



Edinburgh

With Robin Cairns



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRAVEL AFFILIATE

Arranged with Travel Editions Group Travel for The Arts Society Dorking

Edinburgh Castle

29th April – 3rd May 2025 - 5 days from *£1,599pp

Scotland's historic capital, Edinburgh, is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and merits an extended, in-depth stay to appreciate the myriad of architectural, artistic and scenic wonders it contains. Added to which, it has been home to and inspired many great writers and in 2004 was accredited as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature to recognise its historical literary roots but also the ongoing activity to promote Scotland's literature. Based in the heart of the city, our superb tour is in the company and very capable hands of history and literature expert, Robin Cairns, whose knowledge of Scottish culture and history is matched only by his enthusiasm.



Rosslyn Chapel



Willow Tea rooms

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

For further information please contact: Jenny Perks Tel: 07977 589310 / 01306-881845 or email: jenny@peterperksltd.com

*Based on shared occupancy of a twin/double room and minimum 25 passengers. An initial deposit of £250 per person, due by 30th September 2024



Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1: 29th April 2025

Fly to Edinburgh, visit the Georgian House on Charlotte Square, welcome drink and dinner with wine.

Today we transfer by coach from Dorking Rail Station to Heathrow for British Airways' flight to Edinburgh. On arrival we will transfer to the city centre where there will be time for a light lunch (not included). Then onto our first visit of our packed and varied itinerary with a visit to the Georgian House on Charlotte Square, an elegant 18th Century house that shows off the

magnificence of life in the city during the period.

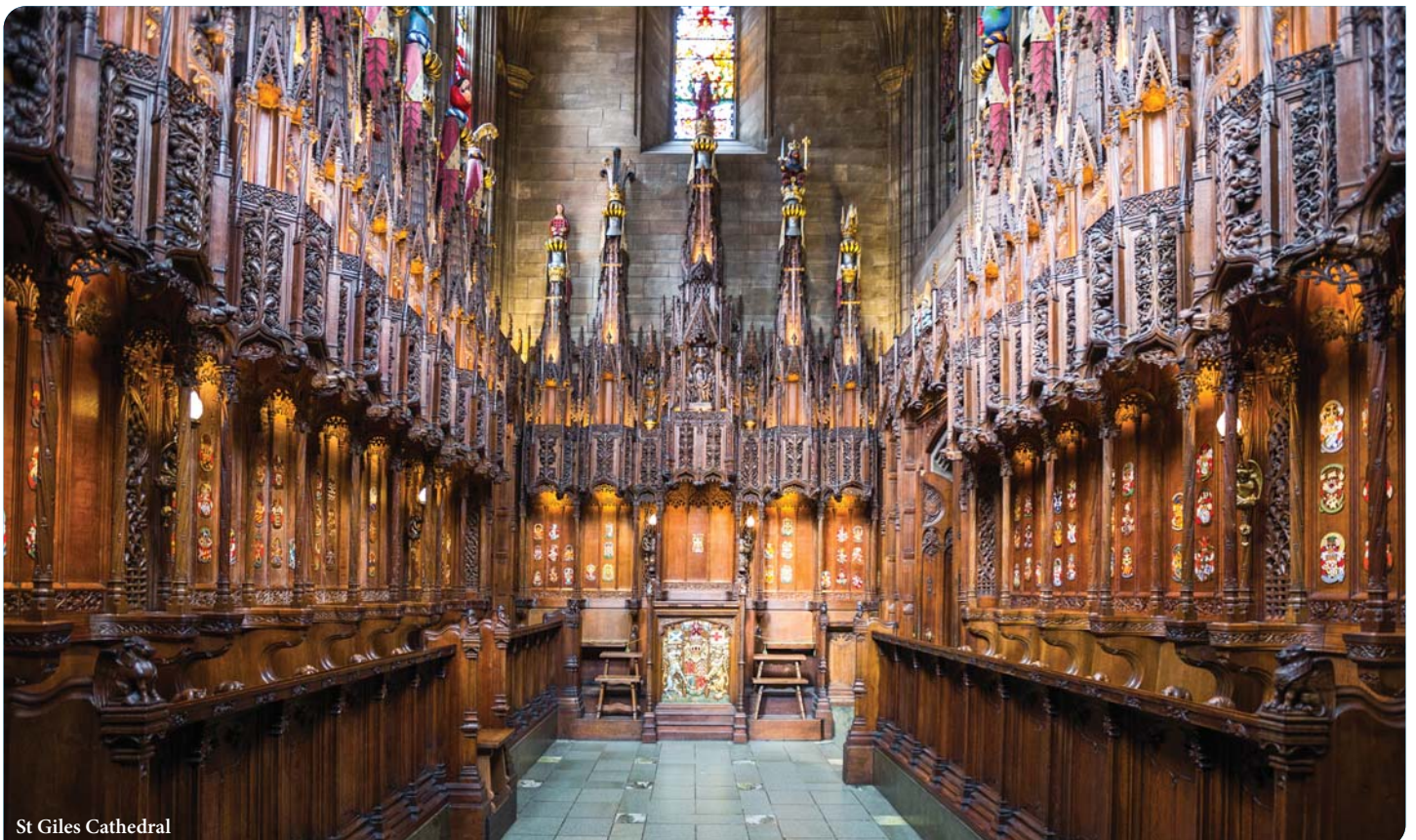
Check in to the hotel and time to freshen up before welcome drink and dinner with wine at a local restaurant within a short walk of the hotel.

