

Enjoy Springtime in England, Scotland, and the Orkneys



Springtime in England. What could be more enchanting than lush meadows and fields of flowers? Discover the scenic and cultural treasures of the northern United Kingdom, where natural beauty and rich history go hand in hand. You'll revel in Great Britain's diverse charms and witness breathtaking landscapes, including the snowcapped peaks of Welsh Snowdonia, the lakes and mountain fells of England's Lake District, the green valleys and white cliffs of the Yorkshire Dales (home of *All Creatures Great and Small*), the beauty of the Scottish Highlands, the Neolithic UNESCO sites in the Orkney Islands, the isle of Skye, the site of the Battle of Culloden, among many other unforgettable destinations.

For More information, visit us at
www.uaf.edu/summer/travel.

Important note: Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:

April 8 - 23

Tour Cost:

\$8495.00

Single supplement:
\$750.00

Extra room night, 4/7/27:
\$200

Inclusions:

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- 15 nights of accommodations
- In country transportation
- Entry fees
- Gratuities
- Educational programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport

Transportation costs to and from England are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.



Day 1, April 8: Chester

- Arrive in Manchester and transfer to Chester.
- Later, we'll meet up for the tour orientation and Welcome Dinner.

Day 2, April 9: Chester

- Walking tour of Chester with a local guide this morning. One of the town's oldest attractions is the excavated remains of its ancient Roman Amphitheater. Dating all the way back to the first century, this amphitheater is the largest discovered in Britain.
- Visit Chester's old city and visit the Rows—a unique shopping district that features 2-story covered arcades and Tudor-style half-timber buildings.



Day 3, April 10: Chester

- In the morning we drive to North Wales with a stop at Conwy Castle a UNESCO World Heritage Site built between 1283 and 1287.
- Lunch at a local café.
- Afternoon hike to Lyn Idwal, a pristine lake tucked into the mountains.



Day 4, April 11: Lake District

- We depart early this morning and begin our drive to the Lake District, All Creatures Great and Small country.
- Our overland journey will take us through the Yorkshire Dales, a scenic region of northern England famous for its white limestone cliffs, rivers, and lush green valleys—or, “dales.” The natural beauty of this upland area earned it the recognition of being named a national park in 1954.
- Meet a local dry stone waller who will explain this age-old craft it takes to create distinct walls.



Day 5, April 12: Lake District

- Today we spend on a family -owned farm to learn about what life is like farming here and how they use traditional practices to ensure the health of the animals and the environmental stability of the land.
- Lunch will be at the farm.
- Meet the sheep dogs who corral the flocks and witness a demonstration.



Day 6, April 13: Edinburgh

- This morning, we'll travel check out of our hotel and stop by Hadrian's Wall, built in 122 AD to guard the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located near the border of England and Scotland. We tour the site that was once a bustling multi-cultural military zone with forts, barracks towers, and even small towns.
- Today we have a picnic lunch.
- Afternoon orientation walk of Edinburgh after we check into our hotel.
- Dinner tonight at a local pub.



Day 7, April 14: Edinburgh

- Meet with members of Invisibles Cities, an organization that provides opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness by training them to become walking tour guides.
- Walking tour with one of their guides that includes Grassmarket, the Royal Mile and concludes with Edinburgh Castle, perched on Castle Rock.
- Home hosted dinner with a local British family for unscripted conversation about daily life and concerns of locals



Day 8, April 15: Edinburgh

- We'll drive to rural Midlothian where we'll visit stunning Rosslyn Chapel. Founded in the mid-15th century, Rosslyn Chapel continues to be an active place of worship to this day with services held here weekly. It is famous for its interior of intricate stonework, vibrant stained-glass windows, and—more recently— as the setting for the finale of author Dan Brown's best-selling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*. After wrapping up our discoveries, we'll return to Edinburgh.
- Free afternoon.



Day 9, April 16: Kirkwall

- We'll check out of our hotel early this morning and transfer to the airport for our flight to the Orkney Islands.
- Orkney is an archipelago made up of 70 individual islands, only 20 of which are inhabited. Upon arrival, we'll head to Kirkwall, the largest town of the islands, and drive to our hotel.
- Orientation walk around Kirkwall.
- Dinner at a local restaurant.



Day 10, April 17: Kirkwall

- We'll depart for Skara Brae, the most well-preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe, Skara Brae was established around 3000 BC—but then was literally lost to the sands of time. Uncovered in 1850 when a historic storm scoured away the sand, Skara Brae was revealed, and this UNESCO World Heritage Site today provides glimpses of the stone beds and seats that were part of life 5,000 years ago.

- Witness a large collection of archaeological sites, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site the Ring of Brodgar—a Neolithic henge and stone circle older than Stonehenge and the great pyramids of Egypt.



Day 11, April 18: Kirkwall

- Today we will see the famous Churchill Barriers. The barriers were built more than 80 years ago in response to a surprise attack:

- Visit Orkney's famous Italian Chapel. Built during World War II by Italian prisoners of war—its decorations made from scavenged materials whenever possible. The tabernacle was crafted using wood from a shipwreck, while the gates enclosing the sanctuary were fashioned from scrap metal.

- Stop at the Orkney Fossil & Heritage Centre to travel back in time a few hundred million years ago.



Day 12, April 19: Inverness

- Check out of hotel

- Ferry cruise to the Scottish mainland arriving at Scrabster

- Afternoon exploration of Dunrobin Castle originally built in 1275 and updated in the 19th century, boasts 187 rooms and magnificent formal gardens that stretch down to the sea.

- Journey to Inverness via the North Coast 500 Road, a famous scenic drive along the coastal North Highlands with views of rugged mountains and white sand beaches.



Day 13, April 20: Inverness

- This is the day we discover a bloody chapter of Scotland's history today when we drive to the Culloden Battlefield. On April 16, 1746, the last major battle fought on mainland British soil occurred here, and as a result more than 1,500 soldiers perished.

- Enjoy a local restaurant talk on Scotland's famous whisky.

- Explore Inverness on your own time for the evening.



Day 14, April 21: Inverness

- After breakfast we journey to the Isle of Skye driving through the dramatic landscapes of the Highlands which are rich with history, myths, and legends.
- Afternoon stop in Dornie, a charming former fishing village nestled at the meeting point of three Lochs and just steps away from Eilean Donan Castle, the iconic Scottish monument set on its own small island overlooking the Isle of Skye.

Day 15, April 22: Inverness

- After breakfast drive across the scenic Cairngorms for a visit to the grounds of the Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of Cairngorms National Park.
- Enjoy a traditional Highland lunch at the Rothiemurchus Estate.
- Farewell dinner



Day 16, April 23, Homeward Bound

- Transfer to the airport for your flight home.