

DISCOVER SCOTLAND

September 6-15, 2019



WITH NHPBS AND WILLEM LANGE

Travel in the footsteps of the Jacobite revolution and ancient Scots on the journey of a lifetime that will highlight the rugged natural beauty, intriguing history, and delightful modern charm of Scotland.





New Hampshire PBS and **American Expeditions** invite you to discover the enchanting land of Scotland with New England's favorite storyteller, **Willem Lange**. Surrounded by lore and shrouded in mystery, the mere mention of Scotland conjures images of imposing castles, untamed landscapes, soft strains of bagpipes, and a plethora of historical legends. Take a step back in time as we take in sweeping and verdant natural wonders, remote sea-sprayed ruins, and stroll the iconic cobblestones of the Royal Mile on this unique and insightful Scottish experience that you will cherish for years to come.

We begin in **Glasgow**, Scotland's largest city which is situated in the **Lowlands** along the River Clyde. While just a small town upon Scotland's union with England in 1707, it eventually blossomed into a thriving Victorian paradise as shipbuilding and steel production began to prosper in the 19th century. Having honorably been named a European Capital of Culture in 1990, Glasgow rivals Edinburgh in the arts, with a thriving music scene and notable galleries and museums that honor its proud industrial heritage.

Next, we'll make our way up to the coastal town of **Oban** with a delightful stop in **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park**, whose natural beauty has inspired artists and writers for centuries, including Sir Walter Scott. From Oban, we'll take a short ferry ride to explore two of the **Inner Hebrides**: the isles of **Mull** and **Iona**. During this excursion we'll visit **Iona Abbey**, which was founded by Saint Columba in the 6th century and remains an important pilgrimage site to this day.

We'll then head back to the mainland and continue north to **Inverness**, the capital of the **Scottish Highlands**. Here we'll have the opportunity to visit two of Scotland's most historic sites—**Urquhart Castle**, which served as an important strong hold in the Wars of Scottish Independence in the 14th century and whose proud ruins stand along the shores of **Loch Ness**; and nearby **Culloden Battlefield**, the site of the final battle in the Jacobite Rising of 1745 where Charles Stuart's forces were defeated.

Our tour culminates with three nights in **Edinburgh**, the capital of Scotland which is neatly divided into the **Old Town** and the **New Town**. The Old Town is a fascinating maze of narrow streets and ancient tenements surrounding the **Royal Mile**, which begins at Edinburgh Castle and follows a descending ridgeline down to Holyrood Palace and Abbey at the slope's edge. The New Town lies in the valley to the north and occupies the area from the elegant Princes Street northward. Unlike its older version, the New Town is built primarily in the Georgian style—a masterpiece of 18th Century town planning with wide streets and magnificent squares.

Come discover the magic of Scotland in the company of your fellow viewers, all while supporting **New Hampshire PBS!**



DISCOVER SCOTLAND

September 6-15, 2019



George Square, Glasgow



Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover



Glasgow



Scottish Piper

DAY 1 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 *Depart from North America*

Meet a **NHPBS representative** at Logan Airport in Boston and depart in the evening for **Edinburgh, Scotland**. Select meals, snacks, and refreshments will be served on the flight. Be sure to read through the great tips and travel information in your American Expeditions tour handbook!

DAY 2 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 *Arrive in Scotland*

Upon arrival at the Edinburgh Airport, **NHPBS tour host Willem Lange** and a friendly **American Expeditions tour manager** will greet and assist us with changing dollars into pounds. Then, we will board our private motor coach and make the short journey to **Glasgow**, where we will begin our program.

Get to know your fellow NHPBS travelers over a **welcome lunch at Charles Rennie Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover**. Situated in Glasgow's lovely Bellahouston Park, the House for an Art Lover is a testament to the legacy of the cherished Glaswegian architect and artist who, along with his wife Margaret MacDonald, drafted the plans for the house and its bespoke interiors for a German design competition in 1901. While the entry was disqualified for late submission, the elaborate drawings were nevertheless published to unanimous acclaim and established Mackintosh's reputation around the world. Following lunch, we will be treated to a **guided tour of the house** to learn how one of the greatest unrealized building plans came to life over 60 years after the passing of its celebrated draughtsman.

