

TREASURES OF SCOTLAND



Edinburgh - Scottish Highlands - Fort William - Loch Ness - Inverness - Stirling

US departure date: **July 3, 2027** | Edinburgh land tour start date: **July 4, 2027** | Edinburgh return date: **July 10, 2027**

8 Days from: **\$3289**



START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Iowa State University young alumni?

The Traveling Cyclones young alumni travel program, designed for recent grads in their 20s and 30s, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning, enrichment and enjoying a connection back to Iowa State. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 50 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/iastate and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,



Lainey Heck
Associate Director of Travel
Iowa State University Foundation

Travel insurance is compulsory. Iowa State offers travel insurance. To learn more or secure your own travel insurance, visit: <https://select.travelinsure.com/?pcode=32230>

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Scotland feels like stepping into a legend. One moment you are wandering cobbled streets under castle spires, the next you are standing before misty mountains that look straight out of a film. Ancient tales whisper across glassy lochs, golden whisky warms your soul, and every turn reveals a view so dramatic it doesn't seem real. It's history, mystery, and adventure rolled into one unforgettable journey.

8-DAY PACKAGE

Transportation and Lodging

- 6 nights in 3 and 4-star hotels, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
 - Edinburgh: 2 nights, Fort William: 2 nights, Inverness: 1 night, Stirling: 1 night
- All ground transportation by private motor coach or train as per itinerary
- Arrival airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare, return airport transfer from Stirling to Edinburgh airport included

Meals

- 6 breakfasts
- 3 dinners
- 1 lunch

Activities & Admissions

- Guided tour of Edinburgh incl. Royal Mile, Old & New Town and Edinburgh Castle
- Admission to Edinburgh Castle
- Scotch tasting at the Malt Whisky Society
- Scenic drive through the Scottish Highlands
- Drummond Castle Gardens
- Cruise on Loch Ness
- Outlander-themed tour of filming locations including 'Craig Na Dun' and Culloden Battlefield
- Scotch distillery tour and tasting

Sights & Highlights

- Edinburgh's Old & New Town
- Castle Hill & Edinburgh Castle
- Royal Mile
- St. Giles Cathedral
- Parliament Square
- John Knox House
- Stirling Castle
- Wallace Monument
- Trossach Mountains and Lochs
- Drummond Castle
- Isle of Skye
- Eilean Donan Castle, the most photographed castle in Scotland
- Great Glen and Loch Ness
- Culloden Battlefield and Clava Cairns, Bronze Age cemetery complex
- Malt Whisky Trail in the Speyside Region

Optional Excursions (not included in land package price):

- Day excursion to the Isle of Skye including a visit to the Talisker Distillery, Portree pub lunch and views of Eilean Donan Castle

Also Included

A private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour. All service charges and local taxes are covered. Airfare is an additional cost.

EXPERIENCES

This trip has been carefully designed for young travelers and features fantastic inclusions and highlights. For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/experiences



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

This tour requires standing and walking for some extended periods of time during city or nature tours, museum visits, and/or outdoor activities.



HOTELS

Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or rooftop bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$1115 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

TOUR DIRECTORS

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. Show your tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$8-10 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4-5 per person/per day for your driver. To learn more visit www.aesu.com/tour-directors

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website: www.aesu.com/terms-conditions/

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – FLIGHT TO SCOTLAND

We board our overnight flight to Edinburgh and let anticipation take over. Imagine waking up to misty hills, ancient castles, and streets that inspired legendary writers. Sleep a little, dream a lot — because tomorrow, we step into a storybook.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 – LAND TOUR START DAY: EDINBURGH

Landing in Edinburgh feels like stepping into a literary world. The city’s cobbled streets whisper tales of Sir Walter Scott and J.K. Rowling, where hidden corners inspired magical worlds. Spend the afternoon exploring at our own pace — grabbing a coffee, snapping our first Scottish selfies, or wandering past quirky bookshops. By evening, meet your tour crew for a welcome dinner, where laughter, plans, and the first sparks of adventure ignite.

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare | Welcome orientation | Welcome to Scotland dinner

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3 – EDINBURGH

We meet our local guide and step into Edinburgh’s medieval heartbeat. Wander alleys where spies, rebels, and writers once walked. Touch the spires of St. Giles Cathedral, imagine sermons echoing across centuries, and marvel at the stories carved into John Knox House. Climb Castle Hill and take in sweeping views of rooftops and hills, before stepping into Edinburgh Castle, a fortress steeped in intrigue, battles, and royal drama. We wrap up the day at the Malt Whisky Society, sipping liquid history, then hit the streets to discover hidden pubs, live music, or ghostly legends that lurk in the dark corners of Old Town.

