

# **MEDIEVAL BRITAIN: Castles, Cannons & Crowns**

**From LONDON to EDINBURGH**  
**JULY 6-18, 2021 (13 DAYS)**

**[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)**



**LiberationTours**  
THE CANADIAN LEGACY



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# 2021 Medieval Britain Castles, Cannons & Crowns

## Cultural & Historic Landmarks from London to Edinburgh

Medieval Britain - a time of castles and cathedrals, knights and archers, clans and kilts, pipes and cannons ... 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 in London as we set out for the Channel coast, then turn northward through Stratford, York and Edinburgh, and all the way up into the mystical Scottish Highlands. Thirteen glorious days bringing Britain's fabled past to life.

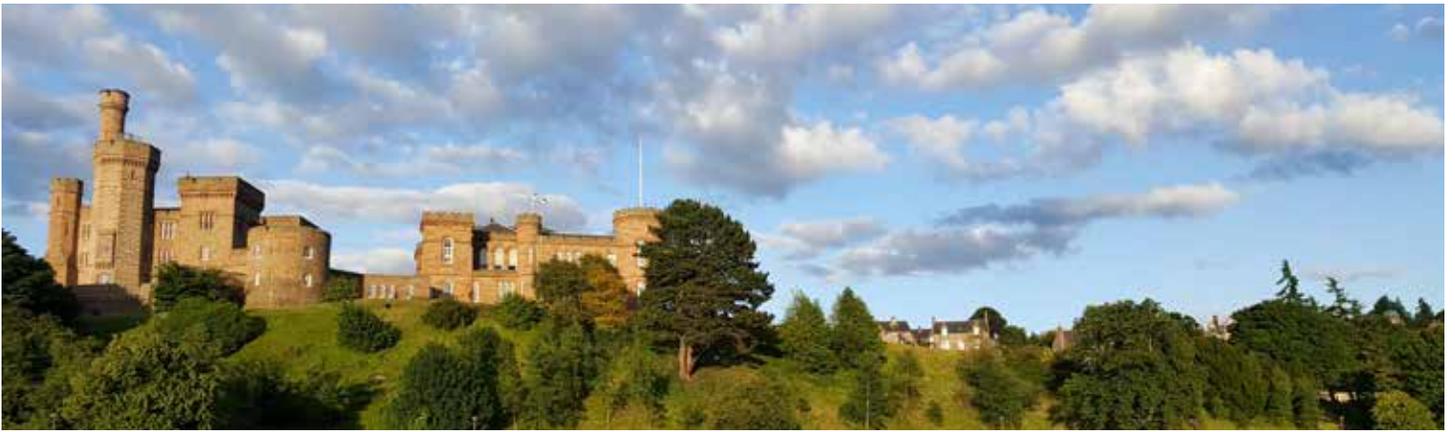


*Culloden • Bannockburn • Hampton Court Palace  
Eastnor Castle • Scone Palace • Glenfinnan  
Stonehenge • Hadrian's Wall • Magna Carta  
Fountains Abbey • Eilean Donan Castle*

*featuring the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival  
the largest festival of its kind in Europe!*

**JULY 6-18, 2021**  
**THIRTEEN AMAZING DAYS!**





# Itinerary

## Day 1 - Tuesday July 6

Depart from Canada for your overnight transatlantic flight to London, except for those who may choose to depart sooner to extend their trip.

## Day 2 - Wednesday July 7

Upon arrival in London you will have the morning and afternoon to enjoy and explore at your leisure. London is a city of history and monuments waiting to be discovered, including the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Imperial War Museum, Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Platform 9-3/4 at Kings Cross Station ... and so much more! In the early evening you will gather with your fellow travelers for your Welcome Dinner. Overnight London. [D]

## Day 3 - Thursday July 8

You'll begin your trip with a visit to one of the most impressive of all medieval palaces - Hampton Court. This was the seat of power of the Tudor King Henry VIII of the 1500s and survives as one of the most stunning of all royal residences, featuring amazing gardens, a prison, fabulously expensive art, and much more! After lunch we travel to the south coast of England, to visit the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and a tour of Lord Nelson's flag ship - HMS Victory - launched in 1765 and still the pride of the Royal Navy. Overnight Southampton. [B,L]

