

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

TREASURES OF SCOTLAND

2023 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: JULY 1, 2023 | LAND TOUR START DATE: JULY 2, 2023

RETURN DATE: JULY 8, 2023

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$ 2,465



START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Michigan Young Alumni?

The University of Michigan Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of Michigan. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 45 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/umich and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

Rachele Neu

RACHELE NEU B.S. '08, M.A. '12

Travel Program Manager

Alumni Association of the University of Michigan



Visit our website
WWW.AESU.COM/UMICH
for more details and to book



TRAVEL INSURANCE

The University of Michigan highly recommends travel insurance.

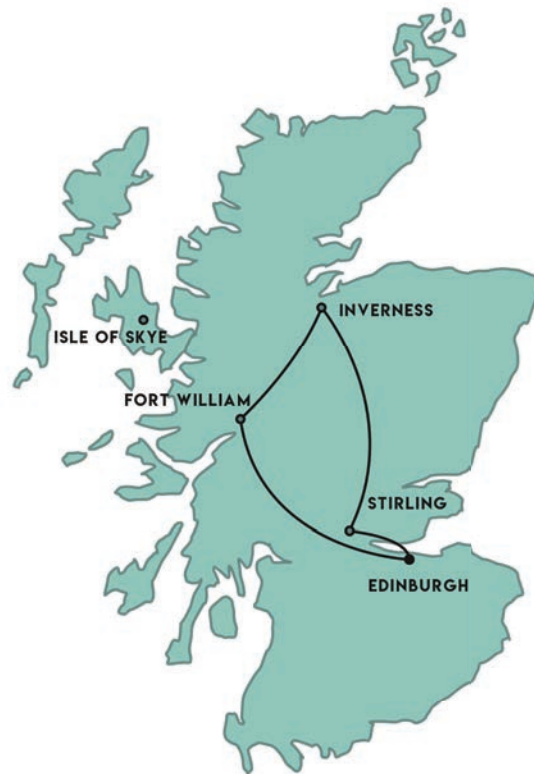
Please, visit the link below for more information or to secure your travel insurance:

<https://alumni.trawickinternational.com/school/welcome/677/>

TREASURES OF SCOTLAND

8 DAYS

PLACES VISITED:
EDINBURGH | SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

8-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 6 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
 - Edinburgh: 2 nights, Fort William: 2 nights, Inverness: 1 night, Stirling: 1 night
- All ground transportation by private motor coach or train as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 11 meals: 7 breakfasts, 3 specialty dinners, 1 lunch

Activities & Admissions

- Guided tour of Edinburgh incl. Royal Mile, Old & New Town and Edinburgh Castle
 - Admission to Edinburgh Castle

- Scotch tasting at the Malt Whisky Society
- Scenic drive through the Scottish Highlands
 - Cruise on Loch Ness
 - Admission to Wallace Monument
- Admission to Drummond Castle Gardens
- Outlander-themed tour of filming locations incl. 'Craig Na Dun' and Culloden Battlefield
 - Cooperate visit
 - Cardhu Scotch tasting

Optional Excursions

(not included in land package price):

- Isle of Skye excursion (full day)

TREASURES OF SCOTLAND

ITINERARY

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Scotland is a land with a rich, complex history and a place where every inch of the landscape is steeped in the past. Therefore, it is no surprise that it served as a backdrop for so many movies and films, such as Harry Potter, Braveheart, Rob Roy, or Outlander – to name a few. It harbors large wilderness areas, creating a wildlife haven for eagles soaring above lochs, heather-laden mountains of the Highlands and seals tumbling in the waters along the shores. Experience the finest of nature with the warmest of hospitality. Taste some of the famous malts and discover the treasures of Scotland on this incredible journey.

DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 - EDINBURGH: LAND TOUR START DATE

Welcome to Edinburgh, designated a UNESCO Creative City of Literature, birthplace and home to world-famous writers, poets and playwrights including Sir Walter Scott, and J.K. Rowling. Start exploring Edinburgh on your own this afternoon, then join your tour director and fellow travelers for a tour orientation and welcome to Scotland dinner.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation, Welcome to Scotland dinner

DAY 3 - EDINBURGH

We meet our local guide and stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Old Town and learn about the city's extensive history, officially beginning with Roman settlement, though most renowned for its infamous royal residents and bloody wars of religious reformation and independence. Follow medieval streets and alleys and check out protected Reformation-era constructions such as St. Giles Cathedral, often called the High Kirk of Edinburgh. We stop at Parliament Square and the famous John Knox House, a historic treasure that is one of the last original medieval buildings on the Royal Mile, and continue to Castle Hill, with sweeping views of the city. Our tour ends at Edinburgh Castle, perched on the stony hilltop of Castle Rock. Learn about medieval life in the palace and the many bloody battles fought here, such as the War of Independence in the 14th century. We're later invited to the Malt Whisky Society for an introduction to the famous Scottish Whisky. Afterwards, explore the city's nightlife with new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Guided tour of Edinburgh incl. Royal Mile, Old & New Town and Edinburgh Castle, Admission to Edinburgh Castle, Scotch tasting at the Malt Whisky Society



