

Skeptic Society Tour of Great Britain

14th-31st July 2016

From Harold Burke:

It was on the 6th January 2015 that I received a request from (the amazing) Brandi Harris of Dreammaker Travel with the first details of the proposed 'Skeptics UK Geo Tour'. As I write this summary more than eighteen months of planning your trip are about to come to fruition.

BRITISH TIME

24:00/MIDNIGHT (12 AM)

01:00

02:00

03:00

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

11:00

12 PM / NOON

13:00 (1:00 p.m.)

14:00 (2:00 p.m.)

15:00 (3:00 p.m.)

16:00 (4:00 p.m.)

17:00 (5:00 p.m.)

18:00 (6:00 p.m.)

19:00 (7:00 p.m.)

20:00 (8:00 p.m.)

21:00 (9:00 p.m.)

22:00 (10:00 p.m.)

23:00 (11:00 p.m.)

During this time I have been fortunate to have liaised with many of you and I am looking forward to meeting you all at the official welcome reception in London on the 14th July.

We have done our utmost to ensure your trip will run smoothly but inevitably on a tour of this duration with so much packed into everyday there may be times when things do not go exactly to plan. It's therefore important for you to be aware that *we are with you every step of the way so please do not hesitate to speak to our Tour Escorts or call our 24 hour emergency number which is 07768 507 055 should you ever be in need of our assistance.*

Putting together your itinerary has been a very special experience for us here at The UK Holiday Group and this would not have been possible without the assistance of my colleagues, in particular Neal Fletcher, Steve Haher, Ian Clarke, Kevin Turney, Jody Palmer, Maureen Quinn, Carol Files and Simon Larke—It's been a real team effort and collectively we will all be following your every move and wishing you a fantastic trip!

Harold Burke,
Sales Director, The UK Holiday Group
On-behalf of the just for groups! Travel Division
www.justforgroups.co.uk

The information that follows provides a day to day summary of your planned itinerary:

Pre-Tour Accommodation and Airport to Hotel Transfers

If you have booked pre-tour hotel accommodation with us at the Best Western Palm Hotel and/or Transfers from the Airport our confirmation that these arrangements have been booked will already have been sent to you by email. If you have any queries in respect of these arrangements please email: harold.burke@theukholidaygroup.com

Only those meals stated under the heading 'Included Meals' are provided. All other meals, including any 'packed lunches' must be paid for by you as and when purchased.

TOUR DAY 1 THURSDAY 14TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Best Western Palm Hotel, London,
64-67 Hendon Way, London,
NW2 2NL, Tel: 0208 4555220
Laundry Service Provided
www.palmhoteluk.com

Check-in:

Check-in is from 14.00hrs. The hotel will provide luggage storage for early arrivals.

Hotel Location:

The Best Western Palm Hotel is conveniently located to reach the most popular attractions in North and North West London. Central London with the West End and Oxford Street, and many more sights are only a 20 minute ride on the tube away, or 20 minutes on bus available from just outside the hotel. Kings Cross St Pancras Station, a 10 minutes tube ride from Golders Green, is as reachable as Leicester Square from this hotel which is located a short 15 minutes' walk (or approx. £6 taxi ride) from Golders Green tube station and a mere 5 minutes' walk from Cricklewood train station. The convenient bus services are available right outside the hotel to central, west and north London. (Laundry Service Available)

Meal Basis:

Bed & Breakfast

Dinner:

18.30hrs-21.30hrs-The hotel restaurant is open for dinner (*Not included*). Please ensure any extras such as food and drink are paid prior to departure.

Itinerary:

19.00hrs-Please join us for canapes and a welcome drink reception and a chance to meet your fellow travelling Skeptics, drivers and tour escorts.

TOUR DAY 2 FRIDAY 15TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Best Western Palm Hotel

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & a Pub Lunch at the Marlborough Head

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

06.30hrs-Restaurant open for Full English Breakfast

09.00hrs-Coaches depart from hotel

10.00hrs-Arrive Natural History Museum**

10.30hrs-Timed tours will depart every 10 minutes

12.30hrs-Depart Natural History Museum

13.00hrs-*Included Lunch* at Marlborough Head, 24 North Audley Street, London, W1Y 1WD-Menu: Steak and Ale Pie, in rich ale gravy, encased in crisp pastry with creamy mash and seasonal vegetables; Apple Pie or Ice Cream plus coffee (The restaurant staff is aware of special diets but please also *advise your Tour Escort if this menu is unsuitable for you* so they can ensure a suitable alternative is arranged).