## Day 4 - Friday July 9

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, then later we carry onward to the historic district of Warwickshire. Overnight Stratford-Upon-Avon. [B,L]

## Day 5 - Saturday July 10

The morning starts with a visit to the enchanting Eastnor Castle, a revivalist castle built in the early 1800s as a stately home. It is today often used as the backdrop to film and television productions. With the mood of history now well established, we spend a good portion of the day at the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival, the largest such event in Europe. On this 550th Anniversary of the battle you will have the chance to see falconers, original tool makers, vendors selling period clothing and collectables, musicians, and so much more. Overnight Stratford-Upon-Avon. [B,L]

## Day 6 - Sunday July 11

Day Six begins with a drive into the forested countryside of England. We take a guided tour of a famous English country manor house, Haddon Hall. The house has been described as one of the most complete and important houses of the period. Other more lavish castles and manors dot the nearby county, but the smaller Haddon Hall is truly a unique and beautiful structure. In the mid-afternoon we drift into the back roads to visit the battlefield at Towton, considered "the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil" as part of the Wars of the Roses of the 15th century. Overnight York. [B,L]

## Day 7 - Monday July 12

The Norman Invasion of 1066 was preceded by a 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, hidden away in a valley. 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. [B,L]

## Day 8 - Tuesday July 13

We begin the day at yet another UNESCO Site - the Roman ruins at Hadrian's Wall, followed by lunch in the valley. Having stopped at the border we cross into Scotland and head north to see Melrose Abbey. The day ends in the Kingdom of Alba ... Scotland! Overnight Edinburgh. [B,L]

## Day 9 - Wednesday July 14

Stirling is the focus of our day. Stirling Castle was the key to the kingdom of Scotland, dominating a vast volcanic rock above the river Forth at the meeting point between Lowlands and Highlands. We also visit nearby at the Battlefield of Bannockburn of 1314, and also Stirling Bridge - historic sites which both fall within view of the castle. Amazing battles took place here, charting the course of Scotland. Overnight Stirling (Dunblane). [B,L]

## Day 10 - Thursday July 15

In the morning we walk to another small monument, marking a dark chapter in Scottish history - the Massacre of Glencoe. Our local guide tells the tale as no one else can. After lunch we travel a short distance north to Glenfinnan, a small spot with a very important place in Scottish history. It is here that Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite Uprising of 1745 began. A monument marks where the prince came ashore, to begin an endeavor which would end in complete failure at Culloden. Overnight Inverness. [B,L]

## Day 11 - Friday July 16

Day Eleven is steeped in history as we explore the historic battlefield at Culloden Moor, where in 1745 the Jacobite Uprising came to a violent end. Those who follow the television series Outlander will recall this famous battle. During our journey we stop to see if Loch Ness will reveal any monsters! Today we also drive out to the west coast to visit the most iconic of all Scottish landmarks - Eilean Donan Castle. Overnight Inverness. [B,L]

## Day 12 - Saturday July 17

We journey south on the homeward leg of our amazing trip, making our first visit of the day to Dalwhinnie Distillery for a little Scotch tasting - a fine way to begin any day! Later we pause in Perth, the gateway to the highlands, for a tour of the incredible Scone Palace - the place where successive Scottish kings were crowned through the centuries and thus a place of immense historic significance for over 1000 years. It is also one of the finest examples of late Georgian Gothic architecture in all of the United Kingdom. Here we will dine in the palace for our Farewell Lunch. Our tour concludes with a return to the capital city. Overnight Edinburgh. [B,L]

## Day 13 - Sunday July 18

Return flight from Edinburgh/Glasgow, 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.*

complete details & pricing at  
[www.liberationtours.ca](http://www.liberationtours.ca)



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Reg. No. 2780622





### 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 discovery 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 Stirling Bridge

Way back in 1297 Stirling is the scene for what would become a famous battle which echos through the centuries. The English, far superior in numbers, should have had an easy time of it but quick thinking on the part of the Scots, and a narrow wooden bridge, would prove their undoing.



### 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.



### Single Malt Scotch

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". Today single malt Scotch is in demand around the world.