Next, we'll board our coach and enjoy an introduction to the Lowlands during a **guided city tour of Glasgow** which will cover the impressive civic buildings of **George Square**, the formerly industrial turned trendy streets of **Merchant City**, the impressive **Glasgow Cathedral**—the only mainland Scottish Cathedral to have survived the Reformation intact—and the **West End**, home to Glasgow's historic university buildings.

The tour will end at a **centrally-located Glasgow hotel** where we will check in, relax, and refresh from our travels.

Tonight, we'll visit the **National Piping Centre**, Scotland's only museum dedicated exclusively to its beloved national instrument. After a demonstration and Q&A session from a piper, we'll be treated to a **welcome dinner of Scottish specialties** as Willem narrates and our guide previews our exciting days to come!

DAY 3 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 *Stirling & Glasgow*

After a hearty Scottish breakfast at the hotel, our first full day in Scotland begins with a **trip to Stirling Castle with a guest speaker** who will walk us through the history of this revered national treasure and the surrounding areas.

Set atop the imposing Castle Hill along the banks of the River Forth and surrounded by steep cliffs on all but one side, Stirling was an ideal fortress site for ruling clans in the centuries before the unification with England. It was also the coronation site for many Scottish Kings and Queens, the most famous being **Mary, Queen of Scots** who was crowned at Stirling Castle in 1542. Along our drive to the castle we'll also see the **Wallace Monument**, a striking Victorian tower dedicated to Scottish national hero William Wallace, which stands on the craggy hills overlooking the battlefield where he and his men defeated King Edward I's much larger army at Stirling Bridge in 1297.

In the afternoon, we will return to **Glasgow's city center** where the remainder of the day is free for independent pursuits. You may choose to visit the **People's Palace**, Glasgow's unique social history museum with excellent displays about the history of the city and its people from 1750 to the present, or stroll along lively Buchanan Street and take in the sounds of its many talented buskers before popping into the **Willow Tea Rooms** for a light snack in another elegant Mackintosh setting. The beloved **Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum** also offers a fine mix of visual arts and natural history in addition to frequent organ recitals; it also holds the distinction of housing a very rare specimen of "wild haggis"!

Tonight, our tour manager will be happy to make recommendations for dinner.



The Oban Distillery



The Sir Walter Scott Steamship



Isle of Mull



Iona Abbey



Loch Ness

DAY 4 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 *The Trossachs & Oban*

Following breakfast, we'll check out of our Glasgow hotel and begin our journey into the Highlands! We'll first head north through the **Trossachs National Park**, a glorious stretch of protected Scottish wilderness consisting of wooded glens and serene lochs flanked by the regal hills of **Ben A'an** and **Ben Venue** to the north and south.

For centuries the beauty of the Trossachs has inspired artists and writers the world over, most prominently the poet Sir Walter Scott, who crafted his masterpiece *"The Lady of the Lake"* as an homage to the dramatic beauty of the area and ushered in the prideful Highland Revival during the greater Romantic movement of the early 19th century. Perhaps our resident orator Willem Lange will treat us to a selection of Scott's verse during a **cruise on Loch Katrine aboard the Sir Walter Scott steamship** which has been in service since 1900.

When we conclude our time on Loch Katrine, we will begin our journey west to the charming bayside port town of **Oban**, the gateway to the Scottish Isles and a bastion of Gaelic culture and language which served as an inspiration for Scott's *"The Lord of the Isles"*. Upon arrival, we'll take a **tour of the Oban Distillery** which has been producing renowned whiskey since 1794—predating the town itself. Of course, no distillery tour would be complete without a tasting, so those who are interested can partake in a wee tippie (or two) of this distinctly smoky Western Highland elixir!

Next, we'll check into our **Oban hotel** and refresh. Tonight, a **group dinner** of locally-sourced coastal specialties is served at a nearby restaurant.

DAY 5 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 *Inner Hebrides*

Today we will spend the day exploring highlights of the **Inner Hebrides**. After breakfast, we'll board the first of today's ferries which will take us from Oban to Craignure on the **Isle of Mull**. A **local wildlife speaker** will greet us when we disembark the ferry and guide us on a **coastal walk along the shores of Duart Point** and the areas surrounding Duart Castle, the ancestral home of the Clan MacLean, and point out the native flora and fauna unique to the area.

Following our walk, we'll break for lunch at the **Duart Castle Tea Room**, whose kitchen prides itself on using Isle of Mull produce and suppliers wherever possible.

