



# Medieval Britain: Castles, Canons & Crowns Battlefields & Cultural Landmarks from London to Edinburgh

Medieval Britain - a time of castles and cathedrals, knights and archers, clans and kilts, pipes and canons ... *and war.*

Who would wear the crown? Mary Queen of Scots or Elizabeth? Charles or Cromwell? Lancaster or York? Or Arthur? Did Robin Hood really exist? Was Macbeth a real person or did Shakespeare invent him? And Merlin - was he real or "such stuff as dreams are made of?"

Britain is a land of fact, myth and magic. Stonehenge, Guy Fawkes, Magna Carta, Sherlock Homes, Hadrian's Wall, Loch Ness, The Tower of London - each have their place in this storied history.

Join us as we visit the sights of London, then tour the Channel coast, turning north through Stratford, York and Edinburgh, and all the way up into the mystical Scottish Highlands. Fifteen glorious days bringing Britain's fabled past to life.

*Hastings • Culloden • Bannockburn  
Warwick Castle • Balmoral • Eilean Donan  
Stonehenge • Hadrian's Wall • Magna Carta  
Robin Hood's Nottingham • Glenlivet Distillery  
free time in London & Edinburgh • and much more!*



**July 9-23, 2018**  
**Fifteen Amazing Days!**



# Itinerary

## Day 1 - Monday July 9

Depart from Canada for your overnight transatlantic flight to London, except for those who may choose to depart sooner to extend their trip. Select group departure points will enjoy the luxury of a premium departure lounge prior to boarding.

## Day 2 - Tuesday July 10

Upon arrival in London we will transfer to our hotel - your room is pre-booked so that you can check in immediately to take some rest should you wish. In the late afternoon we gather together with our fellow travelers for our evening Welcome Reception Dinner. Overnight London - hotel tba. [D]

## Day 3 - Wednesday July 11

Enjoy a full free day at your leisure in London. Overnight London - hotel tba. [B]

## Day 4 - Thursday July 12

We begin the day with a visit to the battlefield of Hastings. It was here in 1066 the Norman invasion began, which would forever change the course of history of the British Isles. After lunch we travel to Portsmouth to see Lord Nelson's flag ship, HMS Victory, launched in 1765. Overnight Portsmouth - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 5 - Friday July 13

In the morning we travel to the historic UNESCO World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, a pre-historic marvel built ~2500 BCE. We travel into nearby Salisbury to enjoy lunch with time to visit the marvellous cathedral and catch a glimpse of the Magna Carta, and later we carry onward to the historic district of Warwickshire. Overnight Stratford-Upon-Avon - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 6 - Saturday July 14

The day begins with a visit to the enchanting 1,000 year old Warwick Castle. Then, with the mood of history well established we travel to the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival, the largest such annual gathering in Europe and a highlight on the tour schedule. Overnight Stratford-Upon-Avon - hotel tba. [B,L,D]

## Day 7 - Sunday July 15

Day Seven begins with a walking tour of Nottingham featuring a local specialist, followed by lunch in a famous pub. Later we visit the battlefield at Towton, considered "probably the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil" as part of the Wars of the Roses of the 15th century. We wind up our day in York with a traditional Sunday evening roast beef dinner. Overnight York - hotel tba. [B,L,D]

## Day 8 - Monday July 16

The Norman Invasion of 1066 featured a second great battle which we'll discuss at Stamford Bridge in the morning. Our journey then finds us amongst the ruins of the enchanting Fountains Abbey. Following lunch we explore the imposing Middleham Castle, childhood home of King Richard III, before winding our way to northern England for the evening. Overnight Newcastle - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 9 - Tuesday July 17

We begin the day with the Roman ruins at Hadrian's Wall, and then continue our drive north to the spectacular Jedburgh Abbey on the Scottish Borders. Later we visit the battle site at Flodden Field before arriving in the magical Scottish capital of Edinburgh for two nights stay. Overnight Edinburgh - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 10 - Wednesday July 18

Enjoy a full free day at leisure in the capital city of Edinburgh. Overnight Edinburgh - hotel tba. [B]

## Day 11 - Thursday July 19

Our tour travels north to the Queen's country home at Balmoral Castle. In the afternoon we make a side trip to the distillery at The Glenlivet on our way deep into the highlands capital city of Inverness. Overnight Inverness - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 12 - Friday July 20

Day Twelve opens with the battlefield at Culloden. We then travel to the delightful Urquhart Castle, followed by time for lunch and shopping along the shores of Loch Ness. The afternoon takes us to perhaps the most iconic landmark in Scotland, Eilean Donan Castle, before winding down the day on the Isle of Skye. Overnight Kyleakin - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 13 - Saturday July 21

Our travels today bring us to the monument at Glenfinnan, and then to Glencoe to discuss the massacre of 1692. After lunch in Glencoe we make our way south to the lovely town of Oban for our night's stay on the picturesque west coast of Scotland. Overnight Oban - hotel tba. [B,L]

## Day 14 - Sunday July 22

We travel to Stirling for a visit of the Castle, including lunch in the town. We'll visit the battlefields of Bannockburn of 1314, and then carry onward to Edinburgh where we'll conclude our amazing journey with our Farewell Dinner at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society. Overnight Edinburgh - hotel tba. [B,L,D]

## Day 15 - Monday July 23

Return flight from Edinburgh, except for those who may choose to extend their stay or travel onward to further destinations. [B]

*Itinerary and hotels are subject to change prior to departure. Minor variances are possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter.*



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## London

With Big Ben, the River Thames, the Tower of London, and Buckingham Palace, London is an incredibly exciting and cosmopolitan city which offers travelers so much to see and discover. Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament are just the beginning of your discover of this amazing capital city.



