

Monday 27 December

Arrival Day

8.00 Transport to Airport, private transfer to hotel (LL/DA)

Buenos Aires Group (2) KL 1227 Amsterdam Arr 8.35am

11.00 Transport to Edinburgh Airport, meet coach at airport (LL/FL/DA/SR)

Helen Hurden U2 502 Birmingham Arr 10.00am

Charlotte Group (12) BA 1450 London LHR Arr 11.45am
(Total pax 15)

1.00 Coach arrives at Apex Waterloo Place Hotel. Settle into rooms, light lunch in ISCA Common Room at 2.00pm.

2.30 Transport to Edinburgh Airport, private transfer to hotel (MB/MM/JD)

Atlanta Group (6) BA 1448 Heathrow Arr 3.20pm
(Total pax 7)

3.00 Walk to Calton Hill & Explore Edinburgh New Town in small groups (LL/FL/DA)

Points of Interest

The Scott Monument

St Andrew Square

Charlotte Square

The Georgian House and Bute House, Official Residence of Scotland's First Minister

George Street

Queen Street

The Balmoral - where JK Rowling finished writing Harry Potter!

4.30 Atlanta group arrive at hotel. Settle into rooms and unpack.

6.00 Dinner (25 people)

7.00 Welcome & Introduction to ISCA Scotland

8.00 Optional Evening Walk - Edinburgh Christmas Lights

10.00 Students to rooms

10.30 Lights out

Tuesday 28 December

St Andrews

8.30 Rise and Shine

9.00 Breakfast

10.00 Depart for St Andrews

11.45 Arrive at St Andrews

12.00 Walking tours in small groups – Cathedral & Castle Ruins,
University of St Andrews

1.00 Lunch in St Andrews (options: Pret a Manger – sandwiches, Cromars – great
fish and chips, Pizza Express – Pizza/Pasta, Jannetta’s Gelateria)

2.00 Walk past University to West Sands Beach, via The Old Course – home of golf!

3.00 Assemble at coach at West Sands Beach

4.45 Arrive at hotel

6.30 Dinner & Student Presentation on Edinburgh Castle & Edinburgh Old Town

8.00 Edinburgh Walking Ghost Tour – (All Staff)

9.30 Back to hotel

10.30 Students to rooms

11.00 Lights out

Today’s Trivia

St Andrews is a town on the east coast of Fife in Scotland, around 30 miles northeast of Edinburgh. It is home to the University of St Andrews. Founded in 1413 it is the third oldest university in the English-speaking world and the oldest in Scotland.

In the 11th Century St Andrews was the most important centre of pilgrimage in medieval Scotland, with relics of Saint Andrew the Apostle housed in the tower of St Rule’s Church, adjacent to St Andrews Cathedral, which was built in 1160.

St Andrews is also known worldwide as the “home of golf”. This is in part due to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club which was founded in 1754 and until 2004 exercised legislative authority over the game worldwide. Also, the famous links course is the most frequent venue for The Open Championship, the oldest of golf’s four major championships.

Wednesday 29 December

Edinburgh Old Town

8.00 Rise and Shine

8.30 Breakfast

9.30 Walk to Edinburgh Old Town

10.00 Visit Edinburgh Castle – split into 4 groups

11.30 Old Town Orientation - Explore Edinburgh Old Town in groups

Points of Interest

The Royal Mile

John Knox House (Home of the Calvinist preacher from 1561 to 1572).

St Giles Cathedral

Victoria Street

Grassmarket

The Mercat Cross

Highland Tolbooth Kirk

Scottish Parliament Building

Greyfriars Bobby

1.00 Lunch in Old Town (Oink – hot pork sandwiches, Greggs – sandwiches/warm pastries, Hula Juice Bar – soups, bagels, wraps)

2.00 Visit National Museum of Scotland

4.00 Return to hotel – Relax, hot chocolate and games available in dining room

5.00 Student Presentation on Loch Lomond & The Scottish Highlands

6.30 Dinner

7.30 Trip to Christmas Markets in Princes Street Gardens

9.30 Return to hotel

10.30 Students to rooms

11.00 Lights out

Today's Trivia

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 many times. Today it is an impressive national monument and museum which holds the oldest Crown Jewels in Europe and the Stone of Scone, the stone on which both Scottish and English monarchs have been crowned.

The Royal Mile in Edinburgh's Old Town is actually a mile plus 107 yards in length. It is called the Royal Mile because past Kings and Queens used it as a processional route between castle, parliament and palace. There are about 60 closes, or wynds, which lead off between the buildings on either side, with names such as Fleshmarket indicating the trades which were once carried out there.

Thursday 30 December

Loch Lomond

8.00 Rise and Shine

8.15 Early Breakfast

9.00 Assemble at coach & depart for Loch Lomond

11.00 Arrive at Loch Lomond

11.30 Loch Experience Cruise

12.45 Assemble at coach, drive to village of Luss

1.15 Lunch at the [Coach House Coffee Shop](#) in Luss

2.00 Explore the loch-side village of Luss

3.00 Assemble at coaches

5.00 Arrive at hotel

6.30 Dinner

7.15 Depart for Waverley Bridge - collect torches

7.30 Edinburgh Torchlight Procession, followed by fireworks in Holyrood Park

10.30 Students to rooms - *Laundry Collected*

11.00 Lights out

Friday 31 December

Hogmanay 2021

- 8.30 Rise and Shine
- 9.00 Late Breakfast
- 9.30 Student Presentation on Royalty in Scotland
- 10.30 Walk to the Palace of Holyroodhouse
- 11.00 Explore the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Holyrood Abbey – split into small groups
- 12.30 Assemble at coach
- 1.00 Arrive at Leith Docks – Lunch (Nandos - Chicken, Hand Made Burger Co - Burgers, Wagamama - Thai, Frankie and Benny's – American style Diner, M&S Cafe – sandwiches/soups)
- 2.15 Board the Royal Yacht Britannia – split into small groups (All Staff)
- 3.30 Free Time in Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre
- 4.30 Assemble at coach
- 5.00 Arrive at hotel - Relax
- 7.30 'Black tie' Hogmanay Dinner
- 10.00 Hogmanay Games
- 11.45 Group walk to Calton Hill (weather dependent!)
- 12.00 Hogmanay 2021
- 1.00 Students to rooms & lights out