14.30hrs-Coaches return from Marlborough Head to hotel for those not wishing to have free time in London and make their own way back.

(** Denotes free entry, on the day member donation requested)

18.30hrs-21.30hrs-The hotel restaurant is open for dinner (*Not included-If you plan to dine in the hotel this evening we recommend that you reserve a table at reception*).

TOUR DAY 3 SATURDAY 16TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Best Western Palm Hotel

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast & Dinner in hotel

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

06.30hrs-Restaurant open for Full English Breakfast

08.15hrs-Coaches depart from hotel with London Tour Guide

09.30hrs-Arrive Westminster Abbey

11.30hrs-Depart Westminster Abbey

12.00hrs-Arrive Covent Garden area-with free time for *optional lunch*

13.30hrs-Depart Covent Garden area

14.00hrs-Arrive Tower of London

16.45hrs-Depart Tower of London

17.15hrs-Arrive St Paul's Cathedral for photo stop

17.45hrs-Depart St Paul's Cathedral

19.00hrs-Return to hotel

19.45hrs-*Dinner is included* tonight in the hotel (This will be a three course, three choice menu)

TOUR DAY 4 SUNDAY 17TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Best Western Palm Hotel

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & a Pub Lunch at the Kings Arms, Keston today

Itinerary Summary:

COACH ONE-ITINERARY

06.00hrs-Continental Breakfast served. A Full English Breakfast is available from 06.30hrs. *Please be aware the coach will depart on time*

07.00hrs-Coach departs hotel

08.15hrs-Arrive Crystal Palace

09.15hrs-Depart Crystal Palace

10.00hrs-Arrive Down House

12.00hrs-Depart Down House

12.15hrs-*Included Lunch* at Kings Arms

13.45hrs-Depart Kings Arms, Keston

15.00hrs-Depart Kings Arms, Keston

COACH TWO-ITINERARY

06.00hrs-Continental Breakfast served. A Full English Breakfast is available from 06.30hrs. *Please be aware the coach will depart on time*

07.15hrs-Coach departs hotel

10.15hrs-Arrive Beachy Head

11.00hrs-Depart Beachy Head

12.15hrs-Arrive Whiteman's Green

12.30hrs-Depart Whiteman's Green

13.30hrs-*Included Lunch* at Kings Arms

15.00hrs-Depart Kings Arms, Keston

Kings Arms, Leaves Green Road,

Keston, Kent, BR2 6DU-

Menu: Choice of roast beef or chicken served with roast potatoes, honey glazed parsnips, seasonal vegetables, cauliflower Cheese, stuffing ball and Yorkshire pudding (Vegetables depending on menu chosen). Desert:

Choice of Apple Crumble,

Strawberry Cheesecake or

Chocolate Fudge Cake

served with custard, cream or

ice cream. (Note: Your Tour

Escort will ask for your menu preference on Friday prior to your London trip). (The restaurant staff is aware of special diets but please also advise your Tour Escort if this menu is unsuitable for you so they can ensure a suitable alternative is arranged).

14.45hrs–Arrive Whiteman's Green
15.15hrs–Arrive Down House
15.00hrs–Depart Whiteman's Green
17.15hrs–Depart Down House
16.15hrs–Arrive Beachy Head
18.00hrs–Arrive Crystal Palace
17.00hrs–Depart Beachy Head
19.00hrs–Depart Crystal Palace
19.45hrs–Return to BW Palm Hotel
20.15hrs–Return to BW Palm Hotel

18.30hrs–21.30hrs–

The hotel restaurant is open for dinner (Not included –If you plan to dine in the hotel this evening we recommend that you reserve a table at reception).

