

Quest for the Holy Grail: Scotland Tour 2024

The Knights Templar, King Arthur, and the Holy Grail in Scotland

Price includes hotels, admission to sites and museums, and transportation for the duration of the tour around Scotland. Does not include all food and drinks- only when mentioned in itinerary.

Day 1: Meet at Dalhousie Castle Hotel at 3 PM, the most ancient castle that is available to stay in Scotland, also the home of the Ramsays, who were closely tied through marriage to the Sinclairs of Rosslyn. Spend two nights here! Get settled into rooms, regroup for dinner in the castle later in the evening for a welcome meal in the hotel's fine dining restaurant, "The Dungeon." (Included) Meet for a complimentary welcome glass of fizz at 5:30 before dinner at 6 PM. Lecture at 7:30 PM by Hayley.

Day 2: Breakfast in the Orangery at the castle at 9 AM. Leave at 11 AM. Visit the small town of Temple, where the original Knights Templar Preceptory of Scotland was built in the 12th century on land belonging to the Sinclairs. Templar graves with esoteric symbols are everywhere. Head to the village of Roslin. Visit Rosslyn Chapel. Is Rosslyn Chapel truly the resting place of the Holy Grail? What are the secrets and symbols the chapel hides? Walk down and see Roslin Castle. We then will walk over to the Battle of Roslin monument where you will hear the tale of the Battle of Roslin in 1303, the attempted siege of Dalhousie, and why a battle was started over one Ramsay woman (my ancestor in fact!). Dinner at the local Grail Grill pub.

Day 3: Breakfast in the Orangery at 8 AM. Check out at 9:30 AM. Stop at local supermarket to pick up snacks for a light lunch. Cross the Firth of Forth and go to Wemyss Caves. The Wemyss had many old connections to the St. Clairs of Rosslyn. Based on old journals belonging to the families in question, we have reason to believe the Knights Templar hid out here and were given food and supplies by the St. Clairs. Stop at Dunino Den, a beautiful off the beaten path site that was used to crown ancient Pictish kings all the way back to the first century. There are a few carvings here, one being a Green Man, which ties into Rosslyn Chapel. You will see modern offerings left in the area, legend has it that this site is still used by those that practice the old traditions today. Spend the night at Murrays Hall Estate.

Day 4: Breakfast at 9 AM. Check out at 10:30 AM. The first stop of the day will be at Scone Palace where ancient Scottish kings were crowned, including Robert the Bruce. Scone used to be the resting place of the Stone of Destiny, brought all the way over from Egypt by Egyptian Queen Scota (origin of the Scots) and her husband Gaythelos (origin of Gaelic) 2,000 years ago. Some believe the stone is now in Edinburgh, while others believe the real stone of Destiny is being protected by modern day Knights Templar. Light lunch in cafe onsite. 2 hour drive to Stirling where we will check into Hotel Colessio where we will stay two nights.

Day 5: Breakfast at 9 AM, be ready to leave at 10 AM to visit Stirling Castle where archaeologists believe they may have found the real “round table” of King Arthur. Lunch just down from the castle at the “Portcullis Pub.” See the nearby site of the Battle of Bannockburn where the Templars were Robert the Bruce’s “secret weapon” that helped them claim their victory. Dinner at Mamma Mia’s Italian across the street.

Day 6: Check out of Colessio around 9 AM and begin a 2.5 hour drive to Oban where we will take the ferry to Isle of Mull. Visit Iona if weather permits, otherwise Duart Castle. Spend two nights at the Western Isles Hotel. Dinner here.

Day 7: Leave hotel around 10 AM. Iona/Duart Castle depending on weather.

Day 8: Early breakfast. Check out at 9 AM. Visit the Kilmartin Church, housing many interesting Templar graves and stones and church. Visit 5,000 year old ritual site nearby of standing stones and cairns. Just a short drive over to Dunadd Fort, a site that may be connected to King Arthur and responsible for the beginning legend of the sword in the stone. Drive south to catch the ferry to Isle of Arran from Claonaig. Douglas Hotel or Auchrannie Resort for two nights. Dinner onsite.

Day 9: Breakfast. Leave the hotel at 10 AM. Head to Kings Caves. Hike down to what we believe are Templar ritual caves. The Bruce came to Arran in the early part of 1307, coincidence? Back to the hotel to freshen up and grab some lunch. Optional whisky tasting in the afternoon at Lochranza Distillery.

Day 10: Check out at 9 AM. Take the ferry to Ardrossan. Drive 2.5 hours down to Kilwinning Abbey, according to legend the Knights Templar hid treasure after escaping France on the infamous “Friday the 13” when all Templars were declared heretics. The very first Masonic Lodge, Lodge 0, is here. We will visit lodge and museum. Then head on to our hotel near the airport, Dalmahoy. Check in, our farewell dinner at 5:30. Lecture by Hayley at 7:30.

Day 11: Depart.

BONUS EDINBURGH ADD ON Extra night at hotel. Visit Edinburgh Castle where the current crown jewel of Scotland and the supposed Stone of Destiny rest. Get the “Scotch Whisky Experience” as you learn about Scotland’s national drink. Explore Scotland’s royal mile, do some shopping, and end with dinner at the Witchery by the Castle.