

NYU LONDON
Cultural Programming



NYU in London

Highlights of Scotland

Friday March 24th— Sunday March 26th 2017



Booking Form & Trip Information

NYU London Highlights of Scotland Trip

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Dear NYU London Students,

The Student Life Department of New York University's London Campus is pleased to present the brochure for a Highlights of Scotland weekend trip (March 24th—26th 2017) and now offers interested students the opportunity of applying to join the trip, **via the attached booking form**.

This trip is offered additionally to the events that form Cultural Programming - Spring 2017, For most of the events described in Cultural Programming Calendar (Spring 2017), students use allotted credit points to choose their event preferences, Overnight and weekend trips usually involve extra cost and therefore, we invite students to join the trip by charging the trip fee of \$240.00 (equivalent to £180.00) to their individual NYU Student Account, so enabling them to simply settle this account alongside other payments to the University. If you would like to join this (coming) term's trip to Scotland you can do this, very simply, by returning the attached form, authorising NYU London to charge the cost of the trip to your student account. We will do the rest!

The cost of the Highlights of Scotland weekend trip (Spring 2017) is **\$240.00** which includes:

Round-trip train travel between London and Edinburgh.

Two night's bed and breakfast accommodation in the Smart City Hostel in Central Edinburgh <http://smartcityhostels.com/>

Guided walking tours of Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town, including the Royal Mile and a hike up Arthur's Seat.

Panoramic coach tour of the Scottish Highlands around the Trossachs, Glen Coe and the Western Highlands. Including packed lunch and a tour of the distillery at Dalwhinnie.

Entrance into Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace

Entrance into a ceilidh (if available)

The services of two NYU chaperones throughout the tour.

This trip is open to all NYU students enrolled at the London campus during the Spring Term 2017. Students can join the trip by simply completing the attached booking form and returning it to the NYU London Student Hub (Room G08 NYUL Academic Centre) or via email on hub@nyu.ac.uk

Important Points to Note!

- ***This trip is NOW available for sale. Therefore students can now apply to join the trip even in advance of their arrival in London for Spring 2017.***
- ***Places on the trip are offered on a "first-come-first-served" basis until all of the 48 available places have been sold. Therefore students interested in joining the trip are encouraged to submit their form at the earliest possible opportunity***
- ***We are required to confirm our group numbers to our suppliers by Friday February 11th 2017. Beyond this date, refunds of payments can ONLY take place if another student can be found to purchase the available place.***
- ***A full itinerary will be supplied (two-weeks prior to the trip's departure) that will detail all of the activities we have arranged for the group, with suggestions of other excursions that might interest the group.***

Trip Description

Please note the following itinerary is used for guidance purposes only (at this stage). We await confirmation on a number of key aspects of the trip (e.g. confirmation of the times of our trains to and from Scotland and the location of the ceilidh for Friday evening), but it is hoped this information below will give students a clear idea of our plans.

Friday March 24th 2017

9.30 am Group meets underneath the main train departure notice board in the concourse of King's Cross Railway Station (nearest tube: King's Cross).

10.00 am Our train departs London King's Cross for Edinburgh Waverley Station

2.25 pm Our train arrives in Edinburgh Waverley Station. We will then walk to our hostel; the Smart City Hostel, 50 Blackfriars Street, Edinburgh.
<http://smartcityhostels.com/>

TBA **Orientation Walking Tour of Edinburgh's Old Town**

The city of Edinburgh is divided in to two main sections; its New Town and (you guessed it!) its Old Town and we will explore the sites of both (over the course of the weekend). We will start with the Old Town: dominated by Edinburgh Castle (which we shall visit); we aim today to walk a stretch of the Royal Mile to the Castle Terrace. Along the way, we will hear of the city's historic foundations and how it became the capital of the Scots.

Visit Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle stands proudly on top of an extinct volcano. It is a collection of buildings dating from the 12th-century that reflect the Castle's changing role as a fortress, palace and prison. Highlights include the Castle's Esplanade, St. Margaret's Chapel, the Palace (which exhibits the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Great Hall (the meeting place of the Scottish Parliament up until 1639).