TOUR DAY 5 MONDAY 18TH JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO
DeVere Venues Wokefield Park
Hotel, Mortimer, near Reading
RG7 3AE Tel: 0871 222 4828
www.deverevenues.co.uk

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & Dinner in hotel today

Itinerary Summary:

COACH ONE–ITINERARY

06.00hrs–Continental Breakfast served. A Full English Breakfast will be available from 06.30hrs but be aware time is limited
00.00hrs–Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs–Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
07.30hrs–Coach departs BW Palm Hotel
09.00hrs–Arrive Cambridge
09.15hrs–Visit Brighton Building**
10.15hrs–Depart Brighton Building
11.00hrs–Visit the Sedgwick Museum**
12.00hrs–Depart the Sedgwick Museum
12.15hrs–Explore Kings College area

14.30hrs–Depart Cambridge
17.00hrs–Private visit Oxford NHM*
18.30hrs–Depart Oxford NHM
20.00hrs–Arrive Wokefield Park Hotel

COACH TWO–ITINERARY

06.00hrs–Continental Breakfast served. A Full English Breakfast will be available from 06.30hrs but be aware time is limited
00.00hrs–Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs–Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
07.30hrs–Coach departs BW Palm Hotel
09.00hrs–Arrive Cambridge
09.15hrs–Explore Kings College area
10.00hrs–Visit the Sedgwick Museum**
11.00hrs–Depart the Sedgwick Museum
11.45hrs–Visit the Brighton Building**
12.45hrs–Depart for Kings College area
14.30hrs–Depart Cambridge
17.00hrs–Private visit Oxford NHM*
18.30hrs–Depart Oxford NHM
20.00hrs–Arrive Wokefield Park Hotel

20.30hrs–Dinner is Included at hotel (This will be a three course, three choice menu). You should find a number of eateries in and around the Kings College area today

** Denotes free entry and on the day member donation requested
* Complimentary hot & cold drinks/cakes and refreshments provided at the Oxford NHM

TOUR DAY 6 TUESDAY 19TH JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE:
Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Millbay
Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3LG
Tel: 01752 275850
www.thedukeofcornwall.co.uk

COACH TWO:

New Continental Hotel, Millbay
Road, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3LD
Tel: 01752 276797
Laundry Service Provided

www.newcontinental.co.uk

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & Dinner

Itinerary Summary:

06.00hrs–Restaurant open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs–Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs–Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
07.30hrs–Coaches depart from Wokefield Park Hotel
09.00hrs–Arrive Stonehenge
10.30hrs–Depart Stonehenge
12.30hrs–Arrive Lyme Regis
13.30hrs–Mary Anning Museum and Fossil Walk
16.00hrs–Depart Lyme Regis
18.00hrs–Arrive Plymouth hotels
19.30hrs–Included Dinner at Plymouth hotels (3 courses, 3 choices). You will find plenty of local eateries in Lyme Bay today

TOUR DAY 7 WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE:
Duke of Cornwall Hotel
COACH TWO:
New Continental Hotel

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO
06.00hrs–Continental Breakfast in hotels
07.15hrs–Coaches depart from hotels
09.45hrs–Arrive Geevor Tin Mine–tours from 10.00hrs
12.00hrs–Depart Geevor Tin Mine
12.30hrs–Arrive Land's End
14.00hrs–Depart Land's End
15.30hrs–Arrive Coverack
16.30hrs–Depart Coverack
19.00hrs–Return to Plymouth hotels
19.00hrs–21.30 hrs–The hotel restaurants are open for dinner (Not included—If you plan to dine in your hotel tonight please reserve a table at reception on Tuesday evening).

There are several small local cafes/shops near where we are in Lands End today—don't forget to try a famous

'Cornish Pasty!'

