

Scotland

STIRLING

featuring the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



SPONSORED BY

University of Illinois Alumni Association

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

July 31 – August 8, 2024



A World of Discovery



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 while based in historic Stirling. 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: Bagpiper | Above: The Royal Mile, Edinburgh
Cover: Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
Mail panel: Edinburgh Castle

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.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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, must-see event! You'll unpack once and settle into your home base in the charming city of Stirling, then set off to explore. 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 famed 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



Edinburgh



Forth Bridge

Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **844-414-0369** or
visit <https://uiaa.org/explorers/>.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

July 31 – August 8, 2024

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

Tour dates*

August 1-8, 2024

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

Land Program

Full Price	\$4,245
Special Savings	\$250
Special Price*	\$3,995

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

Receive Bonus Savings when you Pay in Full at booking.

Call for details.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

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 are an additional \$395 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1833A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

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 without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

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Stirling Castle with National Wallace Monument in the distance

AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Travel Coordinator offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

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

Once you arrive:

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

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

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



Robert the Bruce Monument, Stirling



Edinburgh

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Edinburgh, Scotland. 🌐

Day 2 | Edinburgh, Scotland | Stirling

Upon arrival, transfer to Stirling and check in to the Stirling Highland Hotel.

Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner, featuring a traditional haggis ceremony and spirited Highland dancing.

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, delight in the serene gardens and explore more on your own.

Free Time: Get to know charming Stirling.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Meet the People.** Chat with residents about everyday life in Scotland. Join your group for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 | Edinburgh

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

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)*



Highland dancers



St Andrews

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 5 | Stirling | Perth | Crieff

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

Scone Palace and 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 6 | Loch Lomond | The Trossachs | Luss

Loch Lomond and 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 7 | St Andrews

St Andrews. On your way to St Andrews, see the National Wallace Monument. Then, tour St Andrews' medieval castle ruins at the edge



Loch Lomond

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Stirling, Scotland, at the first-class Stirling Highland Hotel.

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.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- 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.



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 Stirling.

Day 8 | Stirling

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

Free Time: Create your own agenda for the rest of the day. Stay in Stirling, visit nearby distilleries, or spend the day in Glasgow. 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

After breakfast, 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.

Note About Activity Levels

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



National Wallace Monument

Accommodations



Stirling Highland Hotel | Stirling



Located in the heart of the city, the Stirling Highland Hotel occupies the city's former high school, which was established in 1854. Its central location provides a perfect base for exploring the region's historic and cultural highlights. Dine on traditional Scottish and international cuisine in Scholar's Restaurant and enjoy a "wee dram" of whisky or afternoon tea in the Headmaster's Study. Reenergize in the spa, fitness center and indoor swimming pool. Guest rooms are welcoming and provide comfort, convenience and amenities that include complimentary Wi-Fi.



The Old Course at St Andrews

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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**SMALL
GROUP**
Maximum of
28 Travelers



Embrace Scotland's wondrous beauty and vibrant history!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and price.

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