TBA **Explore the pubs of Rose Street and the New Town for dinner**

New Town was built from 1767 when the city's wealthy merchants expanded the city beyond its medieval walls. The district now contains some of Britain's finest examples of Georgian architecture particularly around Charlotte Square. The New Town now features some of the city's finest pubs a number of which have taken over former banking buildings. One suggestion for dinner is the Standing Order where we can purchase very-well priced food and eat it in splendour.

Following **Attend a Ceilidh**

Ceilidh is a Gaelic word meaning "visit" and describes an institution called the Ceilidh House – a popular visiting house (in most Scottish villages) where locals would gather basically to pass the night away with stories, the singing of songs and the playing of music, usually on a fiddle. The Ceilidh remains the best place to hear Gaelic music and the vibrancy of this musical tradition is carried on today by musicians like those who form the band Teannaich, who will likely entertain us. Expect a night of great music, lots of dancing and good "craic" (as they say in Gaelic!).

Following We will travel back to our hostel using public transport.

Saturday March 25th 2017

Breakfast in the hostel (included in the program price)

8.00am **Panoramic Sightseeing Tour of the Scottish Highlands**

Join us on a day tour of the scenic highlights of Scotland, through landscapes of rugged mountains, scenic glens and peaceful lochs. We leave Edinburgh for the Trossachs, the entry point to the upland wilds of the west. Our road takes us to the pretty town of Callandar and beyond through verdant forests and lonely lakes until the brooding mountains of Glen Coe approach.

For dramatic scenery Glen Coe has few equals in mainland Britain and is the archetypal Scottish valley, but for all of its beauty we pause to reflect on the region's savage history which earned the valley its name of the *Glen of the Weeping*. It was here in 1692 that the Massacre of Glen Coe took place, an event still painfully seared into the folk memory of the Scots, and the brutal clearances of the 19th-century when thousands were evicted from the land and forced into migration.

We journey on along the fretted coastline of Loch Linnhe to climb up to Spean Bridge where we see the majestic Western Highlands parade afore us. We take lunch at an old Woollen Mill before turning inland along Glen Spean whose clear waters are the source for one of Scotland's finest single malt whisky's Dalwhinnie. We will visit this, Scotland's highest distillery as part of our tour and learn of all that goes into making *the water of life*, as the locals call it.

We journey back to Edinburgh via Glen Garry and the Pass of Killiecrankie, site of a famous battle between the English and Scots in 1689 following the deposition of the Scottish king James II from the throne of England during the Glorious Revolution of 1688. We explore the chequered history between the two countries whilst visiting a deep ravine called the Soldier's Leap. We finally return to Edinburgh by nightfall, crossing the magnificent Firth of Forth at the end of a very full day.

Evening Free time to explore the delights of Edinburgh's night life.

Sunday March 25th 2017

Breakfast in the hostel (included in the program price). Following breakfast please check-out of your room and return your room keys. The Reception Desk will then direct you to the Luggage Store where we will store our bags until later this afternoon.

9.00 am Meet in the lobby of the hostel for our short walk down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Palace

Visit Holyrood Palace

Holyrood Palace is the Queen's official residence in Scotland. It was built in 1529 to accommodate King James V and his wife Mary of Guise. It was here in 1566 that Mary Queen of Scots returned a widow from France and was summarily harangued for her faith by the arch-Protestant John Knox. It was also here that Bonnie Prince Charlie held court during the Jacobite Uprising of 1745. All of these stories and more will be re-told as we tour this beautiful palace.

Followed by **Climb Arthur's Seat**

For those who are interested we will lead students on a hike up to Arthur's Seat, the famous 820 foot volcanic crag on the outskirts of Edinburgh city centre. If the weather is kind, there is no finer view in Edinburgh and well worth all of the huffing-and-puffing it takes to get up there.

Followed by Free time for lunch and shopping on Princes Street

2.30 pm Meet at the hostel reception to reclaim our bags in readiness for our walk to the train station for our return journey to London.

3.30 pm Our train departs Edinburgh Waverley for London King's Cross.

7.48 pm Our train arrives into London King's Cross Railway Station.