TOUR DAY 8 THURSDAY 21ST JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE:

Aberavon Beach Hotel, Swansea Bay,
Port Talbot, SA12 6QP.
Tel: 01639 884949
www.aberavonbeach.com

COACH TWO:

Hotel Mercure, Phoenix Way,
Swansea, SA7 9EG
Tel: 0844 815 9081
www.mercureswansea.co.uk

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

07.00hrs-Restaurant open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs-Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs-Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
09.00hrs-Coaches will depart from Plymouth hotels
11.30hrs-Tucking Mill, Midford-photo stop
11.45hrs-Depart Tucking Mill
12.00hrs-Arrive Bath
12.30hrs-Roman Baths staggered tour commences at 12.30hrs & 12.40hrs
15.30hrs-Depart Bath
18.00hrs-Arrive at Port Talbot and Swansea hotels
19.00hrs-21.30hrs-The hotel restaurants are open for dinner (*Not included-If you plan to dine in your hotel tonight please advise your Tour Escort to reserve a table for you on or before Tuesday the 19th July. If you plan to dine out then you will need to arrange a taxi from the hotel reception for the short journey into Swansea.*)

TOUR DAY 9 FRIDAY 22ND JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Westminster Hotel, 63 City Road,
Chester, CH1 3AF
Tel: 01244 317341
www.hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/
Chester-Westminster

COACH TWO

Holiday Inn Chester South, Wrexham
Road, Chester, CH4 9DL
Tel: 0871 942 9019
www.hichestersouthhotel.co.uk/

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast and Buffet Lunch

Itinerary Summary:

COACH ONE-ITINERARY

06.30hrs-Both hotel Restaurants open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs-Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs-Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
07.45hrs-Coach departs Port Talbot hotel
09.00hrs-Tour of St Peter's Church
09.30hrs-Board coach for Big Pit NCM
09.45hrs-Arrive Big Pit
10.00hrs-Underground tour of Big Pit
11.00hrs-Overground tour of Big Pit
12.00hrs-Board coach for Blaenavon WHC
12.15hrs-Introduction to Blaenavon WHC
13.00hrs-*Included Lunch* at Blaenavon WHC*
14.00hrs-Both coaches depart Blaenavon
16.30hrs-Arrive Shrewsbury
17.30hrs-Darwin's House-photo stop
19.00hrs-Arrive Chester hotel

COACH TWO-ITINERARY

06.30hrs-Both hotel Restaurants open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs-Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs-Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
08.00hrs-Coach departs Swansea hotel
09.30hrs-Tour of St Peter's Church
10.00hrs-Walk to Blaenavon WHC
10.05hrs-Introduction to Blaenavon WHC
10.30hrs-Board coach for Big Pit NCM
10.45hrs-Arrive Big Pit
11.00hrs-Underground tour of Big Pit
12.00hrs-Overground tour of Big Pit
12.45hrs-Board coach for Blaenavon WHC

13.00hrs-Included Lunch
Blaenavon WHC*
16.30hrs-Arrive Shrewsbury
17.30hrs-Darwin's House-photo stop
19.00hrs-Arrive Chester hotel

19.00hrs-21.30hrs-If you plan to dine in the hotel tonight *guests in the Westminster can pre-book a table in their sister hotel the Queens* which is directly opposite, or check out one of the many eateries in walking distance. (Note: The Westminster will only provide dinner if more than 40 members pre-book a table) *Guests in the Holiday Inn also need to ask their Tour Escort to reserve a table for them on or before Tuesday the 19th July.* Guests in the Holiday Inn planning to dine out can arrange a taxi from the hotel reception for the short journey into Chester.

* Blaenavon World Heritage Centre: A Buffet Lunch of mixed sandwiches, wraps, fruit platter, cake, crisps and fruit juice plus teas/coffee and Welsh cakes included

TOUR DAY 10 SATURDAY 23RD JULY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Westminster Hotel

COACH TWO

Holiday Inn Chester South

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

06.30hrs-Both hotel Restaurants open for Full English Breakfast
07.30hrs-Depart hotel
09.30hrs-Arrive Llechwedd Slate Cavern
10.00hrs-Staggered tours commence
13.00hrs-Depart Llechwedd Slate Cavern
15.15hrs-Arrive South Stack
17.15hrs-Depart South Stack (Visit Cemaes Bay time permitting)
19.15hrs-Return to Chester hotels
19.30hrs-Please refer to the previous days notes regarding dinner

TOUR DAY 11

SUNDAY 24TH JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Lumley Castle Hotel, Houghton-le-Spring, DH3 4NX
Tel: 0191 389 5840
www.lumleycastle.com

