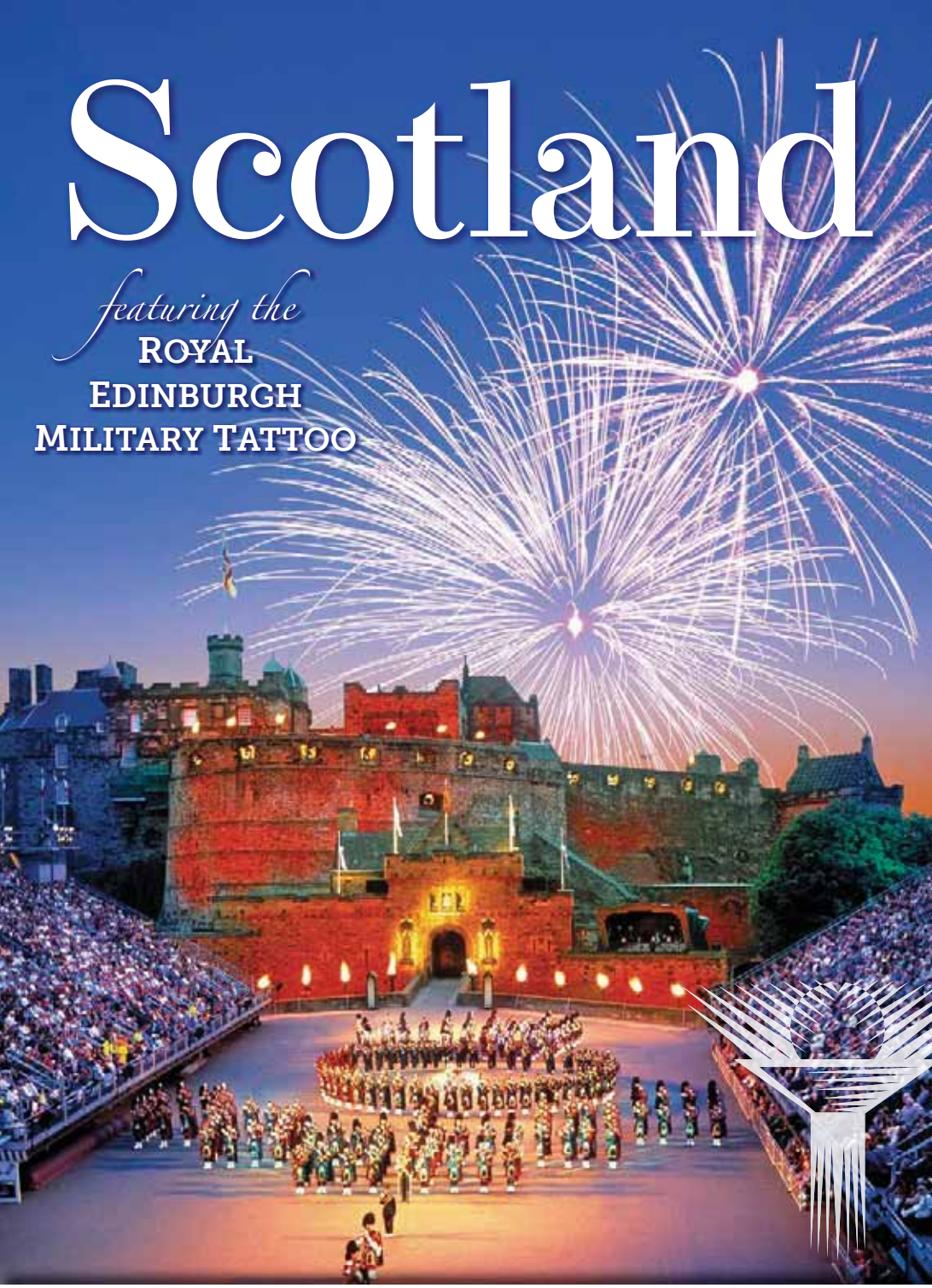
Scotland

featuring the
Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



Sponsored By

University of Illinois Alumni Association

ALUMNI

August 3-11, 2026

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Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us on a seven-night journey to discover Scotland's glorious beauty and heritage, plus delight in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a marvelous and unforgettable event! Walk in the footsteps of Scottish royalty at Stirling Castle and Scone Palace. Cruise on Loch Lomond and admire lake and mountain views in The Trossachs that have inspired poets from Burns to Wordsworth. In St Andrews, behold medieval ruins and the Old Course, golf's historic home. You'll also visit Edinburgh Castle and stroll along the celebrated Royal Mile.

As part of this thoughtfully designed program, expert guides and lecturers will share fascinating insights to enhance your overall experience. You'll also be in the care of a professional Travel Director, allowing you to savor each day's adventures instead of worrying over details. And the relaxed camaraderie of traveling with a small group adds a truly unique dimension.

Space on this popular trip will fill very quickly, so we encourage you to make your reservation today!

Sincerely,

David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh
2. The Forth Bridge

Forth Bridge

Edinburgh

Discovery begins here

Begin your next adventure immersed in Scotland's beautiful landscapes of pristine lochs and quiet glens in endless shades of green. Discover its intriguing, richly layered past and the warm, friendly hospitality of its people. Explore atmospheric castles, wander along Edinburgh's winding passageways and experience the rousing music and spirited dancing of the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo!