## Battle of Hastings

One of the most famous battles ever. King Harold II of England is defeated by the Norman forces of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. At the end of the bloody, all-day battle, Harold was killed – shot in the eye with an arrow, according to legend – and his forces were destroyed. He was the last Anglo-Saxon king and 'England' would never be the same.



## Stonehenge

It's beginnings date back to roughly 3000 BCE and it is easily one of the most recognizable cultural landmarks in the world. But just who built it? How? And why? The lands, once owned by King Henry VIII, are now protected and archeological work continues at the site to attempt to unlock its ancient secrets.



## The Romans

With the Roman Conquest starting in 43 AD, and lasting almost 400 years, came the first written records of England's history. Julius Caesar had paid earlier visits to Britain in 55 and 54 BC but it wasn't until the Emperor Claudius that Britain, as far north as Hadrian's Wall, was conquered. Our visit to Vindolanda, one of the Roman forts along the wall, is one of the tour highlights. As we peer into the mists of the north we can ponder on the 9th Imperial Roman Legion that marched out of Newcastle in AD 120 to subdue the Scots and was never heard from again.



## Battle of Towton

On Palm Sunday 1461, in howling wind, driving sleet and snow, the armies of two disputing Kings of England - Henry VI of the House of Lancaster and Edward IV of the House of York - fought all day. Chroniclers and historians think that up to seventy-five thousand troops were engaged, making it one of the largest battles ever fought on British soil. As many as twenty-eight thousand died in the battle and in the rout and massacres that followed. When the Wars of the Roses began, England was a medieval country, but from its conclusion, the victorious Tudors would make it a distinctly different country.



## York

Founded by the Romans in 71 CE it has been the backdrop to major political events for its 2,000 years of existence. York Minster Cathedral is one of the largest in northern Europe and the Great East Window (finished in 1408) is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world.



## Edinburgh

The Old Town and New Town together are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a city of culture, learning and fascinating history. Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and the church of St. Giles on The Royal Mile are but a few of the historic sites which attract millions of visitors each year to this gem of the United Kingdom.



## The Glenlivet

The Scots have been distilling whisky for centuries. The earliest written record of whisky production is an entry on the 1494 Exchequer Rolls, which reads "Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor, by order of the King, wherewith to make "aqua vitae". Most of the spirit was produced illegally but in 1823 an act was passed imposing punishments on landowners who were found with unlicensed distilleries on their property. George Smith was the first person to take out a license for a distillery under the new law, founding The Glenlivet Distillery in 1824. Our visit here is always memorable.



## Battle of Culloden

On 16 April 1746, on Drumossie Moor overlooking Inverness, the royal army led by the Duke of Cumberland (son of King George II) annihilated the much smaller army led by Prince Charles Edward Stuart. This most futile of Jacobite battles was over in an hour and marked the end of the clans in Scotland. Thousands were slaughtered as the bloody aftermath went on for weeks.



## Battle of Bannockburn

On 23 and 24 June 1314, Robert the Bruce faced King Edward II at Bannockburn, near Stirling. The Scots army might have been outnumbered almost three to one but 'The Bruce' sent King Edward homeward ... "to think again", and became immortalized in Scottish history.



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### Included in your Package

- Thirteen nights accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in Trafalgar First Class Hotels (*European standards*)
- Guests will enjoy gathering at a premium departure lounge (where available) ... *an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours*
- Immediate early morning check-in available at your hotel in London ... *an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours*
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach w/ reclining seats, on-board WC and free mobile Wi-Fi
- Buffet breakfast (cold and/or hot) at the hotel each morning, plus selected lunches and dinners as outlined in the itinerary
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, baggage handling of one bag per person
- Gratuities to Coach Driver, Trafalgar Agent and Local Guides are **included!** (*important note: these costs are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$150 CAD or more at the end of your trip, be sure to compare!*)
- Group pick-up from London Heathrow Airport on July 10/18 and return group transfer to Edinburgh Airport on July 23/18 (*individual transfers would be the traveler's responsibility*)

### Excluded

- Airfare to/from United Kingdom
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Travel / Cancellation / Medical Insurance
- Passport & related fees
- Any optional excursion not stated
- Items of a personal nature

### Notations

- Prices are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, to be confirmed at time of final payment.
- This tour requires a minimum of 20 passengers.
- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change.
- **Final payment is due no later than April 6, 2018.**
- **All deposits & payments are non-refundable.**
- Download our Terms & Conditions from [www.liberationtours.ca](http://www.liberationtours.ca).

**Reserve Your Seat Today!**

Land Only Package, Based on Double Occupandy:

**\$5890**

Group airfare pricing available August 2017!

Single Supplement:

**\$1200**

Non-Refundable Deposit at time of Booking:

**\$500**

Exclusive Booking Agent:

**Debbie Baggley**

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