### 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.





## Included in your Package

- Eleven nights accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in Trafalgar First Class Hotels (*European standards*)
- Travelers on the group flight will enjoy a premium airport departure lounge at the start of the tour (where available and as scheduling permits)  
*... an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours*
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats, on-board facilities 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, plus 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 flight pick-up from London Airport on July 7, 2021 and Group flight drop-off to Edinburgh / Glasgow Airport on July 18, 2021 (*all non-group flight travelers are responsible for their own airport transfer*)

## Excluded

- Airfare: optional group air booking available, check our website; alternatively, we can provide a quote to connect from other gateways or for alternative flight dates to suit your travel plans!
- 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 25 passengers to operate.
- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change.
- Note: this tour will occasionally feature the following in order to reach the amazing locations on this tour: a walk of some minor distance, ascending or descending stairs, walking up or down hills or slopes of varying degree on paved or unpaved pathways; good personal mobility is key to a positive experience!
- **Non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person due upon booking.**
- **Balance of payment due on or before April 2, 2021.**
- **All deposits & payments are non-refundable.**
- **IMPORTANT:** Read our Terms & Conditions prior to making your booking.

pricing available on our website:  
**[www.LiberationTours.ca](http://www.LiberationTours.ca)**

**\$6490 CAD**

Land Only, per person, based on double occupancy  
(two people sharing a room)

**\$1500 CAD**

Single Supplement - the additional cost if traveling  
on your own (one person in the room)

*Non-Refundable Deposit at time of Booking:*

**\$500 CAD**

Contact your favourite Travel Agent or:

**Natalie Hébert**

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## Terms & Conditions of Booking and other Important Information

- 1. Deposits & Final Payments:** A Deposit is required at the time of booking in order to secure a place on the trip. A Final Payment is required on or before the final payment deadline to ensure your place on the trip is fully vested. Deposits and Final Payments, once paid, are non-refundable.
  - 2. Insurance:** Liberation Tours strongly recommends the purchase of Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance, plus out-of-country medical coverage, etc. You can obtain a quote from Manulife Insurance via our booking agent, or from Sanderson Insurance via our website, or from your favourite local travel or insurance agent. You could also check your credit card provider in case you have coverage by purchasing your trip on your credit card.
  - 3. Itinerary:** Every effort is made to deliver the itinerary of a given tour as outlined on the website and within the published literature, however due to circumstances beyond our control (including but not limited to weather, construction, passenger illness, mechanical breakdown, civil unrest, etc.) Liberation Tours reserves the right to alter the published itinerary by substituting where possible alternate venues and/or sightseeing locales so as to make the best possible accommodation under the circumstances.
  - 4. Hotels:** All hotels listed on the itinerary have been pre-booked at time of publishing. Whereas Liberation Tours will do its utmost to prevent our pre-booked hotels from 'booking out' we cannot accept responsibility for this eventuality. Similarly, there may be occasions where Liberation Tours is not able to secure our contract hotels due to conferences, sporting events etc. in which case a hotel of similar standard will be booked. Liberation Tours reserves the right to accommodate within 80 km of locations listed on the attached itinerary.
  - 5. Food Allergies:** Some tours may include one or more pre-booked group meals. For such meals Liberation Tours will make every effort to accommodate food allergies that you declare to us in advance, however please be aware that such accommodations cannot be entirely guaranteed. Our responsibility will be limited to requesting of the restaurant(s) to provide a safe, allergy-free meal and to extend to you whatever the restaurant can offer. Failing this, should you find it necessary to substitute one of these pre-booked meals in some alternate way (ie different restaurant, hotel meal, etc) you will need to be responsible for cost of same. Liberation Tours regrets we cannot refund or otherwise transfer the value of pre-booked meals.
  - 6. Coach Seating:** We employ a seating rotation program whereby all clients are shuffled through the coach to new seats daily, thereby ensuring everyone has an opportunity to be seated in different areas of the coach and also providing for different neighbours across the aisle. Requests to be accommodated in a fixed seat location will respectfully be declined.
  - 7. Group Air Seating:** Clients who choose to take seats with the group air booking should note that, while every effort is made to seat couples together, it cannot be guaranteed that they will sit side-by-side. Group air bookings are such that advance seat selection is usually not offered, and that seats are not always guaranteed as side-by-side, rather whatever free seats are available on that flight as determined by the airline. Please be prepared for the possibility that you will not sit together. Requests to be seated together should be made at the check-in desk at the airport, or otherwise with the in-flight cabin crew upon boarding.
  - 8. Individual Bookings for Air Travel, Hotels, etc:** Clients who plan to arrange their own air travel (ie. not reserving a seat with the group air booking), or extra hotels before/after the tour, should not make any non-cancellable bookings prior to the booking deadline. Once the booking deadline has passed and the tour is officially a 'go' with the minimum required number of passengers, individual bookings can then be made!
  - 9. Passport & Visa:** Canadians do not require a visa to travel to countries within the *Schengen Area* for stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. If you leave the Schengen Area and return within the same 180-day period, the previous stay will count against the permitted 90 days. See <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/schengen-area>. The Schengen Area includes Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. A tourist visa is also not required for the United Kingdom (for stays of six months or less). See <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-kingdom>. Beginning in either 2022 or 2023, most Canadian travelers to Europe will require an ETIAS Travel Authorization. More information is available at <https://www.etias.ca/etias-mandatory-2022/>.
- In general, **it is the responsibility of each traveler** to obtain a valid passport, and to obtain any visa(s) (where necessary) or travel authorizations, for countries to be visited. Please ensure you have the relevant documentation required. Liberation Tours will not accept responsibility for clients who do not have a passport and the appropriate visas. Any interruption in travel to the client resulting from lack of proper documentation will be at the client's expense.