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast &
an Elizabethan Banquet

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

- 06.45hrs–Hotel Restaurants open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs–Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs–Please ensure you settle your your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
07.00hrs–(Note: *We recommend you purchase a packed lunch today as Woolsthorpe Manor has limited facilities and dining options are limited*)
08.00hrs–Coaches depart Chester hotels

11.30hrs–Arrive Woolsthorpe Manor
COACH ONE tour booked

12.30hrs–Woolsthorpe Manor
COACH TWO tour booked

13.30hrs–Depart Woolsthorpe Manor
16.00hrs–Arrive Brimham Rocks–for photo stop time permitting
16.30hrs–Depart Brimham Rocks
18.15hrs–Arrive Lumley Castle
19.15hrs–Elizabethan Banquet commences (for 20.00hrs)

TOUR DAY 12

MONDAY 25TH JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Ibis Hotel, Centre Royal Royal Mile, 6 Hunter Square, EH1 1QW
Tel: 0131 2407000
Laundry Service Provided
<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2039-ibis-edinburgh-centre-royal-mile/index.shtml>

COACH TWO

Ibis Hotel, Centre South Bridge, 77 South Bridge, EH1 1HN

Tel: 0131 292 0000

Laundry Service Provided
<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-8484-ibis-edinburgh-centre-south-bridge/room.shtml>

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

- 06.45hrs–Restaurant open for Full English Breakfast
00.00hrs–Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
00.00hrs–Please ensure you settle your your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
08.45hrs–Coaches depart Lumley Castle
10.00hrs–Arrive Housteads Roman Fort
11.15hrs–Depart Housteads Roman Fort
13.15hrs–Arrive Inchbonny, Jedburgh–Huttons Unconformity
14.45hrs–Depart Jedburgh
16.30hrs–Arrive Siccar Point –access permitting
17.30hrs–Depart Siccar Point
19.00hrs–Arrive at Edinburgh hotels
18.00hrs–21.30hrs–If you plan to dine in the hotels tonight then dinner for groups is available at the ‘Ibis South Bridge’ in Foggs Restaurant and you can reserve a table with your Tour Escort during the tour. The hotels are just two minutes walking distance apart. The ‘Ibis Royal Mile’ also has a restaurant but this has limited seating to cater for large numbers at short notice. Alternatively you can visit one of the many eateries and bars in walking distance of both hotels and enjoy the unique character and atmosphere that Edinburgh provides. Please see your Tour Escort prior to arrival if you would like to reserve a table which is recommended if you plan to dine in the hotel.

Jedburgh is the best place for you to find a local café or bar for lunch

TOUR DAY 13

TUESDAY 26TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Ibis Hotel, Centre Royal Mile

COACH TWO

Ibis Hotel, Centre South Bridge

ITINERARY

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & a Pub
Lunch at Merchants
Restaurant today

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

- 06.30hrs–Restaurant open for Full Scottish Breakfast
08.30hrs–Guided Old Edinburgh City Tour from Royal Mile Hotel
09.00hrs–Salisbury Crags
10.30hrs–Dynamic Earth Museum
12.00hrs–Royal Mile and *Included Lunch* at Merchants Restaurant, 17 Merchant Street, EH1 2QD. Menu: Roast Topside of Beef served with red wine sauce and a medley of seasonal vegetables; Dessert a choice of Ice Cream of the famous Scottish Cranachan plus coffee. (*The restaurant staff is aware of special diets but please also advise your Tour Escort if this menu is unsuitable for you so they can ensure an alternative is arranged*).
13.30hrs–St Giles Cathedral
14.30hrs–Edinburgh Castle
16.30hrs–Free time, return to Edinburgh hotels at leisure. For dinner please refer to previous day.

TOUR DAY 14

WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Ibis Hotel, Centre Royal Mile

COACH TWO

Ibis Hotel, Centre South Bridge

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

Itinerary:

A FREE DAY! (And you're still booking private tours—that's heroic!)