Next, we'll continue west to Fionnphort, with Willem narrating as we traverse the rugged and romantic terrain of Mull to meet the ferry which will take us to the **Isle of Iona**, where we will visit the **Iona Abbey and Nunnery**. Founded in 563 by Saint Columba, the abbey's modest appearance belies its importance as **one of the holiest sites in Western Europe** to pilgrims of all denominations around the world. Iona's remote and tranquil setting made it the ideal location for ecclesiastical learning and spiritual contemplation, a tradition that continues even to this day. It was here that the monks of Iona Abbey created some of the most impressive holy relics of early Christendom (including the *Book of Kells*, later shepherded to Ireland for safekeeping) which made the abbey a recurring target for Viking raids. Remarkably, the abbey stands today as one of the most well-preserved complexes of its kind and an unparalleled collection of Celtic stone crosses.

In the late afternoon we will make our way back to **Oban**, whereupon evening arrival, our tour manager will be happy to make dinner recommendations.

DAY 6 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 *Into the Highlands*

This morning, we'll check out of our Oban hotel and begin our journey north to **Inverness**. Our first stop today will be to the **Glencoe Visitor Centre**. Recently overhauled by the National Trust for Scotland, the center features a lookout point providing breathtaking panoramic views of the area's numerous peaks and valleys dotted with heather, thistle, and glacial waterfalls. A **National Trust ranger** will walk us through an informative exhibition about the glen's topography, wildlife, and turbulent history.

We'll take time for lunch in the Visitor Centre Café before continuing on through the humbling Glencoe landscape en route to **Urquhart Castle**, which offers a taste of the Highlands at their most dramatic.

Discover 1,000 years of history, experience a glimpse of medieval life, and enjoy stunning views over **Loch Ness** from the ruins of one of Scotland's largest castles. Urquhart's stories are also told through a remarkable collection of artifacts left by its residents, including a full-sized working trebuchet siege engine. The castle has a distinctly Highland heritage, and the site has witnessed some of the most dramatic chapters of Scottish history. It is here that Saint Columba is said to have worked miracles in the 6th century, where acts of chivalry and defiance provided inspiration during the Wars of Independence, and where the MacDonald Lords of the Isles struggled with the Crown for power.

From Urquhart it is just a short drive to **Inverness**, a most charming city along the River Ness that is commonly regarded as the capital of the Scottish Highlands on account of its historical and cultural significance, as well as its overall quality of life.

Upon arrival, we'll check into our **Inverness hotel** and refresh before we reconvene as a group to enjoy dinner at one of Inverness' many fine restaurants. After dinner, return to the hotel or join our tour manager for some live Scottish music at a nearby pub!



Highland Shepherd Neil Ross



Culloden Battlefield



Palace of Holyroodhouse



Edinburgh Castle



Edinburgh

DAY 7 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 *Jacobites & Shepherds*

After breakfast, we'll check out of our Inverness hotel and begin today's journey to the capital of **Edinburgh** which will be peppered with plenty of exciting stops along the way.

We'll first visit the infamous **Culloden Battlefield** just outside of Inverness. No doubt familiar to fans of the immensely popular *Outlander* series, Culloden was the site of the brief but brutal final Jacobite Rising in 1746. A **local historian** will walk us through this atmospheric bog setting and bring context and perspective to this complex and pivotal moment in U.K. history, one whose aftermath left an indelible mark on the Scottish national identity. We'll also visit the **Culloden Visitor Centre** which houses artifacts from both the Jacobite supporters and the British Army of the period, further bringing this fascinating history to life. Our guide will also show us the mysterious Neolithic burial sites at nearby **Clava Cairns**.

Next, we'll stop for lunch before continuing south through the rich greenery of the **Cairngorms National Park** to pay a visit to the **Leault Working Sheepdog Farm**. During a 45-minute demonstration amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, we will see **master Highland shepherd Neil Ross** command teams of up to eight Border Collies as they maneuver sheep through various obstacles in accordance with their individualized whistle commands. Watching Neil work his training magic with these eager pups on an active farm is truly a sight to behold and an afternoon you won't soon forget!

After we bid farewell to Neil and his flock, we continue on to **Edinburgh** where we will spend the remainder of our program. Upon early evening arrival in the capital city, we'll check into our **Edinburgh hotel** and then reconvene for a tasty **group dinner** at a nearby restaurant.