Top: Stirling Castle | Above: Highland cow
Right: Robert the Bruce Monument, Stirling Castle
Cover: Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo | Mail panel: Edinburgh Castle | Glenturret Distillery, Scotland's oldest working distillery

Inspiring Moments

- Revel in the colorful pageantry of the **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.**
- Cruise on Loch Lomond and admire the captivating beauty of **The Trossachs National Park** in the Highlands.
- Marvel at majestic **Edinburgh Castle.**
- Witness **St Andrews' gems** — its cathedral, castle and the Old Course, golf's home.
- Take in commanding vistas from the ramparts of **Stirling Castle.**
- Relish a **haggis ceremony** and a joyful **ceilidh,** a party filled with folk music and dancing.
- Sip a dram of single malt **Scotch whisky** on a distillery tour.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

Edinburgh

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Edinburgh, Scotland.

Day 2 | Edinburgh, Scotland | Falkirk

Upon arrival, transfer to Falkirk and check in to the Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner, featuring a traditional haggis ceremony and a performance by Highland dancers.

Day 3 | Stirling

Enrichment: *Medieval Scotland.* Delve into the struggle for freedom and renowned figures Robert the Bruce and William Wallace.

Stirling. Set out on a guided tour and visit the 700-year-old Bannockburn battlefield. Against all odds, Robert the Bruce exploited the marshy ground there to win a decisive battle in the war for Scottish independence. Next, tour Stirling Castle, an important historic stronghold and royal residence, which was the early childhood home of Mary, Queen of Scots. Walk through the Great Hall and the royal chambers. Take in stirring views from the ramparts and the castle gardens on your own after the tour.

Free Time: See more of charming Stirling on your own and find a nice spot for lunch.

Return to Falkirk for some free time before dinner with your group at a restaurant.

Day 4 | Loch Lomond | The Trossachs | Luss

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs. Delight in the magnificent scenery of this vast national park known for its splendid lochs and munros, or mountains. Begin with a cruise on Loch Lomond. Later, stop in the pretty village of Luss, filled with slate cottages originally built for workers at the nearby slate quarries. Take a break for lunch at a lakeshore restaurant in Luss, then admire the picturesque vistas on a drive through the heart of the Trossachs.

Day 5 | St Andrews

Enrichment: *The Stewart Line & the Jacobite Rebellions.* Examine the period from Mary, Queen of Scots, through the Stewart line.

St Andrews. On your way to St Andrews, see the National Wallace Monument. Then, tour

Royal Mile, Edinburgh

St Andrews

St Andrews' medieval castle ruins at the edge of the sea with your guide. Afterward, visit the 12th-century cathedral ruins and envision the church's scale and grandeur. See golf's most iconic turf, the St Andrew's Old Course, where the sport has been played since the 1400s.

Try tasty specialties during lunch in town.

Free Time: See more of the town or browse in the shops before returning to Falkirk.

Day 6 | Edinburgh

Edinburgh. On your way to Edinburgh, see the Forth Bridge, a historic cantilever railway bridge that opened in 1890. One of Europe's most distinguished capitals, Edinburgh is a showstopper, spread across seven hills and brimming with remarkable architecture. On a panoramic tour, get wonderful perspectives of the medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town, designated together as a UNESCO World Heritage site. After lunch in town, stroll along the Royal Mile before touring Edinburgh Castle. Marvel at the crown jewels, the Stone of Destiny and more. *(Active)*

Free Time: Make plans for dinner on your own before the Tattoo performance.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Tonight, revel in this unforgettable show performed before the floodlit castle. First staged in 1950, this impressive annual spectacle combines regimental pipes and drums, military bands from around the world, Highland dancers and fireworks.

Day 7 | Falkirk | Perth | Crieff

Free Time: Enjoy the morning at leisure and lunch on your own, then depart for Perth.

Loch Lomond, The Trossachs National Park

Scone Palace & the Glenturret Distillery. In Perth, visit Scone Palace, where Scottish kings, including Robert the Bruce, were crowned. Take a tour of the stately rooms, then wander through the lovely grounds and perhaps try to find your way through the Murray Star Maze. Next, head to Crieff for a visit to Glenturret Distillery. Established in 1775, it is Scotland's oldest working distillery. Savor a tasting of its fine single malt whisky.

Day 8 | Falkirk

Enrichment: *Scotland Today.* Discuss current issues affecting life in Scotland.

Free Time: Create your own agenda for the rest of the day. Perhaps you'll visit Glasgow, return to Stirling or stay in Falkirk. Your Travel Director can help you plan your day.

At tonight's Farewell Reception and Dinner, enjoy a ceilidh, a fun Celtic party, with your fellow travelers and celebrate the wonderful time you've shared in bonnie Scotland. Learn some classic Scottish songs and dances!

Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer to the Edinburgh airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.
Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **7 nights** in Falkirk, Scotland, at the first-class Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

National Wallace Monument

Scottish bagpiper

The Old Course at St Andrews

Scone Palace

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **August 3-11, 2026**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **August 4-11, 2026**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
Standard	$5,045	**$4,295**
Deluxe	$5,345	**$4,595**

***This Special Savings Price includes our $250 Early Booking and $500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is $750 per person.
Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).
Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.
Single accommodations (available in most categories) are an additional $995 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1990A?schoolId=69.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

– **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
– arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
– **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
– **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and **Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.

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Accommodations

Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa | Falkirk

Enjoy a friendly welcome from the attentive, helpful staff at this inviting property located near Falkirk. Unwind at the close of an exciting day in your comfortable guest room. During leisure time, feel rejuvenated with a visit to the indoor pool, spa facilities or the fitness center.

Tripadvisor

Traditional Scottish haggis

Highland dancers

Book your journey today!

844-414-0369 **https://uiaa.org/explorers/**

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Embrace Scotland's wondrous beauty and vibrant history!

Committed to connecting travelers to the people, places and cultures of the world for more than 62 years.

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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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