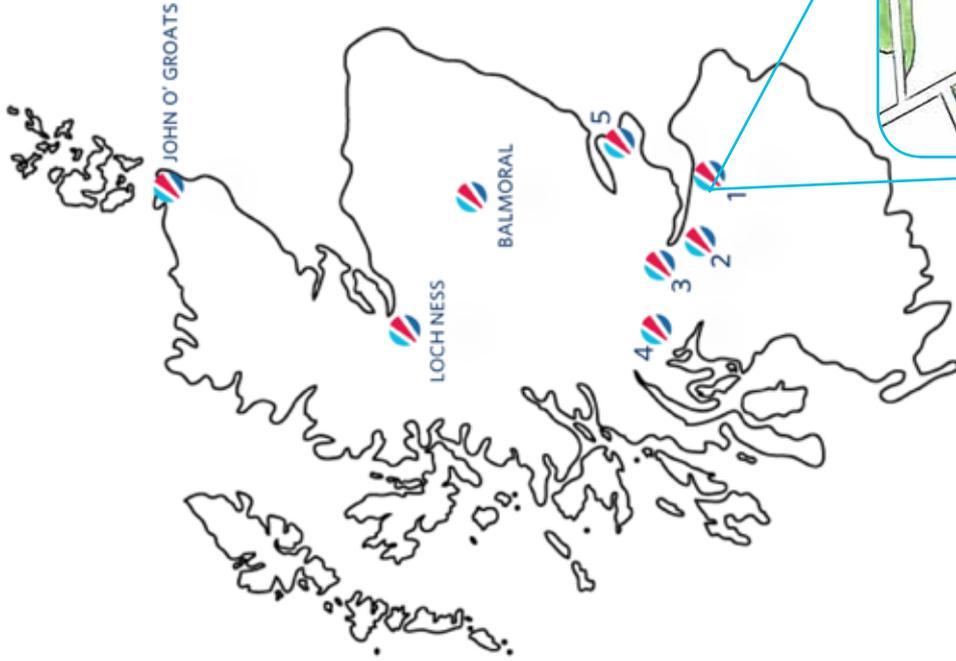


*“Celebrate the New Year with old friends”*

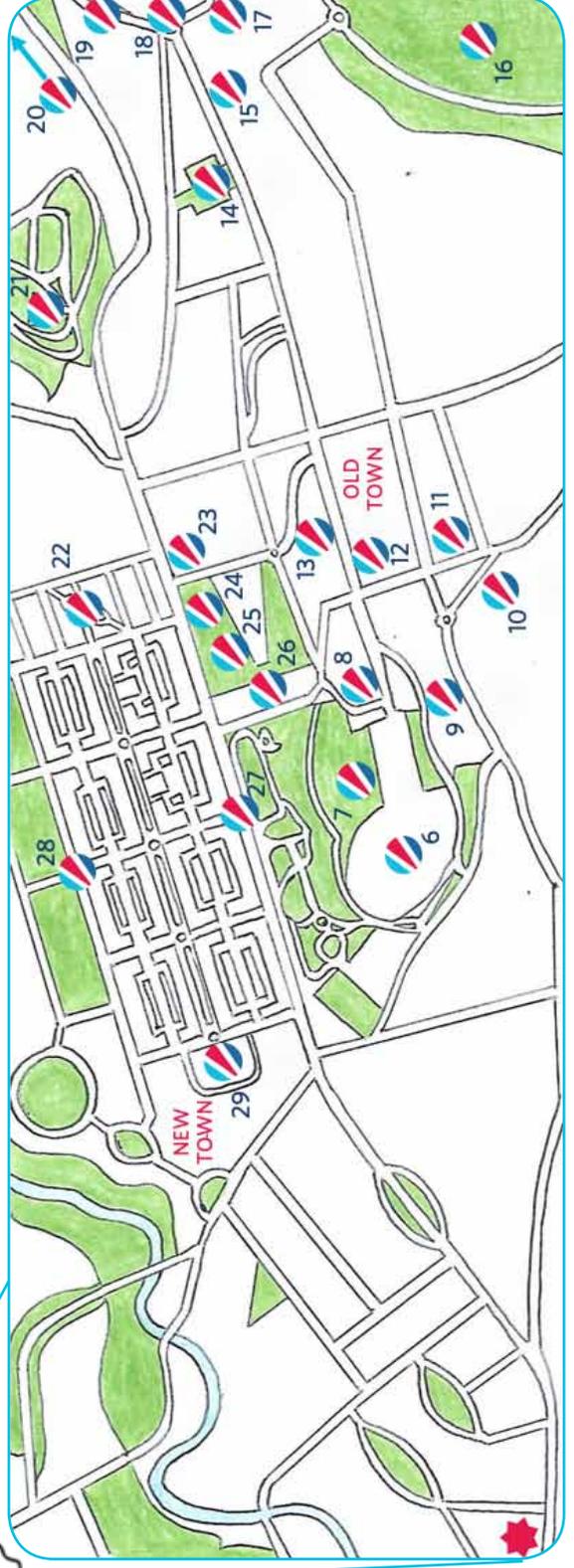


**26 December 2020 - 4 January 2021**

## Explore Scottish history and culture with old friends



- |   |                      |    |                               |    |                           |
|---|----------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Edinburgh            | 7  | Princes Street Gardens        | 19 | Holyrood Abbey            |
| 2 | The Kelpies, Falkirk | 8  | Camera Obscura                | 20 | Royal Yacht Britannia     |
| 3 | Stirling             | 9  | Grassmarket                   | 21 | Calton Hill               |
| - | Wallace Monument     | 10 | Greyfriar's Kirk and Kirkyard | 22 | St Andrew Square          |
| - | Stirling Castle      | -  | Greyfriar's Bobby             | 23 | The Balmoral Hotel        |
| 4 | Loch Lomond          | 11 | National Museum of Scotland   | 24 | Scott Monument            |
| 5 | St Andrews           | 12 | St Giles' Cathedral           | 25 | Christmas Markets         |
| - | St Andrews Cathedral | 13 | The Real Mary King's Close    | 26 | Scottish National Gallery |
| - | St Andrews Castle    | 14 | Canongate Kirk                | 27 | Princes Street            |
| - | The Old Course       | 15 | Scottish Parliament Building  | 28 | George Street             |
| - | West Sands Beach     | 16 | Arthur's Seat                 | 29 | Charlotte Square          |
| 6 | Edinburgh Castle     | 17 | Holyrood Park                 | ★  | Apex Haymarket Hotel      |
|   |                      | 18 | Palace of Holyroodhouse       |    |                           |



