

Conejo Ski & Sports Club presents

# SCOTLAND

**July 9 - 20, 2024 \$4,435\*\* Double Occ. Land only. Signups June 21.**

Explore rich Scottish Culture and its traditions of tartan, whisky, and bagpipes whilst exploring historic castles, royal roads, and mystic isles on this 11 day/10 night journey. We'll begin our noble excursion in historic Edinburgh staying on the Royal Mile for four nights, then up to the awe-inspiring Scottish Highlands for one of the greatest rail journeys in the world ...the Jacobite Steam Train aka "Hogwart's Express" for our Harry Potter fans! Off the train to board a ferry to the stunning Isle of Skye to revel in its mystical beauty as we explore castle ruins, beautiful gardens, serene waterfalls, and magical mountains wrapped in dazzling coastlines. Then back to the Highlands and on to Inverness where Outlander fans can dream of Jamie & Claire and remember the Culloden Battlefield. Here we will get our "royal nobility" on at the luxurious and historic Culloden House voted #1 hotel in Scotland by Conte' Nast Traveller. We can choose from over 200 malt whiskys at the Library bar, enjoy a true English tea, award winning dinners, and wood and garden walks on this 40-acre hallowed historical estate. We'll explore a Highland Folk Museum and tour a whisky distillery before our last night at the MacDonald Houstoun House which was once a stop for Mary Queen of Scots.

- ♣ Edinburgh Castle
- ♣ The Royal Mile walking tour
- ♣ Edinburgh City hop on hop off tour
- ♣ Medieval Old Town
- ♣ Georgian New Town
- ♣ Journey back in time under the Royal Mile to tour 17th century Edinburgh in Mary King's Close
- ♣ Royal Yacht Britannia
- ♣ Palace of Holyrood House
- ♣ Rosslyn Chapel (1446- Da Vinci Code)
- ♣ Callendar House (Mary Queen of Scots, Cromwell)
- ♣ The Falkirk Wheel, an engineering marvel— rotating boat lift/lock— we will ride it!
- ♣ Traditional Scottish Dinner show with bagpipes, tartan, whisky and more!
- ♣ Segway safari to Roman ruins
- ♣ Stirling Castle—explore inside and walk its walls
- ♣ Glencoe
- ♣ Fort William
- ♣ Jacobite Steam Train aka Hogwart's Express journey through the Scottish Highlands
- ♣ Glenfinnan Viaduct
- ♣ Seaside Malliag
- ♣ Waterfalls and valleys of the Trotternish Peninsula
- ♣ Mystical Quiraing Mountains
- ♣ Isle of Skye and the village of Portree
- ♣ Highland Folk Museum
- ♣ Duvegan Castle & Gardens
- ♣ Eilean Donan Castle— most romantic and photographed in Scotland.
- ♣ Loch Ness lookin' for Nessie!
- ♣ Culloden Battlefield
- ♣ Culloden House—where Bonnie Prince Charlie headquartered for the battle
- ♣ Cawdor Castle—inhabited by same family for 600 years
- ♣ Highland Folk Museum
- ♣ Dalwhinnie Distillery
- ♣ Victorian Village of Pitlochry
- ♣ MacDonald Houstoun House

**\*\* Final cost will increase or decrease from above price depending on the specific accommodations you choose at Culloden House. Registration form has details concerning room types and prices. Price includes tips for tour manager, tour guide, driver, and local guides.**



## Day-by-day itinerary:

**July 9, 2024** – Depart the US on your overnight flight to Edinburgh. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

### **July 10<sup>th</sup> – Edinburgh**

Morning arrival in Edinburgh. After clearing customs and immigration, a group transfer into Edinburgh to the Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Royal Mile, our home for the next four nights. Enjoy a guided, orientation walking tour of the Royal Mile before a visit to Edinburgh Castle. Upon arrival at the Castle, you will be free, and on your own, to explore this amazing fortress towering over the city. The remainder of the afternoon you are on your own to roam the Royal Mile or start using your 48 hour hop on hop off bus pass. Dinner will be on your own this evening. *Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Royal Mile*

### **July 11<sup>th</sup> – Edinburgh**

Make use of your hop on hop off day tour pass today. Explore all that Edinburgh has to offer from the medieval Old Towne to the Georgian New Town. You will be able to visit many of the popular sites. Your hop on hop off bus pass will include admission to the Royal Yacht Britannia and the Palace of Holyrood House during your adventures. This evening enjoy a journey back in time, and under the Royal Mile to 17<sup>th</sup> century Mary King's Close. *Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Royal Mile (B)*

