

The History & Beauty of SCOTLAND



May 1 – 10, 2025

50
YEARS
OF EXCEPTIONAL
TRAVEL

Led by Dr. Karin Maag

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Join Calvin University alumni and friends on an adventure to Scotland!

Our journey includes magnificent cities and castles, inspiring spiritual and cultural sites, charming villages, and the stunning Scottish countryside—featuring a stay in the Highlands. To add to our enjoyment, Dr. Maag will provide three interesting talks with enlightening insights about the Scottish Reformation.

Don't miss this unique opportunity!



Early registration is encouraged!

Tour Cost

\$4,995 per person from Grand Rapids, based on double occupancy

REGISTER ONLINE AT

bookings.wittetravel.com

use booking code **050125MAAG**

or complete and return the printed registration form.



Your tour includes:

- Flights roundtrip from Grand Rapids to Scotland
- Land transportation for the complete itinerary by deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach
- Accommodations for eight nights in first-class hotels
- Breakfast daily, one lunch, and five dinners
- Experienced Scottish tour manager to accompany the group
- Three lectures given by Dr. Maag
- Sightseeing and admission fees in accordance with the itinerary
- Tipping and taxes for all included services, including tour personnel gratuities
- Whisper guides (personal headsets)



Led by **Dr. Karin Maag**

Karin Maag has been the director of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies since 1997. She also serves as adjunct faculty at Calvin Theological Seminary, teaching classes on church history and research methods, and she has been a popular CALL instructor for almost 25 years! Her area of speciality is the social history of the Reformation, but she enjoys all areas of history. In her spare time, Karin enjoys swimming, bicycle riding, baking, choral activities, and reading historical fiction.

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MAY 2025
Thursday, May 1
Departure

The day of departure has arrived! We'll meet at the Grand Rapids Gerald R. Ford International Airport to check in for the flights to Scotland. Our adventure is beginning! (D-in flight)

Friday, May 2
Arrive Edinburgh

Good morning and welcome to Edinburgh—Scotland's elegant capital city! Here we meet our tour manager and board the waiting motorcoach for transfer to the city center. An orientation tour will introduce us to the city's main highlights, and we'll have time for an independent lunch. Then we visit Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the skyline and is at the center of Edinburgh's history. On the eastern side of the castle yard are the Royal Apartments, among them the tiny bedroom where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to a son who became James VI of Scotland and James I of England. Check in at the hotel, our "home" for the next three nights, and enjoy a welcome dinner. (B, D)

Saturday, May 3
Edinburgh

Following breakfast and a morning lecture, we take a more in-depth guided sightseeing tour that includes the John Knox House, where the reformer is said to have lived for a period of time. Exhibits provide insights into the beliefs and character of Knox, as well as what Scotland was like during the Reformation. We also visit St. Giles' Cathedral, the present "High Kirk" of Edinburgh, whose spire is the most distinctive feature of the city's skyline. John Knox was the first minister of St. Giles after the Reformation, and he played a key role in establishing styles of worship and church polity that were adopted throughout the country. When Knox died in 1572, he was buried in the old churchyard. After time for lunch, visit the National Museum of Scotland. This museum houses an array of exhibits, including Scottish history and archaeology, science and technology, art and design, and world cultures. The evening will be free for an independent dinner. (B)

Sunday, May 4
Edinburgh

The morning will be free with the option of attending a worship service at St. Giles' Cathedral. In the afternoon, we visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse, located at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The palace has a long history, and is the official residence of King Charles III and his family when they are in Scotland. Our visit includes the State Apartments, the Great Gallery, the Royal Dining Room, and the Throne Room, along with the grounds and the ruins of Holyrood Abbey. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore the city on our own and have an independent dinner. (B)

Tour Pace

ACTIVE – Activity levels vary from day to day. Sightseeing is often a brisk walk over distances of several miles on cobblestone streets and uneven ground.