## Welcome to ISCA Scotland

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join our new program, **ISCA Scotland**. We are delighted to offer our 2018 and 2019 students a unique and exciting opportunity to experience Scotland at New Year, the best time to immerse yourself in true Scottish culture. Several events in Scottish history have had a huge influence on the history and culture our students learned about in England. Scotland is therefore a natural progression to allow them to gain an even greater understanding of British history and culture. What's more, ISCA is all about making global relationships. This program is a chance for the students to reconnect with old friends, reaffirming the importance of being global citizens.



ISCA Scotland will run from our base in Edinburgh, the wonderful Apex Haymarket Hotel. This small hotel will be taken over by ISCA for the duration of the program, giving us a home just 15 minutes' walk away from the beautiful and historic sites of Edinburgh. Each student will be chaperoned by one of our experienced international faculty on their flights to and from their home country. Once in Scotland, we will form one ISCA group led by the Senior ISCA UK Faculty, maintaining a 1:4 staff-student ratio. This is therefore not a school-led program but rather one for all those who participated in ISCA 2018 and ISCA 2019. It is our hope that this will allow students to participate even if there is not a large group attending from their school.

On visiting Scotland for the first time in 1842 Queen Victoria wrote in her diary, "The view of Edinburgh from the road is quite enchanting: it is, as Albert said, fairy-like and what you would only imagine as a thing to dream of, or see in a picture".

This enchantment is what our students will experience during **ISCA Scotland**. They will explore the streets of Edinburgh's Old Town, see the imposing site of Edinburgh Castle standing at the top of the Royal Mile, marvel at the beauty of the Scottish Lochs, experience the wilderness of the Highlands and then truly understand why Queen Victoria, and each Monarch since, call Balmoral Castle, in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, their one true home.