Day 2: 30th April 2025

The Castle, St Giles Cathedral, John Knox House, Willow Tea rooms with full afternoon tea, free evening.

Our first full day has to commence with the city's most famous and prominent landmark, that towers over the city, Edinburgh Castle, whose high vantage point offers fantastic

views of the city and which has had a fascinating history. From the castle walk down the Royal Mile, stopping along the way at St. Giles Cathedral, also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, dating back to the 14th century, which is host to many important national events and services, including the Order of the Thistle. From here we continue to John Knox's house, home to the Protestant Reformer. Our efforts are rewarded with a sumptuous afternoon tea at the Charles Rennie Mackintosh-inspired Willow Tea Rooms on the first floor (no lift) at 120 Princes



St Giles Cathedral



National Gallery

Street, which offers beautiful décor and stunning views across the city to the castle.
Evening free.

Day 3: 1st May 2025

Modern Art Galleries, Botanic Gardens, HMS Britannia, dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Our day starts with two national museums and a renowned botanic garden. The Modern Art Galleries housed in one of the city's most iconic buildings, with elaborate arts and crafts décor, Victorian Library and sculptural embellishments houses an

outstanding collection including works by Matisse, Picasso, Bonnard, David Hockney and many more. From here to the historic Botanic Gardens, dating back to 1670 and home to one of the largest and richest plant collections on Earth. There will be time to enjoy a light lunch at the Botanic Gardens (not included). Then from here we head to Leith and a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, one of Scotland's most popular visitor attractions with some 400,000 annual visitors and voted TripAdvisor's number one UK attraction in 2023. Return to the hotel to freshen up



Royal Yacht Britannia

before dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Day 4: 2nd May 2025

Rosslyn Chapel and Hopetoun House, farewell dinner with wine in local restaurant.

We head out of the city today, first heading south to the architectural splendour of Rosslyn Chapel, dating back to 1560 with a wealth of beautiful architectural and decorative details. Its links to the Knights Templar, the Holy Grail and Freemasonry, and its crucial setting in Dan Brown's hugely popular, The Da Vinci Code have reinforced its



Victorian Palm House at the Royal Botanic Gardens



reputation as a place to visit. From here we head to South Queensferry and the 18th century mansion of Hopetoun House, designed by Sir William Bruce and extended by William Adam, where we will explore its lavish interior and collections as well as its delightful gardens. Return to the hotel before farewell dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

Day 5: 3rd May 2025

Holyrood Palace and return flight to Heathrow.

Our final visit is to Holyrood Palace, a member of the Royal Collection Trust and the Scottish home of the British monarch. It has close associations with some of Scotland's most well-known historic figures such as Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, and today it is used by The

King when carrying out official engagements in Scotland. Return to Edinburgh Airport for return flight to Heathrow and onwards by coach to Dorking Rail station.

Your host and guide – Robin Cairns

Robin is a playwright, speaker, poet and performer whose play about the life of Charles Rennie Mackintosh has been performed in recent years. An enthusiastic supporter for all things Scottish, Robin has led tours for Travel Editions on a variety of themes - from Robert Burns and Charles Rennie Mackintosh to Mary Queen of Scots and Edinburgh authors. His knowledge, wit, enthusiasm and commitment enliven any tour that he leads.



Where you stay

Holiday Inn Express, Edinburgh City Centre.

Modern three-star hotel behind a Georgian façade, located on Picardy Place in the city centre within easy reach of all the main sights. Facilities here include a breakfast room, lounge bar and well-appointed, comfortable rooms with all modern amenities.

Included in the price

- Return coach transfer from Dorking Rail Station to Heathrow
- Return economy flights with British Airways to Edinburgh – times to be confirmed
- Four nights' accommodation on bed and breakfast basis at the three star Holiday Inn Express Hotel in the heart of the city, based on shared occupancy of a twin/double room
- Three dinners with wine as specified
- Afternoon tea at Macintosh-inspired Willow Tea Rooms
- Full touring itinerary by coach and on foot including entrance fees and transfers as detailed
- Whispers head sets throughout the tour
- Tour manager and guide, Robin Cairns throughout
- Gratuities

Not included

- Holiday insurance
- Single room supplement £399
- Personal items such as meals (other than those mentioned) drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc
- Portage and Gratuities not specified

