

A New Holiday for 2024



The Gateway to the Highlands

Sunday 28th July 2024 for 5 days

The 4 star Westerwood,
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel



Our base for this holiday is a short distance from Stirling which used to be known as 'The Key to the Kingdom' due to its controlling position between the Highlands and the Lowlands and this tour is based where the Lowlands meet the Highlands and historic sites and landmarks are all around.

Our Hotel will be the 4 star Westerwood, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. Situated north of Glasgow and just a short drive from Stirling it is a good base for our itinerary. The hotel has a lift and an indoor swimming pool and spa.

Day .1. Sunday: After our taxi pick-ups we depart Coleshill at 08:30 and head north via the lovely scenery of Cumbria as we follow the M6 past the Lake District. We will make a stop at Gretna Green before we enjoy more fabulous scenery as we travel through the Scottish Borders on route to our hotel near Cumbernauld. We will arrive at the Westerwood Hotel at approximately 4pm.

Day .2. Monday: It's just a short distance to the City of Stirling where we include a visit to the historic Stirling Castle. Set high on a rocky outcrop overlooking Stirling City and Bridge you will enter the world of Scotland's Renaissance Kings and Queens. Highlights include The Great Hall build for James IV in 1503, The Royal Palace of James V where you will discover the rich world of Scottish royalty in the 1500's, the Elegant Chapel Royal built for James VI just 10 years before he headed south to London to accept the English throne. Plus there are the castle exhibitions, the Stirling Tapestries, The Great Kitchens, Queen Ann's Gardens and much more, not forgetting the far fetching views all around including the Wallace Memorial just a few miles away. After leaving the castle this afternoon we visit the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre; here we include entrance to the 'Battle of Bannockburn Experience'. This is site where in 1314, the vastly outnumbered army of King Robert the Bruce defeated Edward II army in what is considered a landmark moment in Scottish history.

Day .3. Tuesday: Travelling via the Campsie Fells we head towards the 'Bonnie Banks' of Scotland most famous loch as we begin a full day scenic tour around the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. We are also including a boat trip on Loch Katrine aboard the recently restored steamship Sir Walter Scott. Scotland's first National Park is packed with interesting corners and fabulous scenery and we will be sure to include the 'Dukes Pass and the 'Falls of Dochart' as we view the lochs, mountains and the glens of this fabulous region.

Day .4. Wednesday: We head to Scotland's Capital City where first we have a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia which has been moored at Leith since 1998. After our visit here we travel to the Edinburgh Royal Botanical Gardens, one of the world's leading botanical gardens dating back 350 years and covering some 70 acres and finally into the heart of the city where we will drop you off near the castle from where you can explore the fascinating Old Town.

Day .5. Thursday: We begin our homeward journey again taking a scenic route through the Borders diverting through the Lowther Hills along the spectacular Dalveen Pass to Dumfries where we will make a lunch stop before continuing our homeward journey. Our ETA in Coleshill will be 7pm.

£559 per person sharing a twin or double room – single supplement £120 (subject to availability)

For all bookings and enquiries please call 01827 717 575 – email meridiantravel@live.co.uk – www.meridianholidays.info