I am delighted to present this unique opportunity to our 2018 and 2019 students, and hope to see many of you in Scotland in December 2020!

**Luke Liddle**  
**ISCA Managing Director**



## ***Experience Scottish history & culture***

ISCA Scotland will introduce our students to the wonders of Scottish history and Scottish culture. This program is an opportunity for the students to follow up on what they learned about Britain in July 2018 or July 2019 by exploring the unique Scottish history that has had such an impact on the UK as it is today.

The program will be focused around notable Scottish figures including William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots and King James VI of Scotland (who became King James I of England). In addition, we will visit many of the cultural sites that have defined Scottish identity such as Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Old and New Towns, the Highlands and Loch Lomond.



## ***Celebrate Hogmanay 2021***

After the Protestant Reformation of 1560 the celebration of Christmas was effectively banned in Scotland for 400 years. As a result, celebrating the Viking tradition of the New Year, or Hogmanay, took on an even greater significance. Even though Christmas Day was declared a public holiday in 1958, Hogmanay remains the most important event in the Scottish calendar and students will experience this festival during ISCA Scotland!

On the 30 December ISCA Scotland will join the famous 8th Century torchlight procession, through Edinburgh's Old Town and down the Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. This procession formally starts the Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh and finishes with a wonderful firework display from Calton Hill.

New Year's Eve will also be unforgettable. After a day exploring the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the Queen's Royal Yacht Britannia, we will retire to the hotel to prepare for our Hogmanay 2021 celebrations. We will have a formal dress three-course dinner in the Apex Hotel's dining room, followed by a Ceilidh dance with a live band and caller to talk us through the traditional Scottish dances! As the clock strikes midnight we will all join together, as will 5 million other Scots, to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' - a poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 to bid farewell to the old year!

On New Year's Day we will take a short trip to Holyrood Park and climb 823ft (251m) to the top of Arthur's Seat, a volcanic rock formation overlooking Edinburgh. The views from the top are simply breathtaking! In the afternoon we will ice skate around St Andrew Square before heading back to the hotel for a traditional games evening - a New Year's Day tradition for many British families.



## ISCA Scotland - Hogmanay 2020/21

Saturday 26 December	am/pm	Depart home country
Sunday 27 December	am pm evening	Arrive Edinburgh - Transfers to Hotel Explore Edinburgh New Town - Calton Hill Welcome & Introduction to ISCA: Scotland
Monday 28 December	am pm evening	Edinburgh - Edinburgh Castle Edinburgh Old Town - Museum of Scotland Christmas Markets - East Princes Street Gardens
Tuesday 29 December	am pm evening	St Andrews - Explore University, Cathedral, Castle St Andrews - West Sands Beach 'Chariots of Fire' Edinburgh Walking Ghost Tour
Wednesday 30 December	am pm evening	Loch Lomond - Loch Cruise Explore the loch side village of Luss Edinburgh - Torchlight Procession to Holyrood Park
Thursday 31 December	am pm evening	Edinburgh - Palace of Holyroodhouse Leith Docks - Royal Yacht Britannia Hogmanay Formal Dinner - Ceilidh Dancing - Fireworks
Friday 1 January	am pm evening	New Year's Day - Climb Arthur's Seat Real Mary King's Close - Ice Skating in St Andrew Square Traditional Games Evening
Saturday 2 January	am pm evening	Stirling Castle - Battle of Bannockburn Wallace Monument - Falkirk: The Kelpies Theatre (Traditional Pantomime)
Sunday 3 January	am pm evening	Edinburgh - Camera Obscura Edinburgh New Town - Princes Street Gardens & Shopping End of Program Presentation and Prizegiving
Monday 4 January	am	End of Program - Transfers to airport

## **Explore the best landmark sights!**

**Edinburgh Castle** - Edinburgh Castle is built upon a 700-million-year old extinct volcano called Castle Rock. Since the 12th 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 over 20 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** - Queen Elizabeth II's official residence in Scotland, this fine palace is closely associated with Scotland's rich history. Home to Mary Queen of Scots in the 16th century students can explore her historic chambers where she witnessed the brutal murder of her secretary David 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 11th 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'. We will explore 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 ancient volcano which is only a short walk away from the Palace of Holyroodhouse. On New Year's Day we will climb to the top of Arthur's Seat and take in 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 take a boat trip on this freshwater loch, taking in the breath-taking views of the tallest mountain in the Trossachs, Ben Lomond, before visiting the picturesque lochside village of Luss.