TOUR DAY 15

THURSDAY 28TH JULY

Accommodation:

COACH ONE

Ibis Hotel, Centre Royal Mile

COACH TWO

Ibis Hotel, Centre South Bridge

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

ITINERARY

Itinerary Summary:

COACH ONE-ITINERARY

- 06.30hrs-Both hotel Restaurants open for Full Scottish Breakfast
 08.30hrs-Coach departs hotel
 09.45hrs-Arrive Falkirk Wheel
 10.30hrs-Falkirk Wheel journey
 11.45hrs-Depart Falkirk Wheel
 12.20hrs-Arrive Battle of Bannockburn VC
 13.45hrs-Depart Battle of Bannockburn VC
 14.00hrs-Arrive Stirling Castle
 15.30hrs-Depart Stirling Castle
 16.00hrs-Arrive Doune Castle
 17.30hrs-Depart Doune Castle
 19.00hrs-Return to Edinburgh hotel

COACH TWO-ITINERARY

- 06.30hrs-Both hotel Restaurants open for Full Scottish Breakfast
 08.30hrs-Coach departs hotel
 10.00hrs-Arrive Doune Castle
 11.30hrs-Depart Doune Castle
 12.00hrs-Arrive Battle of Bannockburn VC
 13.30hrs-Depart Battle of Bannockburn VC
 14.00hrs-Arrive Stirling Castle
 15.30hrs-Depart Stirling Castle
 16.15hrs-Arrive Falkirk Wheel
 16.50hrs-Falkirk Wheel journey
 18.00hrs-Depart Falkirk Wheel
 19.15hrs-Return to Edinburgh hotel

There should be local eateries around Stirling today or within some of the visitor centres

TOUR DAY 16 FRIDAY 29TH JULY

CHECK-OUT AND ARRIVAL DAY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Royal Highland Hotel, 18 Academy Street, Inverness, IV1 1LG
 Tel: 01463 231926
 www.royalhighlandhotel.co.uk

Included Meals:

Bed & Breakfast

Itinerary Summary:

- 06.30hrs-Restaurants open for Full Scottish Breakfast.
 00.00hrs-Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
 00.00hrs-Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
 08.30hrs-Check-out Edinburgh hotels
 13.00hrs-Arrive Elgin for Museum and town-split visit

- 15.00hrs-Depart Elgin
 16.00hrs-Arrive Culloden Battlefield Centre
 18.00hrs-Depart Culloden Battlefield Centre
 18.30hrs-Arrive at Inverness hotel
 18.35hrs-The hotel restaurant is open for dinner (*Not included-If you plan to dine in the hotel tonight please advise your Tour Escort to reserve a table for you on or before Tuesday the 26th July.* You can collect a voucher from reception when you check-in which allows you a 20% discount on the A La Carte Menu prices.)

Elgin is the best place to find lunch today

TOUR DAY 17 SATURDAY 30TH JULY

CHECK-OUT DAY

Accommodation:

COACHES ONE & TWO

Glynhill Hotel, 169 Paisley Road, Renfrew (near airport), PA4 8XB
 Tel: 0141 886 5555
 www.glynhill.com/

Included Meals:

Bed, Breakfast & our *not to be missed 'Farewell Dinner'*

Itinerary Summary:

COACHES ONE & TWO

- 07.00hrs-Restaurants open for Full Scottish Breakfast
 00.00hrs-Your Tour Escorts will explain the procedure for handling luggage for the next hotel this morning.
 00.00hrs-Please ensure you settle your hotel account for extras in good time for departure.
 08.00hrs-Coaches depart Inverness for our final day.
 08.30hrs-Arrive Loch Ness Visitor Centre
 09.30hrs-Depart Loch Ness Visitor Centre
 10.00hrs-Arrive Clansman Harbour for 1 hour Jacobite Cruise
 11.15hrs-Depart Clansman Harbour
 13.00hrs-Arrive Fort William (2 passengers depart tour)
 15.00hrs-Depart Fort William
 18.00hrs-Arrive Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, near Glasgow/Airport
 19.15hrs-Farewell Dinner Evening commences-We sincerely trust that you can join us

for this *Scottish flavored Farewell Dinner with drinks and entertainment* to mark the conclusion of this truly Mammoth Tour!-You can always catch up on your sleep on the flight home should you be on the 'red eye' flights! There are plenty of local bars and cafes in Fort William today for lunch

