaurant for our evening meal.

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- This morning, we will get cracking early and drive to Stirling where we will head to Stirling Castle for our tour. Arguably one of the more interesting castles in Scotland, there is much to see and learn here. We'll have time to pop down to the town centre to visit local shops and you could visit a local pub for a bite to eat and a dram or two.
- From Stirling we head to Falkirk/Grangemouth where we will visit The Kelpies. These amazing 30 metre high and 300 tonne sculptures represent legends of Scottish folklore and well worth seeing!!
- We'll continue our way into Edinburgh where our coach and driver will drop us off at our hotel the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton, right on the Royal Mile.
- Group Dinner at hotel.



#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (L)

- We have a special day planned as we jump on the train to visit The Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels. We will enjoy a tour and a talk from one of the experts on the making of the Tapestry and how it all came about. Then after our private luncheon we will have exclusive access to the Stitches Diaries! What a treasure this will be for us all! By mid-afternoon we will be back in Edinburgh where you'll have the afternoon and evening to yourself.
- Dinner at your own leisure.



#### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October** – (B), (L), (D)

- We'll be up early for breakfast so that we can meet our guide for our private coach and walking tour of Edinburgh. We will spend the morning learning about this historic city and enjoy the views as we travel around the city. We'll be dropped at the royal mile to complete our tour and afterwards we'll head to a local pub for a group lunch before enjoying an afternoon talk on history of tartan, kiltmaking and bagpipes! Followed by an interesting and historical evening tour of Mary Kings Close!
- Group dinner.

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – (B)

- Today you will have the entire day at your leisure. You can walk the Royal Mile and visit Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace, located at each end of the Mile. You may choose to wander through the picturesque Dean Village, visit St Giles Cathedral, browse through the shops of Victoria Street or climb the Vennel Steps to get an iconic view of the castle. Or you can join Michelle and Helen as they explore Edinburgh together.
- Lunch and dinner at your own leisure.

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – (B), (D)

- Our last day in Edinburgh is a Group Mystery Day with an excursion designed for creativity!! This will happen just in time to pack into your luggage this evening as you prepare to travel home in the morning.
- Farewell Scotland dinner at hotel

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – (B)

- We say our last goodbyes to each other and to Scotland before leaving on our individual travel itineraries for our long trek home.



**Twin Share: \$14,750.00 (AUD)**  
**Single Room: \$18,850.00(AUD)**

#### **Land-only Price includes, but is not limited to:**

- GBP and AUD rates and taxes, accommodation and service fees for included meals and tours
- 21 breakfasts, 14 dinners, 6 lunches
- 21 nights primarily 4-star accommodation (1 night in reputable 3-star chain hotel)
- London Airport to Hotel Transfers
- Pre-loaded Oyster Card (train and bus travel for London)
- Entrance to all Historic Scotland sites, Roman Baths and Stonehenge
- Outer Hebrides return ferry fare & London to Glasgow Train fare
- Private London, Glasgow, Inveraray Castle, Isle of Lewis, Inverness & Edinburgh tours
- Private Experiences at Mackintosh at the Willow, Johnston's Woollen Mill, Dalwhinnie Whisky Distillery & Great Tapestry of Scotland
- Concert tickets to the ABBA Voyage event

#### **Land-only Price Excludes but not limited to;**

- International Airfares to and from your home
- Excess baggage
- Travel Insurance - all travellers are required to have travel insurance.
- 7 dinners, 15 lunches
- Personal Spending Money
- Personal Expenses, travel expenses on Free Days or Leisure time
- Professional Photography at attractions
- Extra workshops or activities outside of the itinerary

Helen Godden will be the co-host with Michelle on this tour. Michelle and Helen will be flying out from Perth direct to London and will fly on to Houston, USA for quilting business at the end of the tour. Michelle will supply flight itineraries that you are welcome to book similar or same flights and will help you get through the airports where needed.

There will be 2 meetings held before travel where Michelle will guide you on travelling throughout England and Scotland, what to pack, currency conversion, how to get there and so VERY much more! These meetings will be conducted at Michelle's quilt store and also shared via zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Michelle is there every step of the way before and on the tour to ensure this tour experience is absolutely amazing in every way!