**Edinburgh Old Town** - We will walk along the maze of narrow wynds and cobbled streets which follow the length of the Royal Mile - home of the city's main historical sights - and learn the secrets of Edinburgh's Old Town.

**Stirling Castle** - Strategically positioned at the 'Gateway to the Highlands' Stirling is one of Scotland's greatest and 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 recounts 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 in Scotland. Made from stainless steel The Kelpies represent the transition from 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.

**Royal Yacht Britannia** – Step aboard Britannia, The Queen’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 second largest memorial to a writer in the world.



## **Travel with experienced ISCA Faculty**

ISCA Scotland is not a program for individual schools but rather for everyone who participated in ISCA 2018 and ISCA 2019. ISCA have put in place our most experienced international faculty to lead the group from the departure airports. There will be at least **one teacher for every eight students on the flight** to and from the UK. All of our chosen teachers participated with their school group in 2018 or in 2019, meaning the students will already know their airport leader(s). By following this approach, we can guarantee that every student who wants to join the program can attend, even if there are only a small number attending from their own school.

Once in Scotland the group will be met by our Senior ISCA UK faculty. Our ISCA team will lead the trip, with assistance from the international faculty, ensuring that **a ratio of one adult for every four students** is maintained at all times. Whilst everyone will follow the same itinerary for each day, students will be split into very small groups to explore the sights with one of our teachers. This will allow ISCA Scotland to have a far more intimate feel than the summer program. We believe this enables us to keep the key values of the ISCA experience, safely and securely exploring history and culture, whilst appreciating that the students are older and therefore able to take greater ownership of their experience.



## CELEBRATE HOGMANAY

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 9.00  | Rise and Shine                                       | 3.00  | Free time in Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre            |
| 9.30  | Late Breakfast                                       | 4.00  | Assemble at Coach                                      |
| 10.00 | Coach to the Palace of Holyroodhouse                 | 4.30  | Arrive at Hotel - Relax & get dressed up for Hogmanay. |
| 10.30 | Explore the Palace of Holyroodhouse & Holyrood Abbey | 7.30  | 'Black tie' Hogmanay Dinner                            |
| 12.15 | Assemble at Coach                                    | 9.30  | Disco & Ceilidh Dancing                                |
| 12.30 | Arrive at Leith Docks - Lunch                        | 12.00 | Hogmanay 2021!!  |
| 1.45  | Board the Royal Yacht Britannia                      | 12.30 | Students to rooms. Peace & Quiet!                      |



## NEW YEAR'S DAY

- |       |  |       |   |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 9.00  | Rise and shine                                     | 5.30  | Return to Hotel - Relax                                     |
| 9.30  | Late Breakfast                                     | 7.00  | Dinner & Overview of Tomorrow's Trip                        |
| 10.00 | Walk to Arthur's Seat - Climb the extinct volcano! | 7.30  | Traditional Games Evening                                   |
| 1.00  | Lunch  | 9.30  | Students to rooms. Put out laundry for collection tomorrow. |
| 2.30  | Real Mary King's Close Tour                        | 10.00 | Peace & Quiet!  |
| 4.30  | Ice Skating in St Andrew Square                    |       |   |

## **Our Accommodation - Apex Haymarket Hotel, Edinburgh**

The Apex Haymarket Hotel is located in the quiet residential district of Haymarket, just a short walk away from Princes Street, the Old Town and Edinburgh Castle. It is conveniently located just outside a tram station, which allows us to use this safe, modern and efficient mode of transport in the event of bad weather. All travel outside of Edinburgh will be on private buses and our furthest destination, Loch Lomond, is just 80 minutes away.