TREASURES OF SCOTLAND

ITINERARY

DAY 4 - EDINBURGH - FORT WILLIAM

Today we start our highland journey to celebrate some of the pillars of Scotland - castles and lochs! Traveling through Stirlingshire, we'll be entertained with historic tales of the famous warrior William Wallace, as seen in the film 'Braveheart.' We see the towering Wallace Monument and imposing views of the remarkable 12th-century Stirling Castle. Head out along the Duke's Pass with remarkable views to the peaks of the Trossach Mountains, passing some of the country's most stunning lochs. We arrive at Drummond Castle, featuring one of Scotland's most important formal gardens, dating back to the 17th century. In addition to their role as a stand-in for the French Gardens of Versailles in 'Outlander,' parts of the movie 'Rob Roy' were also filmed here. The afternoon brings us to the Western Highlands and into the real 'Movie Scotland' with open views of Rannoch Moor and the incomparable Glencoe. Films such as 'James Bond', 'Braveheart' and 'Rob Roy' but also TV series such as 'Outlander' and 'Mary Queen of Scots' were filmed in this region. Today's final destination is Fort William, located at the northern end of the West Highland Way.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [Lunch](#), [Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [Scenic drive through the Scottish Highlands](#), [Views of Stirling Castle](#), [Wallace Monument](#), [Trossach Mountains and Lochs](#), [Drummond Castle Gardens admission](#)



DAY 5 - FORT WILLIAM - OPTIONAL ISLE OF SKYE EXCURSION

Enjoy a free day and explore the Fort William area. Consider a climb up to Ben Nevis or take the cable car for some amazing views. Visit the Highland Museum or take a journey on the famous Jacobite Steam Train aka: Hogwarts Express to Mallaig, where the scenic Harry Potter viaduct is located. Opt to join us on a breathtaking excursion to the Isle of Skye. We make our way north to the foothills of the Cuillin Mountains to find the most beautiful collection of waterfalls and plunge pools, called the Fairy Pools. After we're done chasing pixies, we continue to Portree, built into the natural harbor of the eastern shore with high cliffs surrounding the docks. After lunch, take a moment to walk up the hill at the south end of town to find 'The Lump,' a high point offering spectacular views of the surrounding bay and the town itself. We arrive at the fabled resting place of the Giant of Trottenish Ridge, the Old Man of Storr, which is said to be his burial ground. Sticking up from the earth, the Old Man pinnacle is rumored to be the thumb of the giant, the only part of the body remaining above the ground. On our way back to Fort William we stop for some snapshots of Eilean Donan Castle, the most photographed castle in Scotland.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [Fort William sights, incl. Ben Nevis Mountain](#)
Optional activities: [Isle of Skye excursion](#)



TREASURES OF SCOTLAND

ITINERARY

DAY 6 - FORT WILLIAM - CULLODEN - INVERNESS - LOCH NESS

This morning, travel to Great Glen and arrive at Loch Ness, famous around the world for its mysterious - and elusive – monster. We take a boat ride in search of ‘Nessie’ but also to take in stunning mountain views as we cruise to the remains of Urquhart Castle, the envy of all Scotland’s romantic ruins. Continue toward Inverness where we have a special treat planned for ‘Outlander’ fans. On a guided visit, we see the Abertarff House, thought to be the Town House of Lord Lovat, (Simon the Fox), Jamie Fraser’s grandfather. We also visit the Clava Cairns, a 4,000-year-old burial ground and possibly the inspiration for Craeg Na Dun in the ‘Outlander’ story. Three cairns are each surrounded by a ring of standing stones and the field is built on the lay lines and energy conduits, which are believed to travel from the stones to the cairns. Place your hands on the largest stone - if you dare. Next, we visit Culloden, and for those interested in this sad chapter of Scottish history, the Culloden Battlefield was the last pitched battle ever to be fought on British soil and the defeat of the Clans marked the end of the Highland way of life forever.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Great Glen and Loch Ness, Cruise on Loch Ness, Outlander-themed tour of filming locations incl. ‘Craeg Na Dun’, Culloden Battlefield



DAY 7 - INVERNESS - STIRLING

Heading eastward we start along the world-famous Malt Whisky Trail, in the Speyside Region. The River Spey runs through the Cairngorms National Park and many famous distilleries such as Glenfiddich, Macallan and Cardhu are located in this area. Our first visit is to a traditional cooperage, where sherry casks, used for whisky aging, are prepared by hand. We continue to the Cardhu distillery, founded by two generations of resolute women. Discover how their inventive pioneering nature fueled a quest to capture the generosity of Speyside in their highly coveted malt, noted for its sensual pour and rich, smooth character. We break the drive south for lunch before we arrive in Stirling. Take a moment to check out the city’s old town and the medieval Stirling Castle, sitting on a rugged volcanic rock. At tonight’s farewell dinner we recollect memorable experiences and compare our travel treasures with new-found friends.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusion: Malt Whisky Trail in the Speyside Region, Cooperage visit, Cardhu Scotch tasting (or similar)



DAY 8 - STIRLING TO EDINBURGH - TRAVEL HOME

We head home today, heads filled to the brim with Scottish memories. This has truly been a Highland trail.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusion: Transfer from Stirling to Edinburgh airport included



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

Hey Treasure Seeker!



Scotland can certainly brag about an abundance of treasures in a relatively small territory. Your journey is packed with outdoor activities, spectacular wildlife, multi-layered history, unique cuisine and fascinating filming locations - Braveheart, James Bond, Harry Potter or Outlander - to name a few. We will attempt to get a glimpse of the Loch Ness Monster, a creature in Scottish folklore said to inhabit the famous lake in the Scottish Highlands and taste some of the country's legendary malts. This trip is a treasure trove!

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt

ACTIVITY LEVEL



LEVEL 3: MODERATE

This tour requires standing and walking for some extended periods of time during city or nature tours, museum visits, and/or outdoor activities.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$795 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.

“ **IT WAS THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME. I LOVED THE TOUR DIRECTOR AND ALL OF MY FELLOW TRAVELERS.** ”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the land tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.