

Medieval Britain Castles, Cannons & Crowns

from LONDON to EDINBURGH

MAY 17-28, 2023 (12 DAYS)



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THE CANADIAN LEGACY

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Medieval Britain Castles, Cannons & Crowns

Cultural and Historic Landmarks from London to Edinburgh

May 17-28, 2023

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 ... twelve glorious days, bringing Britain's fabled past to life.



*Hampton Court Palace • Middleham Castle • Culloden
Scone Palace • Glenfinnan • Hadrian's Wall • Melrose Abbey
Stonehenge • Belvoir Castle • Fountains Abbey
Haddon Hall • Eilean Donan Castle • Bannockburn*

**INCREDIBLE HISTORY, BROUGHT TO LIFE BY
EXPERT HISTORIANS & LOCAL GUIDES!**





Tuesday May 16

For many of our Canadian travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight to England. Some travelers may choose to leave for Europe sooner to extend the start of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on pre-tour accommodations. Guests who have other travels already in progress, or guests from other points of origin including the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere, will meet the start of the tour on Day 1 in London.

Day 1 - Wednesday May 17

In the mid-afternoon all clients can check into the group hotel. In the meantime, luggage is stored in the hotel baggage lock-up. Today you are free to explore London, an amazing city of history and monuments. In the evening we gather in the heart of London for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass of wine and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight London. [D]

Day 2 - Thursday May 18

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. 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. Overnight Southampton. [B,L]

Day 3 - Friday May 19

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 marvelous 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 4 - Saturday May 20

We are headed for Bosworth Field, to see where Richard III, the last Plantagenet king of England, fell in battle. It would mark the beginning of the Tudor dynasty. In the afternoon we make a tour of the stunning Belvoir Castle, the ancestral home of the Duke of Rutland for almost a thousand years - a masterpiece of architecture and design and one of the finest examples of Regency architecture in the country. Overnight Lincoln. [B,L]

ITINERARY

Day 5 - Sunday May 21

Day Five 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 6 - Monday May 22

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 7 - Tuesday May 23

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 8 - Wednesday May 24

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 9 - Thursday May 25

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 10 - Friday May 26

Day Ten 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 11 - Saturday May 27

We journey south on the homeward leg of our trip, making our first visit of the day to Dalwhinnie Distillery for a little Scotch tasting. Later we take 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. We'll dine in the palace for our Farewell Lunch. Our tour concludes with a return to the capital city . Overnight Edinburgh. [B,L]

Day 12 - Sunday May 28

This morning is departure day for those Canadians returning home on the optional group flight - buffet or box breakfast is included, depending on departure time from the hotel. Some travelers may choose to remain in Europe longer to extend the end of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on post-tour accommodations so that you have extra time to explore the beautiful city of Edinburgh. Others guests will depart for home or continue their travels on other routes. [B]



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Itinerary is subject to minor change prior to departure. Minor variances are also possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter during our travels.

additional details and pricing at
www.LiberationTours.ca



THE TOUR.

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 journey around 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

Its 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 archaeological 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 echoes 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.



THE TRIP.

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, and 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

- Eleven nights accommodation in twin or double rooms with private facilities
- 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 select meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); group lunches and dinners typically include a glass of wine/beer!
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, baggage handling at most hotels (one bag per person), plus entry fees to sites as outlined in the itinerary
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides (note: these gratuities are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$200 CAD or more, be sure to compare!)
- Tour package which includes select daily detailed historical battle maps, period photographs, original audio recordings, and more; a complete digital copy of all this is also given to you at the conclusion of the tour!

EXCLUDED

- Airfare
Note: an optional group air booking is available for Canadian travelers, departing from Toronto, details on our website; we can provide a quote for connecting flights from other gateways in Canada; alternatively, we can quote flights for any dates/routes of your preference; travelers on the group flight will be picked up from London Heathrow Airport on May 17, 2023 and dropped off to Edinburgh or Glasgow Airport on May 28, 2023; all other travelers are responsible for their own airport transfers
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour accommodations - ask for a quote and extend your stay!
- Travel Insurance Protection - ask us for a no-obligation quote from Manulife!
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Passport & related fees, Covid testing fees (as may be required)
- Any optional excursion not specifically stated
- Items of a personal nature

NOTATIONS

- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change
- This tour requires a minimum of 25 passengers to operate
- In order to reach the amazing locations on this tour we may: walk a minor distance, ascend or descend stairs, walk 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 the booking deadline: February 13, 2023
- Liberation Tours will donate on your behalf to Forest Recovery Canada, to make your trip **carbon-neutral**
- Read Liberation Tours' Terms & Conditions prior to booking

[ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE @](#)

www.LiberationTours.ca

ground transportation by:

TRAFALGAR

\$6490

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

\$2100

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

\$500

deposit per person upon booking (all prices in Canadian dollars)



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Contact your favourite Travel Agent or:

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