### **July 12<sup>th</sup> – Edinburgh**

Enjoy a trip out of Edinburgh this morning to Rosslyn Chapel. Made famous in *The Da Vinci Code* books and movie, author Dan Brown calls Rosslyn “the most mysterious and magical chapel on earth”. Return to Edinburgh with free time for further exploration. Maybe you want to tackle a hike to the top of Arthur's Seat this afternoon. *Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Royal Mile (B)*

### **July 13<sup>th</sup> – Falkirk Wheel & Callendar House**

Depart Edinburgh for the day. Our first stop will be at stately Callendar House. Having hosted historical figures including Mary Queen of Scots, Cromwell and Bonnie Prince Charlie it is a fitting location for wonderful displays covering the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. You won't want to miss the Georgian kitchen or the Roman artifacts and history of the Antonine Wall. A long stretch of the wall is very visible just north of Callendar House Park. Our next stop will be at the engineering marvel, the Falkirk Wheel. A rotating boat lift/lock connecting the canals between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Enjoy a 60 minute boat ride where you will soar 35 meters in the air to experience the wheel. After, embark on a segway safari to the top of the wheel and then into the woodlands and along the Antonine Wall to the ruins of the most northernly outpost of the Romans in Britain, Rough Castle. Alternate options will be available such as bike rentals, a walk along the canal, mini golf, kayaking and more. Return to Edinburgh with time to freshen up before your Scottish Dinner Show this evening.

### July 14<sup>th</sup> – Stirling Castle and Glencoe

We say goodbye to Edinburgh this morning but hello to our Highland guide who will be with us for the duration of the tour. We depart our hotel with imposing Stirling Castle our first stop this morning. Stirling is one of the largest and most historic castles in Scotland. There will be plenty of time to explore. If time permits don't miss the nearby Church of the Holy Rude which has been the Parish Church of Stirling for over 900 years. It is also where King James VI of Scotland was crowned in July of 1567. Nearby Argyll's Lodging is worth a visit, too. It is Scotland's most complete example of a 17<sup>th</sup> century townhouse. We depart Stirling and begin our journey into the Highlands. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the breathtaking scenery as you make your way through Glencoe. Spend time at the visitor center learning about the infamous massacre of Glencoe, the importance of the glen for recreation. Check out a recreated 17<sup>th</sup> century turf house or take a short hike on one of the well marked paths near the visitor center. Continue into Fort William for the evening. You will have time to find dinner, on your own, on High Street, just a short stroll from our hotel. *Myrtle Bank Guesthouse or similar (B)*



### July 15<sup>th</sup> – Jacobite Steam Train, Isle of Skye

A bit of a leisurely morning before we board the Jacobite Steam Train, also known as the Hogwart's Express Train. We will journey through jaw dropping scenery, over the famous Glenfinnan viaduct and end at seaside Mallaig. Meeting the coach at the train station, it is right onto the ferry and out to the Isle of Skye. Our first visit on Skye will be to the Museum of the Isles and the Clan Donald Centre. Learn about the history of the highlands and islands in the museum, explore the beautiful gardens and grounds around Armadale Castle ruins and have time for shopping and lunch (if you didn't grab it onboard the ferry). Overnight in Portree. *Portree Guesthouse or Inn (B)*

### July 16<sup>th</sup> – Isle of Skye, Dunvegan Castle

Today is a day to explore the mystical beauty of the Isle of Skye. We depart the hotel this morning to drive the Trotternish Peninsula seeing serene waterfalls, beautiful coastline, magical, almost unearthly valleys and gorges in the Quiraing Mountains. We pay a visit to seaside Dunvegan Castle & Gardens, seat of the Clan MacLeod before an afternoon hike to the Old Man of Storr. Return to your hotel with plenty of time to find your evening meal. *Portree Guesthouse or Inn (B)*

### July 17<sup>th</sup> – Eilean Donan Castle, Glen Shiel

We leave the Isle of Skye by road this morning via the Skye Bridge. Our first stop will be at what is often called the most romantic (and photographed) castle in Scotland, Eilean Donan Castle. Situated on a tidal island you will instantly see why, even in overcast, rainy weather, this castle is stunning. Destroyed in 1719 and reconstructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this is a unique place. We will venture through beautiful Glen Shiel making our way east toward Loch Ness. After a brief photo stop to see if we can spot Nessie we will continue to our home for the next two nights, Culloden House. *Culloden House. (B)*