DAY 8 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 *Edinburgh*

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before we embark on a **guided literary crawl of Edinburgh**. We'll explore the highlights of this enchanting city through the lens of some of its most famous wordsmiths including **Robert Louis Stevenson**, **Robert Burns**, and **Walter Scott**. We'll learn the legends behind the stories as we take in highlights of the medieval **Old Town**, the elegant Georgian architecture of the **New Town**, the **Royal Mile**, and more.

After we break for lunch, we'll reconvene and embark on a visit to the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, the official Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth II. Book-ending the bottom of the Royal Mile (with Edinburgh Castle capping it at the top), Holyroodhouse has been the primary residence of Scottish monarchs dating back to the 16th century, although most of the current structure dates to the late 17th century. However, the site may have been used as a royal residence as far back as the 1300s. On our **guided visit**, we'll see the many highlights of Holyrood including the **royal apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots**, the elegant **palace gardens**, which are home to many rare species including Wentworth elms, a 17th century sundial, and the fascinating remains of **Holyrood Abbey** which dates back to the 12th century when King David I of Scotland ordered its founding after he had a holy vision inspired by his mother Queen Margaret's relic of the True Cross, also known as the Holy Rood.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration. You may choose to pay your respects to the statue of **Greyfriars Bobby**, that most loyal of canine companions, take a quiet moment in one of the **secret gardens** just off the cobblestone streets of the Royal Mile, or browse the many fine **tartan shops on Princes Street**.

Dinner will be self-arranged tonight, but our tour manager can point you in the right direction for whatever Commonwealth delicacy you crave, be it haggis, fish and chips, or a delicate curry.

DAY 9 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 *Edinburgh*

We begin our last full day in Scotland with a very special early morning **private guided tour of Edinburgh Castle**, a sprawling fortress and palace complex that almost feels like a city within a city! We'll arrive before the castle opens to the public and see all of the castle's highlights before the queues begin. After our hour-long private tour, we'll be treated to a **full Scottish breakfast** before we resume exploration of the castle independently.

The pride of Scotland, it is undoubtedly its most famous castle with a building history that spans centuries. The oldest part, **St. Margaret's Chapel**, dates from the 12th century; the **Great Hall** was erected by James IV around 1510; and the **Half Moon Battery** built by the Regent Morton in the late 16th century. The moving **Scottish National War Memorial** was added after WWI and features intricate military tributes in stained glass that offer a marked contrast to the medieval splendors of nearby **St. Giles Cathedral**. The castle also houses many iconic treasures including the **Honours** (crown jewels) of Scotland, the **Stone of Destiny** used for the coronation of Scottish monarchs, the famous 15th century gun **Mons Meg**, and the **One O' Clock Gun**, originally fired to help ships set their maritime clocks and still fired every day except Sunday much to the delight of visitors.

The afternoon is free for independent pursuits. NHPBS travelers brave enough to make the trek up the tall hills of nearby **Arthur's Seat** will be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the city and its shimmering coastline! Those who are interested in maritime history may want to step aboard the **Royal Yacht Britannia**, while art lovers will no doubt want to comb the many splendors of the **Scottish National Gallery**.

Tonight, we will all enjoy a special **farewell dinner** commemorating our wonderful week abroad as we bid a Caledonian farewell to Scotland over many a *sláinte* and words from Willem!

DAY 10 SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 *Depart for North America*

After breakfast, transfer to the **Edinburgh Airport** and your return flight back to the United States. Arrive in **Boston** in the late afternoon.



The Royal Mile



Edinburgh Skyline



Glasgow City Center



Glasgow Cathedral



Oban

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

ACCOMMODATIONS

8 nights in centrally located 4-star hotels:

- 2 nights Glasgow
- 2 nights Oban
- 1 night Inverness
- 3 nights Edinburgh

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation as described in the itinerary in a modern motor coach with a professional driver
- Ferry service as described in the itinerary

MEALS

- Full buffet breakfast served daily in the hotel dining room
- Full Scottish breakfast served at Edinburgh Castle
- Lunch at Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover
- Welcome dinner at the National Piping Centre
- Dinner at a restaurant in Oban
- Dinner at a restaurant in Inverness
- Dinner at a restaurant in Edinburgh
- Private farewell dinner celebration at a restaurant in Edinburgh

TOUR HOST, TOUR MANAGER & LOCAL GUIDE

- NHPBS' Willem Lange will host the tour
- A full-time American Expeditions Tour Manager to accompany your group from arrival to departure

