



JULY 18-27, 2026

.....
with optional
Bath and the Cotswolds Pre-Tour

SCOTLAND HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Orbridge

Untamed Vistas, Coastal Villages & Celtic Traditions

Dear Traveling Owls,

Join us as we uncover the inspiring history, vibrant culture and captivating sites of Scotland. From windswept highlands to serene islands, home to storied castles and iconic towns, Scotland is a country overflowing with rich traditions, natural beauty and warm hospitality.

Stroll along cobblestone streets during panoramic city tours, explore lush parks and forests, and savor heavenly spirits refined over centuries. Feel the magic of Scotland while taking in the region's dramatic cliffs and picture-perfect landscapes.

Set off on a thrilling excursion to the island of Staffa, where you'll marvel at Fingal's Cave and its striking hexagonal basalt columns. Discover Iona's breathtaking backdrop and diverse wildlife, with opportunities to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, harbor seals, white-tailed eagles and sea otters.

Availability is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. Reserve online at rice.orbridge.com or call 866-639-0079.

Sincerely,



Deanna Perez, Ed.M
Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement

For questions and to learn more, call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu.

Stunning Scotland | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

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Day 2 **ARRIVE IN EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND** Upon arrival an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel. Tonight gather with fellow travel companions for a delightful welcome dinner.
Overnight: Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood (D)

Day 3

GLENCOE | OBAN Take the brief journey north to Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Embark on an idyllic cruise through the loch's crystal-clear waters. Pass through iconic South Basin's unparalleled views of the stunning Ben Lomond. Take advantage of opportunities to spot for local wildlife and photograph the panoramas. Next stroll The Luss Heritage Trail—a path that arrives at a conservation area and pier over Loch Lomond. Enjoy leisure time in the park before departing for the hotel for check-in and dinner at Ee-usk Restaurant featuring an incredible seafood menu.
Overnight: Oban Bay Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 4

ISLE OF MULL Board a ferry destined for the Isle of Mull—the largest of the islands of Argyll and the third largest in Scotland. Venture to the Isle of Mull Cheese and Spirit for a tour and tasting. The island's cheesemakers take pride in using traditional methods and locally sourced ingredients to produce a range of distinctive cheeses. Next visit Tobermory Distillery, established in 1798 for a tasting. Afterward discover Aros Park, once part of the estate of the Earl of Sutherland before it was opened to the public in the 1970s. A plethora of avian wildlife is often seen here. Conclude the exciting day with an evening at leisure at the hotel.
Overnight: The Western Isles Hotel (B,L)

Day 5

ISLE OF MULL Set off by boat for the uninhabited Hebridean island of Staffa. Its most famous features are the otherworldly hexagonal columns of basalt, formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions, and Fingal's Cave. Spot for puffins and other wildlife including seals, dolphins and even whales. Next visit Iona and its iconic abbey—a historic Christian site founded by St. Columba in the 6th century—for an inside tour.
Overnight: The Western Isles Hotel (B)

Day 6

INVERNESS En route to Inverness, stop at Loch Ness viewpoint for photography opportunities. Continue to Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre to learn more about the conflict from both sides through interactive displays and artifacts before walking the actual battlefield. Next watch a weapons demonstration followed by a guided battlefield tour across the moor. Check into the hotel late afternoon and enjoy time to freshen up before gathering for dinner.
Overnight: Muthu Newton Hotel (B,D)

Day 7

ABERDEEN Visit Byres Farm to experience the complexity of an authentic working farm. Join the proprietor for a guided walk through the fields and learn their farming practices. Continue to a family-owned berry farm for lunch. This afternoon connect with the royal family's personal legacy in the Scottish Highlands during a tour of Balmoral Castle. Touring the ballroom and grounds, learn about the castle's history and architecture.
Overnight: Balmoral Arms Hotel (B,L)

Day 8

EDINBURGH See Devil's Elbow Viewpoint in Glenshee before arriving in Perthshire to stroll The Hermitage cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. Next visit a kilt tailor for an informative demonstration in a beautiful workshop. Learn traditional kilt making techniques as well as kilt style evolutions over the years. Enjoy the evening at leisure.
Overnight: Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood (B)

Day 9

EDINBURGH Take an inside tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the previous residence of Mary, Queen of Scots. Continue to Dean Village for a guided walking tour and free time to explore. This afternoon partake in a hands-on opportunity to create a custom bag, toiletry kit or backpack at a local workshop. Select all the elements to personalize your creation including fabric and Harris Tweed tartan pattern, lining, hardware and stitching. The shop's craftsmen will help to ensure a tailored and unique end product. This evening gather at a local tavern for a final festive dinner to celebrate your time in Scotland.
Overnight: Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood (B,D)

Day 10

EDINBURGH After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to Edinburgh Airport for flights home. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)



What's Included

- 8 nights hotel accommodations
- 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners including special welcome and farewell meals
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Travel Director and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Admission to all locations listed on the 10-day itinerary
- All ferry fees
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guides, drivers, porters (where available) and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Activity Level: The majority of activities take place outdoors. Walking over varying terrain is expected. Guests should be able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, and walk up a flight of stairs without assistance.