- 1 Edinburgh Castle from Princes Street Gardens
 - 2 Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh
 - 3 St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh
- Cover: Glencoe



Monday, May 5
St. Andrews > Perth

We head to St. Andrews today, known as the home of golf and for its associations with reformers John Knox and George Wishart. A guided walking tour includes visits to the ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral, which dates to 1200. Also see the University of St. Andrews, where it's believed John Knox received his education, and Martyrs' Monument, which commemorates four men executed in St. Andrews during the 16th-century Reformation: Patrick Hamilton, Henry Forrester, George Wishart, and Walter Mill. After some free time, we continue to the lovely city of Perth on the River Tay, to check in at the hotel and enjoy an evening lecture before dinner. (B, D)

Tuesday, May 6
Perth > Fort William

Our day begins with a walking tour of Perth that includes St. John's Kirk. It was here, in 1559, that John Knox's sermon against idolatry instigated the Scottish Reformation. We then head west to the Highlands, making a stop for lunch at a restaurant or pub along the way. We also enjoy an informative tour and tasting in a whisky distillery to learn more about one of Scotland's most famous products. Our destination is Fort William, located on the shore of Loch Linnhe and the gateway to Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. Relax over dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, May 7
Drumnadrochit > Inverness > Culloden > Clava Cairns > Fort William

Travel along the banks of Loch Ness to Drumnadrochit and Inverness, which is considered the capital of the Highlands. Discover 500 million years of history at the new Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition and visit Urquhart Castle, the medieval fortress that has been the site of great conflict during its 500 years. It was once one of Scotland's largest castles. After time for independent lunch, we take a cruise from Clansman Harbour on the famous Loch Ness. Afterwards, visit the Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre. It was here in 1746 in the Battle of Culloden that the Highlanders, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, were defeated by the English Army, led by the Duke of Cumberland. Then stop at Clava Cairns, the site of an exceptionally well-preserved group of prehistoric burial cairns in a beautiful setting, with passage graves and standing stones. Our day concludes in Fort William, where the evening is at leisure. (B)





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Thursday, May 8
Fort William > Mallaig > Fort William

Following a morning lecture, we visit the West Highland Museum to learn more about the story of this region and its history, with special emphasis on the Jacobite risings of the 18th century. After some free time for an independent lunch, take the scenic Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig (duration approximately two hours). This historic locomotive passes over the stunning Glenfinnan Viaduct with its 21 arches, made famous due to the *Harry Potter* films. Have some time in the fishing village of Mallaig, one of Scotland's most inviting ports, and return to Fort William by steam train. (B, D)

Friday, May 9
Glencoe > Trossachs > Stirling > Edinburgh

Departing Fort William, we enjoy a scenic journey through Glencoe with its dramatic landscape formed by volcanic activity, and the Trossachs National Park. Continue to the medieval town of Stirling to tour the historic Stirling Castle, once the favored residence of the Stuart kings and queens. It is one of the largest and grandest castles in Scotland, and it has been the site of numerous films. Our exploration includes the Great Hall, Chapel Royal, Regimental Museum, Tapestry Studio, and lovely grounds. Our day concludes in Edinburgh with dinner and a delightful Spirit of Scotland Show featuring bagpipes, accordion, fiddle, guitar, and traditional Scottish dancers. It is sure to be a fitting way to cap off our time in Scotland! (B, D)

Saturday, May 10
Return

After breakfast, bid farewell to Scotland as we transfer to Edinburgh Airport to check in for our flights back to Grand Rapids. (B, L-in flight)

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- 1 Ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral
- 2 Stirling Castle
- 3 St. John's Kirk, Perth
- 4 Mallaig



In 2025, Witte celebrates 50 years of helping our clients experience the world. Join us in discovering the History & Beauty of Scotland. Be part of celebrating our past, and exploring the future. As our president, Nate Barendse says, *"Fifty years and we're just getting started!"*



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