GUIDED TOURS, ENTRANCES, AND SPECIAL LECTURES

- Guided tour of Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover
- Guided panoramic tour of Glasgow with photo stops
- Guided visit to Stirling Castle
- Loch Katrine cruise aboard the *Sir Walter Scott* steamship
- Oban Distillery tour and tasting
- Guided wildlife walk on the Isle of Mull
- Guided visit to Iona Abbey and Nunnery
- Entrance to the Glencoe Visitor Centre exhibition
- Entrance to Urquhart Castle
- Guided tour of Culloden Battlefield and Clava Cairns with a local historian
- Visit to the Leault Working Sheepdog Farm
- Guided literary tour of Edinburgh
- Guided tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse
- Private guided tour of Edinburgh Castle

ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

- Allows each traveler to make individual trip payments online with a debit or credit card. Individuals receive electronic reminders, receipts, and statement.

EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP WILL RECEIVE:

- A customized handbook with detailed tour itinerary and travel information
- Electrical adapter
- Luggage tag
- Passport holder

PACKAGE PRICE

PACKAGE PRICE including ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE*

(BOSTON – EDINBURGH roundtrip):

\$5,573.00 per person in double occupancy (based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers)

PACKAGE PRICE with NO FLIGHTS

\$4,606.00 per person in double occupancy for a minimum of 20 paying travelers

SINGLE ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS:

\$450.00 per person single supplement

Please note the prices quoted above are based on a minimum of 20 paying travelers.

**Price includes group airfare, which is subject to changes in tax and fuel.*



Stirling Castle and Highland Cattle



DETAILS

TOUR ADMINISTRATION

This tour of Scotland is designed by New Hampshire PBS and American Expeditions. The trip is designed to give NHPBS travelers a flavor of the culture, history, and traditions of Scotland through site visits and commentary from host Willem Lange and friends in Scotland. A portion of the tour proceeds benefits New Hampshire PBS but is not considered a tax-deductible contribution according to IRS regulations. If a minimum number of participants is not reached, NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to re-price or cancel the tour. In the case of cancellation, all payments made will be refunded.

CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM

NHPBS and American Expeditions reserve the right to alter the travel program and to make changes deemed necessary for the quality of the program and the comfort, convenience, and safety of the participants. Every effort will always be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions, transportation difficulties, or other circumstances could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services.

TOUR HOST WILLEM LANGE

Avid outdoorsman, author and award-winning *Windows to the Wild* host, Willem Lange has been called "one of the most beloved storytellers in Northern New England." Willem writes a weekly newspaper column entitled *A Yankee Notebook* and his book, *Words from the Wild*, was published in 2015.

In addition to hosting 14 seasons of New Hampshire PBS' *Windows to the Wild* series, Willem is the host of five NHPBS birding documentaries that have won New England Emmy, Telly, and New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters awards: *Journey of the Broad-Winged Hawk*, *Saving Songbirds*, *Bird Tales*, *Counting on Birds*, and *Plight of the Grassland Birds*. He has published 10 books and several audio recordings. His knack for storytelling, background in education, and love for the outdoors make Willem the perfect host and tour guide.

Willem was born in 1935. A child of deaf parents, he grew up speaking sign language and first came to New England for prep school in 1950 as an alternative to reform school in his native New York state. During a few absences from New England, Willem earned a degree in only nine years at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He has worked as a ranch hand, Adirondack guide, preacher, construction laborer, bobsled run announcer, assembly line worker, cab driver, bookkeeper, and bartender.

From 1968 to 1972, Willem directed the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. From 1972 until his "retirement" in 2007, he was a building and remodeling contractor in Hanover, NH. In 1973, Willem founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, and Himalayas, and bushwhacked on skis through northern New England. Willem lives in East Montpelier, VT with his dog Kiki, and has three children and four grandchildren.

RESERVATION PROCEDURE

To register for this tour, please go online to
<http://NHPBSscotland.americanexpeditions.net>
or call American Expeditions at 1-800-624-0166.

A \$1,500 per person registration fee is required at the time of registration to reserve your place on the tour.

Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. Space is limited.

Tour registration closes Wednesday, May 15, 2019.



**American
Expeditions**

BY MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

119 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401 USA
Toll Free 800-624-0166 • 802-862-2200
Fax 802-862-2251
E-mail: travel@music-contact.com
NHPBS.org/travel