TOUR DAY 18 SUNDAY 31ST JULY

Accommodation:

Homeward Journey and Post Tour Stopovers

Included Meals:

07.00hrs-Breakfast. *For early departures please request a pre-packed Continental Breakfast for your room.*

Check-out Notes:

Hotel/airport transfer details and post tour night details are included in your cover note to this itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE:

All timings are subject to change

IMPORTANT NOTES

COACH TRANSPORT—please refer to your documentation which indicates which coach you are allocated too. It is essential that you keep to your allocated vehicle (Coach One or Two) throughout the duration of the tour as there are no spare seats and the hotel allocations are also linked to your coach.

YOUR DRIVER AND TOUR ESCORT

COACH ONE will be in the hands of **driver Neil** and **Tour Escort Catherine**.

COACH TWO will be in the hands of **driver Trevor** and **Tour Escort Dorothy**.

DRIVERS AND TOUR ESCORTS—will be with you for the majority of the tour but relief drivers may be used to cover designated driver rest periods. The prime role of our Tour Escorts is to facilitate a smooth check-in and departure from the hotels and to ensure entrances to the various museums and attractions run to schedule. Due to the bespoke nature of your programme and the overall area being covered they should not be seen as having the knowledge or experience of a local Tour Guide which will be used on the visits to London and Edinburgh.

LUGGAGE LABELS—On arrival day (14th July) you will be provided with labels for your main luggage. The labels should remain on your cases throughout the tour to assist with identification and allocation to the correct coaches on check-out days.

LUGGAGE—As previously advised the touring coaches have limitations on the amount of luggage that can be carried in the holds which is restricted to one medium sized suitcase and small hand luggage such as back-pack and laptop holder.

YOUR HOTELS—Please be aware that you will experience a variety of hotels throughout the trip and as such they will vary in size, standards and facilities. Hotels have been selected in order to accommodate the needs of the itinerary and are generally of a 3 or 4 star rating. Your Tour Escort/ Hotel Reception will be happy to be of help should you need assistance.

CHECK-OUT DAY LUGGAGE—In order to keep to the itinerary schedule it is important for the coaches to depart on time. Your Tour Escort will advise you of the time your luggage needs to be on the coach or outside of your room for portage. Your driver will ensure all cases are loaded on to the coach before leaving the hotel. Please ensure your hold luggage has the labels, we will provide, on for identification.

CHECK-OUT DAY ROOM ACCOUNT—Please ensure you settle your account for any hotel extras you may have purchased in good time prior to departure.

LAUNDRY SERVICE—Only a limited number of the hotels used provide a laundry service and this is indicated where available. In some cases even when the service is available

it may not be feasible on the single overnight stops. The Edinburgh hotels will be the most convenient location with a laundry service.

EARLY COOKED BREAKFAST—Restaurant opening times vary and some do not usually open until 07.30hrs. We have arranged a number of early cooked breakfast where possible but please be aware even though many are 'buffet style' the service may be slow so please ensure you allow yourself enough time.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST—Please note those days/hotels where only a Continental Breakfast will be available due to early check out times.

SPECIAL DIETS—All hotels and restaurants have been advised of any special dietary requirements we have been made aware of and we will do our utmost to ensure something suitable is arranged for all pre-booked meals. Please do not hesitate to advise your Tour Escort should you experience any difficulties and they will be happy to assist you.

PARTICIPATION—If there is any part of the itinerary that you do not wish/intend to participate in then please can you ensure you inform your Tour Escort. This will help to avoid delays and concerns relating to missing passengers. (No refunds are issued for elements of the itinerary not taken).

PACKED LUNCHES—We recommend you take a packed lunch on some days depending on the itinerary. These can be pre-ordered in advance for you by your Tour Escort who will also collect payment which will vary between hotels. The prices range from £8 to £10 per person and the packed lunch will normally include a sandwich, packet of crisp, soft drink and an item of fruit.