Inclusions: Guided tour of Edinburgh incl. Royal Mile, Old & New Town and Edinburgh Castle | Admission to Edinburgh Castle | Scotch tasting at the Malt Whisky Society

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 – EDINBURGH – SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS – FORT WILLIAM

Leave the city behind and follow the road into the heart of the Highlands. We feel the thrill as we pass Stirling Castle and the towering Wallace Monument, imagining William Wallace rallying clans for freedom. Midday, pause for lunch en route, enjoying hearty local fare before continuing along the twisting Duke’s Pass, with misty peaks and sparkling lochs unfolding like a movie set. We stop at Drummond Castle, with gardens that starred in Outlander and Rob Roy. By late afternoon, arrive in Fort William, surrounded by dramatic mountains, rugged moors, and vistas that have inspired generations of filmmakers — James Bond, Braveheart, and Outlander all found magic here. As evening falls, gather for a relaxed dinner in town, sampling local dishes and reflecting on the day’s journey.

Inclusions: Scenic drive through the Scottish Highlands | Views of Stirling Castle | Wallace Monument | Trossach Mountains and Lochs | Drummond Castle Gardens admission | Highland dinner

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



DAY 5 – FORT WILLIAM – OPTIONAL ISLE OF SKYE EXCURSION

Today is a free day for us to explore at our own pace. Adventurers may opt for a hike up Ben Nevis, the UK's highest peak, taking in sweeping Highland vistas along the way. Alternatively, join our optional excursion and explore the dramatic beauty of the Isle of Skye, where the rugged peaks of the Cuillin Hills rise sharply against the sky, creating one of Scotland's most striking landscapes - famously featured in Highlander. Take in the unforgettable views at the Old Man of Storr viewpoint, a towering rock formation steeped in legend and set against sweeping vistas of coastline and countryside. Enjoy a pub lunch in Portree, the island's charming harbor town, known for its colorful waterfront and relaxed atmosphere. Round out the day with a visit to Talisker Distillery, where you'll experience the rich heritage and distinctive character of one of Scotland's most iconic whiskies. On the way back, stop at Eilean Donan Castle to snap that iconic shot, the very castle that belongs on every Scottish postcard.

Inclusions: Free day in Fort William | Climb Ben Nevis Mountain for fantastic views

Meals: Breakfast

Optional activity: Day excursion to the Isle of Skye including a visit to the Talisker Distillery, Portree pub lunch and views of Eilean Donan Castle



DAY 6 – FORT WILLIAM – LOCH NESS – INVERNESS - CULLODEN

Set sail on Loch Ness, scanning the waters for Nessie, the legendary monster that has captivated imaginations for generations. In Inverness, the Highlands' cultural heart, step into Outlander lore at Abertarff House, then feel the ancient energy at Clava Cairns aka Craeg Na Dun, where 4,000-year-old stones whisper secrets of the past—dare to touch them, and you might feel a spark of the mystical. We end the day at Culloden Battlefield, where history comes alive with the poignant story of the clans' final stand.

Inclusions: Great Glen and Loch Ness | Cruise on Loch Ness | Outlander-themed tour of filming locations including 'Craeg Na Dun' and Culloden Battlefield

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 7 – INVERNESS – MALT WHISKY TRAIL - STIRLING

We travel along the Malt Whisky Trail, tasting the rich, smooth spirits of Speyside. Hear the stories of master distillers, innovators who captured Scotland's essence in every glass. After lunch, wander Stirling, its volcanic rock crowned with a fortress that has witnessed centuries of history. Celebrate the week with a farewell dinner, swapping epic stories, favorite photos, and inside jokes from a journey full of treasures, adventure, and cinematic landscapes.

Inclusions: Malt Whisky Trail | Scotch distillery tour and tasting | Pub farewell dinner

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner



DAY 8 – TRAVEL HOME

Return to Edinburgh, heads full of stories, hearts full of memories. Castles, lochs, legends, whisky, and newfound friends — Scotland leaves its mark, and the adventure lingers long after the flight home.

Inclusions: Airport transfer to Edinburgh airport included

Meals: Breakfast | In-flight

TOUR MAP

