MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 1 MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2027

Arrival in Edinburgh



Welcome to Scotland

Arrive in Edinburgh and transfer to Carberry Tower. Settle into your room before gathering for a welcome dinner and an introduction to the week ahead.

Carberry Hill

On 15 June 1567, Mary surrendered to the Confederate Lords on the hill beside the estate. She had married James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, just a month earlier. By the time she left Carberry Hill, she was a prisoner.

OVERNIGHT • CARBERRY TOWER

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 2 **TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2027**

Edinburgh: A Queen's Court



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

Walk through Mary's private apartments, where her secretary, David Rizzio, was murdered in her presence. The palace later witnessed her marriage to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell.

EDINBURGH CASTLE & CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE

At Edinburgh Castle, visit the royal apartments where Mary gave birth to her son in 1566. He would become James VI of Scotland and James I of England. At Craigmillar Castle, the story turns to Lord Darnley, Mary's husband, as nobles close to the queen discussed how to remove him from power.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL & JOHN KNOX HOUSE

Explore the Scottish Reformation in Edinburgh's Old Town. At St Giles', where John Knox preached, and at John Knox House, discover why his opposition to Mary's Catholic faith brought him into conflict with the queen."

OVERNIGHT • CARBERRY TOWER

HAYLEY A. RAMSEY

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 3 **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2027**

Birth of a Queen



ROSSLYN CHAPEL

Begin at Rosslyn Chapel, founded in 1446 by Sir William Sinclair. Look closely at the stone carvings that fill its interior, from the pillars to the vaulted ceiling. They offer a glimpse of the religious world Mary inherited before the Scottish Reformation.

LINLITHGOW PALACE

Explore the palace where Mary was born on 8 December 1542. Just six days later, her father, James V, died, and the infant princess became Queen of Scots.

STIRLING CASTLE

Continue to Stirling, where Mary spent part of her early childhood. She was just nine months old when she was crowned at Stirling Castle. A few years later, she left Scotland to grow up at the French court.

OVERNIGHT • HOTEL COLESSIO, STIRLING

HAYLEY A. RAMSEY

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 4 **THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2027**

Falkland Palace



A ROYAL RETREAT

Visit Falkland Palace, one of Mary's favourite residences. She came here to hunt and fly falcons in the royal forest. Her husband, Lord Darnley, also enjoyed hunting at Falkland, and the palace gives us a glimpse of how the young queen spent her days away from Edinburgh.

THE VILLAGE OF FALKLAND

Enjoy lunch in the village beneath the palace before continuing to St Andrews, where you'll settle in for the night.

OVERNIGHT • THE KITHMORE, ST ANDREWS

HAYLEY A. RAMSEY

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 5 **FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2027**

Loch Leven & Dunfermline



LOCHLEVEN CASTLE.

Journey to the island castle where Mary was imprisoned after her surrender at Carberry Hill. Here she was forced to give up the throne in favour of her infant son, James VI. The loch that kept her captive also became her route to freedom when loyal supporters helped her escape across the water.

DUNFERMLINE ABBEY

Continue to Dunfermline Abbey, the burial place of generations of Scottish monarchs. Among them was Robert the Bruce, whose heart was buried separately. His story will take us to Melrose Abbey later in the week.

OVERNIGHT • THE KITHMORE, ST ANDREWS

HAYLEY A. RAMSEY

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 6 **SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2027**

Following Bothwell's Footsteps



HAILES CASTLE

Explore the stronghold of the Hepburn family and the likely birthplace of James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. In May 1567, Mary and Bothwell stayed here on their way to Edinburgh, shortly before their marriage at Holyrood. Within weeks, she would surrender at Carberry Hill.

PRESTON MILL & HADDINGTON

Visit Preston Mill before stopping for lunch in the historic burgh of Haddington. At St Mary's Church, explore how the Reformation changed worship in a community that had gathered here long before Mary's reign.

NORTH BERWICK

Settle in at Marine North Berwick, overlooking the Firth of Forth, for the first of two nights on the coast.

OVERNIGHT • MARINE NORTH BERWICK

HAYLEY A. RAMSEY

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

DAY 7 **SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2027**

The Borders & Bothwell



HERMITAGE CASTLE

Travel into the Scottish Borders to visit Hermitage Castle. When word reached Mary that Bothwell had been wounded, she rode through difficult country to see him. The visit fuelled rumours about their relationship that historians still debate today.

MELROSE ABBEY & DRYBURGH ABBEY

At Melrose Abbey, visit the memorial marking the traditional burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart. Then explore the ruins of Dryburgh Abbey, where the Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott is buried.

FAREWELL DINNER

Return to North Berwick for a farewell dinner and an evening to share the places and stories that stayed with you.

OVERNIGHT • MARINE NORTH BERWICK

DAY 8 MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2027

Departure



A MORNING IN NORTH BERWICK

Enjoy breakfast and a final morning on the coast before your transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your onward journey.

IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS

Over the past week, you've stood where Mary was born, where she was crowned, and where she gave birth to the son who would inherit her throne. The journey began beside Carberry Hill. Now that quiet hillside has a place in a much larger story, alongside the island where Mary was held and the loch she crossed to freedom.

DEPARTURE • EDINBURGH AIRPORT