EXCURSIONS—Your itinerary is very demanding and involves a lot of travelling by coach as well as walking across a wide range of terrains which can become more difficult in the event of inclement weather. The daily timing estimates are also subject to traffic conditions which may delay or disrupt the itinerary. Please ensure you always have plenty of liquid refreshments and snacks in order to maintain your energy levels and do not hesitate to let your Tour Escort know should you prefer not to participate in any part of the daily itinerary.

PORTERAGE—There is no charge for portage where this is shown as being included and we will do our best throughout the tour to ensure assistance is provided. Not all hotels provide portage and on those mornings where an early check-out is essential portage may not always be available. If you do require assistance please do not hesitate to make your Tour Escort aware so they can try and plan suitable arrangements for you.

GRATUITIES—Gratuities are not included and therefore discretionary. The recommended amount for Tour Escorts and

Drivers is the equivalent of \$4 or approximately £3 per person per day. For other staff in hotels and restaurants tipping is common but also discretionary. The recommended amount is usually between £2 to £5, depending on the bill, (or between 5% -10%) paid directly to the staff member serving you.

CURRENCY—Most hotels, bars and restaurants will only accept £'s Sterling

WI-FI—Most hotels, bars and restaurants will provide free Internet Access but you may need to request a password. Please be aware that some hotels do charge for this service and that when travelling you may find it extremely difficult to get internet service.

INSURANCE—It is assumed that all members will be traveling with adequate insurance cover and it is important that you keep your documentation to hand in case assistance is required at any stage during your trip. Should it become necessary to make contact with your insurers then we will be happy to provide assistance if required.

All timings and information are for guidance only and subject to change.

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TOUR LEADERS



DR. DARREN NAISH is a British zoologist and author who writes widely about animals living and modern. Based at the University of Southampton in southern England, he has worked on dinosaurs, pterosaurs, marine reptiles and other extinct reptiles as well as on modern big cats, the swimming abilities of giraffes, conservation biology and the evolution of flightless birds. He has—with colleagues—named numerous new species, most famously the early tyrannosaur *Eotyrannus lengi* and the small pterosaur *Vectidraco daisymorrisae*. He has authored or co-authored over ten books, including (with David Martill) *Walking With Dinosaurs: The Evidence*, *The Great Dinosaur Discoveries*, and *Hunting Monsters: Cryptozoology and the Reality Behind the Myths*. He blogs at Tetrapod Zoology, currently hosted at *Scientific American*, and has been blogging for more than 10 years.



DR. DONALD PROTHERO taught college geology and paleontology for 37 years, at Caltech, Columbia, Cal Poly Pomona, and Occidental, Knox, Vassar, Glendale, Mt. San Antonio, and Pierce Colleges. He earned his B.A. in geology and biology (highest honors, Phi Beta Kappa, College Award) from University of California Riverside in 1976, and his M.A. (1978), M.Phil. (1979), and Ph.D. (1982) in geological sciences from Columbia University. He is the author of over 35 books (including 6 leading geology textbooks, and several trade books), and over 300 scientific papers, mostly on the evolution of fossil mammals (especially rhinos, camels, and horses) and on using the earth's magnetic field changes to date fossil-bearing strata. He has been on the editorial boards of journals such as *Geology*, *Paleobiology*, *Journal of Paleontology*, and *Skeptical* magazine. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the Paleontological Society, and the Geological Society of America, and also received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and National Science Foundation. He served as President of Pacific Section SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) in 2012, and served for five years as Program Chair of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. In 1991, he received the Charles Schuchert Award for outstanding paleontologist under the age of 40. In 2013, he received the James Shea Award of the National Association of Geology Teachers for outstanding writing and editing the geosciences. In 2015, he received the Joseph T. Gregory award for service to vertebrate paleontology. In 2016 he was named a "Friend of Darwin" by the National Center for Science Education. He has been featured on numerous TV documentaries, including *Paleoworld*, *Walking with Prehistoric Beasts*, *Prehistoric Monsters Revealed*, *Monsterquest*, *Prehistoric Predators: Entelodon and Hyaenodon*, *Conspiracy Road Trip: Creationism*, as well as *Jeopardy!* and *Win Ben Stein's Money*.