



## Welcome to ISCA Scotland



Edinburgh Castle



### **Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh Castle is built upon a 700-million-year old extinct volcano called Castle Rock. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> century the castle has been a royal residence, a prison and an army garrison. It is the most important castle in Scotland and has been the centre of numerous battles, having been attacked and besieged many times. Today it dominates the city skyline as an impressive national monument, museum and popular tourist attraction, as well as being home to the Stone of Scone.

### **Palace of Holyroodhouse**

King Charles III's official residence in Scotland, this fine palace is closely associated with Scotland's rich history. Home to Mary, Queen of Scots in the 16<sup>th</sup>



century, we explore her historic chambers where she witnessed the brutal murder of her secretary, Rizzio, by her jealous husband Lord Darnley. This led to Mary's downfall, with her successor King James VI of Scotland finally uniting the Scottish and English Crowns.

### **St Andrews**

In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century St Andrews was the most important centre of pilgrimage in medieval Scotland, with relics of Saint Andrew housed in the tower of St Rule's Church. Today it is home to the third oldest university in the English-speaking world, the University of St Andrews, and is known worldwide as the 'home of golf'. You will discover the ruins of St Andrews Castle, St Andrews Cathedral and St Rule's Tower, marvel at the beauty of the pristine golf courses and re-enact the Chariots of Fire scene on the 2-mile stretch of West Sands Beach!

### **Arthur's Seat**

Arthur's Seat is a 251-metre-high ancient volcano which is only a short walk away from the Palace of Holyroodhouse. We will climb to the top of Arthur's Seat to experience the magnificent views of Edinburgh, the Forth of Firth and beyond.

### **Loch Lomond**

Known as the 'Queen of Scottish Lochs', Loch Lomond is celebrated for its spectacular natural beauty. We will go on a boat cruise along this freshwater loch, taking in the breath-taking views of the tallest mountain in the Trossachs, Ben Lomond, whilst also visiting the picturesque lakeside villages of Luss and Balloch.



### **Edinburgh Old Town**

Follow the length of the Royal Mile and walk along Edinburgh Old Town's maze of narrow wynds and cobbled streets to learn about the city's main historical sights and Edinburgh Old Town's dark secrets...

### **Stirling Castle**

Strategically positioned at the 'Gateway to the Highlands', Stirling is one of Scotland's most important castles. We will step inside this magnificent fortress and discover the importance it had as a royal residence and as a military stronghold in the Wars of Scottish Independence.



### **Bannockburn**

On the 24 June 1314, the King of Scots, Robert the Bruce, led an army to victory against the English King, Edward II, at the Battle of Bannockburn. This battle was a significant Scottish victory in the First War of Scottish Independence. We will visit the battlefield and learn about Scotland's great warrior king.

### **The National Wallace Monument**

Positioned above the fields where William Wallace led his troops to victory at The Battle of Stirling Bridge, this famous landmark tells the story of Scotland's National Hero. We will climb the 246 steps to the top of the tower and follow the story of William Wallace at each level of the monument.

### **The Kelpies**

Standing 30 metres tall, these extraordinary horse-head sculptures celebrate the working horses that pulled the ploughs, wagons and barges that forged the Industrial Revolution. Made from stainless steel, The Kelpies represent the transition of Scotland's industrial past to today's investment in recreation and tourism.

### **Theatre**

A trip to Scotland over New Year is not complete without going to see a festive theatre production or pantomime. Whether it's 'A Christmas Carol', 'Elf The Musical', 'The Snowman' or 'The Nutcracker', a trip to the theatre is a must-do.

### **Royal Yacht Britannia**

Step aboard Britannia, the late Queen Elizabeth II's floating palace. Decommissioned in 1997, you can now explore the Royal Yacht's five decks, from the State Dining Room where world leaders and Kings and Queens were entertained, to the Engine Room which powered Britannia over 1,000,000 miles around the world during 44 years of service.



### **Princes Street Gardens**

Sitting in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street Gardens is the best-known park in Edinburgh. Within the beautiful gardens are many statues and monuments. One of the most recognisable is the Scott Monument, commemorating the author Sir Walter Scott. At 61.11 metres tall it is the largest memorial to a writer in the world.

Throughout December and January, the Christmas Markets are held in Princes Street Gardens. Expect lots of stalls selling arts and crafts, different food delicacies and hot chocolate stands, a Christmas Tree maze and hilarious amusement rides!