People, Power & Politics -
A Scottish Exploration

September 18-October 4, 2017

Day 1

Afternoon: Check in to hotel in Glasgow
Welcome Dinner & introduction to the program

Day 2

Breakfast at hotel
Morning: Learn about this proud Scottish city's history & culture with a walking tour led by a local historian
Lunch
Afternoon: Discover Charles Rennie Mackintosh's famous designs and the history of his architectural masterwork with a student-led tour of the Glasgow School of Art
Dinner at hotel

Day 3

Breakfast at hotel
Morning: Depart for a day visit to Stirling
Explore Bannockburn, the site where, in 1314, Scotland's King Robert the Bruce defeated King Edward II of England.
Enjoy lunch at Stirling University where you will be introduced to the myths and legends of William Wallace
Afternoon: Climb the Wallace Monument
Evening Dinner will be taken at the home of a local family

Day 4

Breakfast at hotel
Morning: Follow the banks of Loch Lomond and marvel at the spectacular scenery as you transfer by coach to Fort William.
Lunch
Some free time to settle in to hotel and explore the town known as the 'outdoor capital of the UK' and famous film setting for Braveheart and Harry Potter
Dinner at hotel followed by pipe and drumming workshop
Day 5
Breakfast at hotel
This morning meet your local mountain guide who will expertly escort you on a Ben Nevis hike (Britain's highest mountain).
Dinner in a traditional local restaurant

Day 6
Breakfast at hotel
Morning: Transfer to Mallaig by steam train, experiencing one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world.
Lunch
Afternoon: Travel onwards to The Isle of Skye by ferry and coach. Connected to Scotland's northwest coast by bridge, Skye is known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles.
Check in to accommodation.
Orientation talk and dinner at Whitewave Activity Centre hosted by Ann Martin, MSc in Material Culture and Highland History and hugely talented Gaelic singer.

Day 7
Breakfast at Whitewave
Morning: Walk to Rubha Hunish, the northernmost point of the island, a magical place; this is the best walk on Skye for seabird and marine mammal watching.
Packed lunch
Afternoon: Visit the abandoned or 'cleared' village of Erisco and learn more about Skye's heritage at The Museum of Crofting Life.
Dinner at Whitewave followed by an evening of traditional music and song.

Day 8
Breakfast at Whitewave
Morning: Talk - Traditions, heritage and independence - the Islanders' view.
Lunch
Afternoon visit to The Dinosaur fossil museum
Dinner at Whitewave

Day 9
Breakfast at Whitewave
Morning: Introduction to Gaelic, one of Scotland's national languages.
Lunch
Walk The Ouiriang, formed by a massive landslip creating high cliffs, hidden plateaus and pinnacles of rock.
Evening Ceilidh with the Islanders.
Day 10

Breakfast at Whitewave

Morning: Say goodbye to the beautiful Isle of Skye as you travel through the Highlands to Inverness.

Make a stop for lunch at Loch Ness. Learn about 'Nessie' the mythical monster (or is it?) that lives in the dark and distant corners of this freshwater lake which is nearly 23 miles long and over 700 feet deep. Visit the Loch Ness visitor centre and hear first-hand experiences of local 'sightings'.

Onwards to Inverness and check into hotel.

Day 11

Breakfast at hotel

Morning: Enjoy the Ness Island Walk - a 2 hour leisurely trail around Inverness.

Lunch

Afternoon: Visit Inverness Botanic Gardens where you can enjoy a tranquil break amidst beautiful floral displays. Natural art workshop with a Highland Council Ranger and garden 'walkabout'.

Free time to explore Inverness

Dinner at hotel

Day 12

Breakfast at hotel

Morning: Drive through ancient Caledonian pine forests to Pitlochry which is famous for its hydro-electric dam and salmon ladder. The ladder was specially constructed to enable salmon to by-pass the dam and make their way upstream to Loch Faskally above. The ladder is 310 metres long and consists of 34 chambers, linked together by tunnels that the salmon can swim through. It enables around 5,000 salmon to return to their spawning grounds each year - a journey of some 6,000 miles!

Lunch

Afternoon: Visit Blair Athol Distillery, one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. After enjoying a conducted tour, sample a 'wee dram' (or two)

Arrive Perth Hotel

Dinner at hotel
Day 13
Breakfast at hotel
Morning: Visit Scone Palace, where Macbeth, Robert the Bruce and Charles II were crowned on the 'Stone of Scone'. Walk in the footsteps of Marie Antoinette, Queen Victoria and Bonnie Prince Charlie in this palace, steeped in Royal history
Lunch
Afternoon: Tour of grounds, gardens and the unique ‘tartan’ maze of 2000 beech trees, half green, half copper designed by Adrian Fisher in the shape of the heraldic Murray Star
Dinner at a local restaurant

Day 14
Breakfast at hotel
Leave Perth and travel to Edinburgh
Visit The University of St Andrews, Scotland’s oldest University where Alex Salmond, former leader of SNP first became active within the party
Lunch with students.
Afternoon: Arrive Edinburgh. Introduction to the nation's capital city by local historian.
Dinner at hotel

Day 15
Breakfast at hotel
Welcome to The Scottish Parliament.
Question time with Member of Scottish Parliament during your visit to the award winning Parliament building.
Lunch
Afternoon: Visit Edinburgh Castle.
Dinner at hotel

Day 16
Breakfast in hotel
Morning: Debate - with the youth turnout almost twice as high as expected, and the vote open to 16/17 year olds for the first time, we explore with members of the Youth Parliament what the implications of the majority of Scottish citizens voting not to leave the EU are. Should there now be a second independence referendum post ‘Brexit’?
Lunch
Afternoon: free to explore museums, galleries and the tartan woolen mill.
Evening: Farewell dinner.

Day 17
Breakfast and departures