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present

Edinburgh to the Highlands

June 25 - July 1, 2011

Literary Adventures in Scotland

Few visitors travel north of Edinburgh without leaving at least a part of their heart behind in the Highlands. The breathtaking landscapes, the romance of the tales and legends, and the drama of noble and fiercely independent inhabitants all combine to leave a lasting impression. The Highlands are calling!

We'll begin in the capital, Edinburgh, exploring its intriguing Old Town, an area of winding streets steeped in atmosphere and history. The backbone of the Old Town, the Royal Mile, leads from Edinburgh Castle down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and in addition to taking in the well-known sites we'll also head off the beaten track.

In the Highlands we'll stay in Inverness and Ballachulish, with time to visit the Great Glen, search for the Loch Ness Monster, and remember the fallen heroes at the battlefield of Culloden. From the western end of the Glen, we head through the Trossachs, along the banks of Loch Lomond, and spend a final night in Stirling, gateway to the Highlands.

Along the way there will be unexpected stops and detours, and plenty of time for a wee dram in the local pub and to appreciate the best of Scotland's backroads and scenery.

Please note: Participants who are not members of Osher are required to pay a \$35 membership fee.



The Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond



Urquardt Castle, Loch Ness

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy, is:

	Early-booking price Register by 02/01/11	Regular price Register after 05/01/11
Boston departure:	\$3550	\$3650
Land Only (no airfare)	\$2580	\$2680
Single supplement:	\$570	\$570

Inclusions:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip airfare from Boston to Edinburgh. All customs fees, fuel surcharges and airport taxes.
- Hotels:** 5 nights' accommodation in first class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full Scottish breakfast daily and 4 dinners.
- Guides:** Tufts/Osher host, Dot Dudley and Discover Europe tour escort throughout. Local guide for Edinburgh city tour
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites as in the itinerary.
- Cruises:** Loch Ness cruise.
- Insurance:** Tufts medical evacuation and assistance insurance.





Saturday, June 25th

Overnight: Plane

Evening departure from Boston aboard British Airways' overnight service to London.

Sunday, June 26th

Overnight: Edinburgh

On arrival at London Heathrow Airport, you connect with the onward BA flight to Edinburgh, arriving early in the afternoon. Your arrival at Edinburgh Airport will be met for the transfer to your city-center hotel. After checking in the rest of the day will be free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. We'll gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)**.

Monday, June 27th

Overnight: Edinburgh

The elegant city of Edinburgh is the political and cultural capital of Scotland. Set atop seven volcanic hills, it brims with historic treasures, but its finest is surely Edinburgh Castle, a towering fortification that dominates the skyline. Morning sightseeing with a local guide includes magnificent views from Arthur's Seat and a visit to the historic castle, where you can admire the Honours of Scotland, her crown jewels. You'll have a free afternoon and evening to explore the city and sample one of its many fine restaurants. **(B)**

Tuesday, June 28th

Overnight: Inverness

Leaving the capital, we head north across the Forth Bridge. We'll make a stop Blair Atholl, where we'll have time for lunch and to visit the castle – the Dukes of Atholl are the only nobility in Britain still allowed to maintain a private army! Further north to Inverness, the "capital of the Highlands," and our final visit of the day: the battlefield at Culloden, where the last hopes of the Stewart "pretenders" were laid to rest. We continue into the city, where we'll check in to our hotel and have time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D)**



Edinburgh Castle

Wednesday, June 29th

Overnight: Ballachulish

Our morning begins with a cruise on Loch Ness ending at the romantic ruins of Urquhart Castle. We'll disembark, meet our bus, and stop in at the Loch Ness Monster Visitor Centre. After lunch we continue down the Great Glen to the village of Ballachulish on the west coast of Scotland, where dinner awaits us at our hotel. **(B, D)**

Thursday, June 30th

Overnight: Stirling

This morning we drive up the breathtakingly beautiful and haunting valley of Glen Coe, literally the "Valley of Weeping." It was here that the MacDonalads were betrayed and brutally murdered by Campbell of Glenlyon in 1692.



Glen Coe, the "Valley of the Weeping"

The Visitor Centre's short film recounts the events leading up to that fateful day. We continue through the Trossachs and down the side of Loch Lomond, to the ancient city of Stirling. Time permitting, we have a visit to the castle that dominates the city skyline. A farewell dinner at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)**

Friday, July 1st

Overnight: Home

Morning transport to Edinburgh Airport for the returning British Airways' flights to Boston. **(B)**