### **Accommodation**

The Apex Haymarket Hotel gives us a more luxurious feel to the program as compared to the summer. Every student will share a twin room with private bathroom. Boys' and girls' rooms will be located on separate floors and ISCA staff will be resident on the same corridors at a ratio of 1 teacher for every 4 students. This breaks down to **1 staff room for every 2 student rooms**. In addition, the hotel has a 24/7 front desk, a security team and is locked every night at 11pm to ensure the safety of all residents. With such a low staff to student ratio we will be able to provide a high level of supervision and ensure that each of our students has a safe and secure stay in this very comfortable hotel.



Breakfast and dinner will be served in the hotel, with ISCA being granted sole use of the large dining room for the duration of our stay. For Hogmanay we will have a wonderful New Year's Eve Gala Dinner followed by Ceilidh dancing. In addition, the location of this hotel, just outside the centre of Edinburgh, puts us within easy reach of numerous evening activities. Students will have the chance to go on guided walks of Edinburgh's Old Town, explore Edinburgh's Christmas Markets or even do something more adventurous like ice skating!



### **24/7 Medical Care**

ISCA staff are first aid trained and, alongside our accommodation provider, will be able to provide 24/7 medical care during the program. Group leaders and ISCA staff will keep individual medical information for each student, ensuring that any necessary medical treatment can be given, from an upset stomach to a trip to the local medical practice where emergency care is immediate and efficient.





## Price List

We are very aware that this program will not be possible for everyone and are taking every step possible to keep the costs of such a program down without compromising the quality or safety that you experienced on the 2018 and 2019 summer program.

### **Travel**

All flights are on scheduled air services unless stated otherwise. Tickets and full travel details are provided well before departure date. Parents are responsible for travel arrangements to and from their departure airport. ISCA will always strive to fly groups from their local airport. Options will always be discussed first with the parents and group leaders. On arrival in Scotland, groups are met by private coach and transferred to the hotel.

<i>Argentina</i>	<i>\$5,150</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>AUD 7,400</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>\$5,195</i>
<i>Peru</i>	<i>\$5,195</i>
<i>USA</i>	<i>\$4,795</i>

### **Insurance**

ISCA carries Public Liability and Employer's Liability insurance. Parents are advised to take out additional travel insurance to include trip cancellation, trip interruption, loss of baggage and emergency medical cover. This should be arranged independently.

Prices above are in US Dollars except where indicated. All prices include round trip air fare, transfers, accommodation, breakfast and dinner, coach trips, admission fees, entertainment and on-campus activities. Please contact us if you would like a price from an unlisted airport.

### **Booking**

To register for ISCA Scotland:

-  **\$500 deposit by 31 October 2019**
-  **\$1,250 by 30 March 2020**
-  **Remaining balance by 30 September 2020**

### **Protected Travel Services**

ISCA is pleased to be a member of Protected Travel Services. PTS holds all client funds in a trust account to ensure that their money is secure and completely protected against the failure of the company and/or any of its suppliers.



## Testimonials

*My ISCA Scotland experience was one that I will never forget. Think of an experience where you laughed for hours, saw AMAZING sights and met incredible people, then multiple that experience by 100! From climbing all morning to the top of Arthur's Seat, to dancing all night on New Year's Eve, I have never had a better experience on a trip in my life.*

**Jackie, Student, USA**

*As a 14-year-old I am starting to search for new things in my life and try to experience as much as I can. Fortunately, ISCA came into my life and gave me the chance to get out of my comfort zone and face new situations that helped me develop as a human being. I met such nice people with whom I shared the same interests and also gave me a broader view of the world.*

**Oscar, Student, Peru**

*It was a privilege to participate in the first ever ISCA Scotland. As usual, ISCA did an impeccable job throughout the trip, and considering this was their first experience in Scotland, once again they proved just how professional they are and how much care they put into each and every detail to make sure everybody – students and teachers alike – have a terrific time, while learning about British history and culture.*

**María Rosa, Teacher, Peru**

*ISCA Scotland was one of the best times of my life. Scotland was magical and Edinburgh is definitely one of my favourite places in the world. It was so much fun and I will keep these fond memories forever.*

**Iris, Student, USA**

*Join us for Hogmanay in Scotland!*



180 Piccadilly, London, W1J 9HF

[www.iscaschools.com](http://www.iscaschools.com)