### July 17– 18. Culloden House, Inverness

Our two-night stay at the luxurious Culloden House, a Grade A listed mansion with parts dating back to its medieval origins, is separately arranged and booked by Conejo Ski & Sports Club. Travelers sharing a room will choose the specific room they desire and the cost of these two nights will be added onto the basic tour package of \$3,965. Conejo Ski & Sports Club has reserved superior rooms, classic rooms, and suites. We will enjoy award winning cuisine and choose between 200 Malt Whiskys. We have time to explore this 40-acre estate, play tennis or croquet, go on a woodland walk, take an afternoon tea, or perhaps arrange for a round of golf or salmon fishing. We also have the option of taking the arranged tours for the day. Plan to dress for dinner.

### July 18<sup>th</sup> – Culloden Battlefield, Inverness

Our first stop will be Culloden Battlefield. Our guide will take us through the visitor center pointing out information necessary to truly understand the importance of this battle. He/she will then take us onto the battlefield for an overview of the battle itself before setting us loose to explore on our own. We will have time for lunch and shopping. This afternoon we visit Cawdor Castle and Gardens. Built and inhabited by the Cawdor family for over 600 years. Explore the castle, the amazing gardens and 10+ miles of Nature Trails before returning to your hotel. *Culloden House (B)*

### July 19<sup>th</sup> - Dalwhinnie Distillery, Highland Folk Museum

We begin our journey south today. Our morning will include a stop at the Highland Folk Museum. This award-winning, open-air living history museum portrays life from the 1700's through to present day. We allow plenty of time for our visit and a light lunch before traveling to our next stop, the Dalwhinnie Distillery and visitor center. A visit to Scotland would not be complete without a tour of a whisky distillery! We then continue south to the Victorian village of Pitlochry for a short break before our final stretch on the road brings us out of the Highlands and back down to Edinburgh. Our hotel for the evening, the MacDonald Houstoun House, incorporates a 16<sup>th</sup> century tower house as well as the stables and surrounding buildings and was once a stop for Mary Queen of Scots. We will enjoy a final farewell dinner together this evening in the hotel restaurant. *MacDonald Houstoun House Hotel (B, D)*

### July 20<sup>th</sup> – Departing flights home

Sadly we bid goodbye to Scotland today. A group transfer will be provided from the hotel to the airport.

**What's Included:** Arrival and departure transfers, 10 nights lodging, 8 nights booked through Anchor Full Service Travel and 2 nights at Culloden House booked through Conejo Ski & Sports Club, tour transportation, Jacobite Steam train from Fort William to Mallaig, ferry transport mainland to Skye, breakfast daily (except day of arrival), 2 dinners, service of a professional Scottish guide from day 5 through duration of tour, walking tour in Edinburgh, sightseeing & admissions as indicated on itinerary, service of professional agency tour manager for full duration of tour from arrival in Edinburgh to departure. Gratuities to tour manager, local guides and drivers.

**Accommodations:** 4 nights Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Royal Mile (or similar), 1 night Guesthouse accommodations in Fort William, 2 nights Portree, 2 nights Culloden House, 1 night MacDonald Houstoun Hotel. All rooms with private bathroom. Similar/alternate properties may be used and will be confirmed at earliest availability.



**See Registration form for complete details regarding signups, pricing, Culloden House pricing, cancellation policy, and single supplement. CSSC strongly recommends all travelers purchase travel insurance.**

#### Other Important Information.

We will visit buildings that are 900 years old. Floors, stairs, streets, alleyways, wynds, and closes are uneven, worn, and made of cobblestone which may be difficult to walk on. Please wear suitable shoes. There are stairs at most visitor sites. The lodging properties used during this tour often incorporate historic buildings which do not have elevators. Luggage must be carried up to your room so pack accordingly. The lodging listed on this itinerary may be modified, if necessary. Travelers may be split into different properties for lodging based on size of group, except for Culloden House. If tour participation drops below 20 persons, the prices will increase or the trip may cancel. If the exchange rate increases, or there is an increase in carrier costs, fuel costs, taxes, or tariffs, a surcharge may apply. This itinerary is subject to change due to weather, site availability, traffic, or other unexpected delays. Adjustments will be made by group leader and with the best interests of the entire group in mind.

***You must be in good health and be able to walk without tripping or balance issues to participate in this trip.***