Today's Trivia

The Palace of Holyroodhouse is Her Majesty the Queen's official residence in Scotland. It was home to Mary Queen of Scots in the 16th century and was the location of the brutal murder of her secretary Rizzio by her jealous husband Lord Darnley. Rizzio was stabbed 56 times at the entrance of Mary's bed chamber. Apparently, you can still see the blood stain on the floor today where he bled to death.

Holyrood Abbey was founded by King David I in 1128. Legend has it that while hunting near Drumselch Church near Edinburgh, David was unhorsed by a white stag. As he lay on the ground, with the stag poised to gore him, he held his mother's 'Black Rood' (Cross) between its antlers. Rather than kill him, the stag suddenly withdrew back into the forest. David was then convinced to build an abbey on the site and Holyrood was the result.

Royal Yacht Britannia carried the Queen and her family on 968 official voyages across the globe. For 44 years Britannia sailed more than 1 million miles, becoming the most famous ship in the world.

Saturday 1 January

Arthur's Seat

9.00 Rise and Shine

9.30 Late Breakfast

10.00 Optional walk to Arthur's Seat - Climb the extinct volcano with magnificent views over Edinburgh

1.00 Lunch at Christmas Markets via the Hotel

2.30 Real Mary King's Close Tour - split into 2 groups (2.30pm & 3pm)

4.00 Return to Hotel - Relax

5.15 Ice Skating in Charlotte Square

6.30 Dinner & Student Presentation on William Wallace & Scottish Independence

7.30 Traditional Games Evening/Movie Night

10.30 Students to rooms

11.00 Lights out

Today's Trivia

Holyrood Park, stretching to the south of Holyrood and dominated by the miniature mountain of Arthur's Seat, was once the former hunting ground of Scottish monarchs. The park covers 650 acres of varied landscape, including crags, moorlands and lochs.

The most dramatic feature of the park is the long, curving sweep of Salisbury Crags. The stony path along the foot of the crags is known as the Radical Road, built in 1820 at the suggestion of Sir Walter Scott to give work to unemployed weavers. The path makes a good short walk from Holyrood, with fine views over the Old Town.

Arthur's Seat is the remains of an extinct volcano which erupted 350 million years ago. At 251 metres, it is the highest point of the extinct volcano. Although the origin of the name remains uncertain, some claim there is a connection between Edinburgh and the legendary King Arthur. People believe Arthur's Seat may have been the location of Camelot.

Sunday 2 January

Stirling

8.00 Rise and Shine

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Assemble at coach and depart for Stirling

9.15 Michael and Jessica depart for airport

10.15 Arrive at the National Wallace Monument (entrance time 10.40am)

11.45 Assemble at coach, depart for Stirling Castle

12.15 Visit Stirling Castle - [M&S Lunch](#)

2.30 Assemble at coach, depart for Falkirk

3.00 Arrive at The Kelpies

3.30 Assemble at coach

4.30 Arrive at hotel - Relax

5.30 Early Dinner

6.15 Coach to King's Theatre

7.00 *"Beauty and the Beast"* Pantomime

10.30 Students to rooms

11.00 Lights out

Today's Trivia

Stirling, known as the "Gateway to the Highlands" was once the capital of Scotland. It's key position as the lowest bridging point of the River Forth before it broadens towards the Forth of Firth, made it a focal point for travel north and south.

Stirling Castle is one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland. The castle sits atop Castle Hill. Due to its naturally defensible crag and tail hill, the site has been strategically significant since at least the Roman occupation of Britain.

The National Wallace Monument stands on the summit of Abbey Craig, overlooking the scene of Scotland's victory over the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. It commemorates the 13th century Scottish hero, Sir William Wallace.

Monday 3 January

Edinburgh

8.30 Rise and Shine

9.00 Breakfast

10.30 Visit the Camera Obscura and World of Illusions

12.00 Free Time in Edinburgh Old Town

1.00 Lunch in Old Town (options: Oink – hot pork sandwiches, Greggs – sandwiches/warm pastries, Hula Juice Bar – soups, bagels, wraps)

2.00 Free Time in Edinburgh New Town

Points of Interest

Princes Street Gardens

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Scottish National Gallery

Christmas Markets

4.30 Arrive at hotel. All students to own rooms for final packing.

5.30 Room inspection. All faculty and students must be present.

6.30 Dinner

7.30 End of Programme Presentation

10.00 Students to rooms

10.30 Lights out - you get up very early tomorrow!

Tuesday 4 January

Fly Home

5.00 Rise and Shine for Charlotte Group

5.30 Coach to Edinburgh Airport (LL/SR)

Charlotte Group (13) BA 1443 London LHR Dep 7.40am

7.30 Rise and Shine for Atlanta Group

8.00 Breakfast

8.30 Private transfer to Edinburgh Airport (MB)

Atlanta Group (5) BA 1445 London LHR Dep 11.20am

1.30 Private transfer to Edinburgh Airport (LL/FL/DA)

Buenos Aires Group (2) KL 1286 Amsterdam Dep 5.00pm

Safe travels home and thank you all for being part of our ISCA Scotland Hogmanay Celebration!