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## Terms & Conditions of Booking and other Important Information

**10. Surcharges:** Prices may be subject to a Surcharge to cover any unexpected costs over which Liberation Tours has no control, including but not limited to fuel surcharges, government taxes and country visas. The Surcharge shall not exceed 7% of the Land-Only booking price and shall, if needed, be applied no later than the date of final payment. If a Surcharge of more than 7% is necessary clients may, at their option, cancel their booking and receive a full refund of any payments made, with no penalties. No Surcharges shall be applied after the date of final payment.

**11. Baggage:** Maximum baggage allowance on motor coach tours is one large suitcase per person, plus a small hand luggage item (ie. backpack/satchel) which can be stored in the shallow overhead bin inside the coach cabin. All hand luggage must be carried personally aboard the coach. Although the Tour Manager and Coach Driver supervise the transfer of luggage to and from the motor coach and every effort is made to handle luggage as carefully as possible, Liberation Tours cannot assume liability for loss, theft or damage due to breakage, fire, water, etc. Porterage is available at most hotels, although it is often the case that clients will need to port their own luggage between the coach and the hotel lobby. Some hotels do not offer porterage and thus clients will need to handle their own luggage.

**12. Responsibility:** You acknowledge and agree that Liberation Tours (the "Organizer") acts solely as an organizer of the tours outlined in this brochure and as such is a middle-person between you and the carriers, hotels, tour operators and other service/product providers which form part of this tour. Consequently, Liberation Tours shall not be held liable for the services rendered, and/or the products offered, by such third-party providers. Liberation Tours shall not be liable and assumes no risk for the obligations, or any default or negligence, of third-party

providers and for any damages including, among other things, damages due to delay, cancellation, loss of goods, sickness, injury, accident, quality of services, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, disappointment, acts of God or force majeure. The Organizer reserves the right to make any changes before or during the tour for the comfort and enjoyment of the clients.

The Organizer reserves the right to decline any person as a member of the tour at any time before or during the tour should such person's presence be considered, at our sole discretion, detrimental to the interest, comfort or enjoyment of the other tour members. Persons leaving the tour during operation will not receive a refund of unused services.

**13. Itinerary:** All tour itineraries are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Tour managers and/or historians designated for a particular tour are subject to substitution where deemed necessary.

**14. Cancellations made by the Tour Operator:** Should it become necessary for the tour operator to cancel a tour prior to the start date, all clients on the manifest would receive a voucher equivalent to the value of the ground portion of the tour, for use on a future tour. Vouchers for airfare booked through us would be subject to airline policy.

**15. Acceptance:** Liberation Tours, its agents and all clients agree that conditions set out herein are part of the terms between the client and the Organizer. Acceptance of the ticket for the tour or any deposit given to the Organizer's agents represents acceptance by the client of all the aforementioned Terms and Conditions.