Orbridge

Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

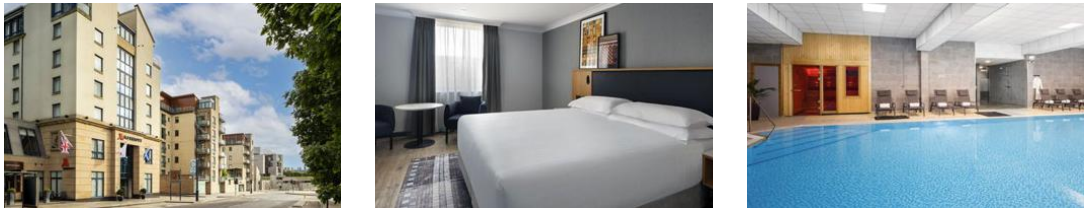
Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.

Accommodations *(subject to change)*

EDINBURGH MARRIOTT HOTEL HOLYROOD

This four-star property is ideally situated in the heart of Edinburgh’s historic and beautiful old town, just a 15-minute walk from Waverley Railway station and the city’s main thoroughfare.



OBAN BAY HOTEL

Oban Bay Hotel features authentic coastal charm and true Scottish hospitality. Notice thoughtfully designed accents like soft blue hues, warm wooden finishes and vintage décor.



THE WESTERN ISLES HOTEL

Recipient of the 2023-24 “Island Hotel of the Year” award, this property dates back to 1883 when it originally opened to accommodate the growing number of visitors arriving by steamer during the golden age of travel.



MUTHU NEWTON HOTEL

The Muthu Newton Hotel, situated within 21 acres of lush landscapes and gardens, offers guests stunning views of Moray Firth and the Black Isles. During leisure time explore the grounds or relax in the comfortable lounge.



BALMORAL ARMS HOTEL

Enjoy a quaint stay at this traditional countryside inn featuring comfortable rooms with contemporary amenities.



Optional Pre-Tour Bath and the Cotswolds

Join this enchanting escape to the heart of England—a journey that weaves together colorful culture, timeless elegance and idyllic charm. From Bath's ancient Roman relics to the Cotswolds' picturesque villages, discover a captivating blend of historic grandeur and bucolic tranquility.

Day
+1 EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day
+2 **ARRIVE IN BRISTOL, ENGLAND | BATH** Upon arrival to Bristol Airport transfer to your hotel to Bath. This UNESCO World Heritage city is renowned for its stunning Georgian architecture and well-preserved thermal baths that provide an extraordinary window into Roman life and culture. Take time to unpack and refresh at the hotel. Later meet with fellow travel companions for dinner.
Overnight: Hotel Indigo Bath (D)

Day
+3 **BATH** Following breakfast set out for the Clifton Suspension Bridge for photography opportunities. Continue to the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company. Browse through the shop's shelves of delicious cheeses plus locally made preserves, pickles and chutneys. This evening visit the Roman Baths for a magical experience exploring the grounds by flashlight.
Overnight: Hotel Indigo Bath (B,L)

Day
+4 **THE COTSWOLDS** The Cotswolds, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in south-central England, is renowned for its quintessential English charm and honey-colored limestone cottages. Visit The Cotswolds Baking Workshop for a private, hands-on baking class with its founder, Susie Whitfield, winner of Gordon Ramsay's Culinary Genius USA in 2017. Next enjoy a tour and tasting at Cotswolds Distillery—the area's first full-scale distillery.
Overnight: Hotel Indigo Bath (B)

Day
+5 **BATH | TRAIN TO EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS** After breakfast take the complimentary group transfer to Bath Spa railway station for the train journey to Edinburgh, Scotland, to join guests for the main program. (B)

What's Included

- 3 nights hotel accommodations
- 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- Visit to Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company
- Evening visit to the Roman Baths
- Private baking lesson
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Group airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times
- Rail transportation from Bath to Edinburgh, Scotland, to join the main program





JULY 18-27, 2026

Bath and the Cotswolds Pre-Tour: July 15-19, 2026

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

Online: [rice.orbridge.com](https://www.rice.orbridge.com)

Phone: **866-639-0079**

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$6,899	\$6,395
Single	\$9,499	\$8,995

Bath and the Cotswolds Pre-Tour


Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$2,499	\$2,295
Single	\$3,099	\$2,895

Pre-tour rate includes rail transportation.

*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included. **An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](https://www.rice.orbridge.com). Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms.

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DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON: \$500 pre-tour • \$850 main tour

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](https://www.rice.orbridge.com/going-green).





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STUNNING SCOTLAND

JULY 18-27, 2026

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than \$1,000 per couple

30-DAY REFUND GUARANTEE

What Guests Are Saying...

I had never visited Scotland and it was on my wish list. I had taken another trip with Orbridge, so I knew this would be a first-class experience. The entire tour was a highlight—all the sites visited, the beautiful scenery in each region, the history shared by our Travel Director, the wildflowers and pastures... I can't choose a favorite place or experience.
~Valerie N., Boulder, CO

We really enjoyed the Stunning Scotland tour and have actually already put down a deposit for the Scotland Highlands and Islands tour. We have enjoyed all of our tours with Orbridge. We definitely plan to continue traveling with Orbridge and recommend them to our friends and family.
~Drew W., San Antonio, TX

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