

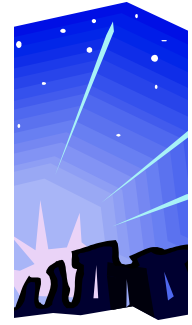
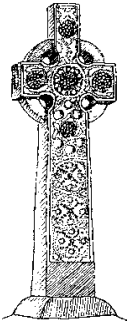
Gaye Hall & Don Neumann

present

The Celtic Circle

The Sacred Sites of Scotland

May 28th - June 11th, 2002



Embark on an unforgettable journey to the sacred sites of one of the world's most beautiful countries. For fourteen days, during the season of Summer Solstice, we will celebrate on ground consecrated hundreds of years ago, in lands that hold many of our ancestral roots. Standing together within circles of stones, we will experience moving rituals...both of ancient origin and of our own making. As pilgrims in the present, on a journey into the past, we will touch Mother Earth in ancient, yet innovative ways. We will explore, also, the sites of early Christendom, where it found its way onto the shores of the British Isles, over fourteen centuries ago. The landscape alone is mysterious and inspiring. The Scots are hearty, and welcoming. Our group will bring its own magic, to co-create a memorable spiritual experience...a time of sacred celebration and joyful curiosity that promises to enrich our lives and to honor our histories.

Your hosts are:

DON NEUMANN, who has led two previous groups to Pre-historic and Celtic Ireland, is a hospital chaplain at the Texas Medical Center. Active in The New Warrior Community since 1993, he holds an M.A. in Christian Ritual traditions from Notre Dame University. His love of all ritual history and traditions, culture and people provides a welcoming ambience for all.

GAYE HALL has led and created workshops on creativity, personal growth and spiritual journeying. She has traveled extensively throughout Scotland and England since 1977. Gaye also leads workshops for Woman Within International. She brings her love of ritual, art, adventure and history to this circle - as she has to many other circles in women's and men's communities.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Houston Departure: **\$3240**
Land Only (no airfare included): **\$2540**

The single supplement is **\$450**.

The following services are included:

- i) Round trip economy class airfare on British Airways from Houston to Edinburgh, via London
- ii) 13 nights' accommodation in first-class/tourist class hotels, double occupancy, all rooms with private facilities.
- iii) 13 full Scottish breakfasts.
- iv) 5 table d'hote dinners, 3 courses + coffee.
- v) Fully qualified Discover Europe courier throughout the tour.
- vi) All ground transportation by private luxury motorcoach and /or ferry as specified in the itinerary
- vii) Local guide for sightseeing of Edinburgh
- viii) All entrance fees to sites featured in the itinerary.
- ix) Fully comprehensive travel and cancellation insurance.
- x) Portage of one suitcase per person.
- xi) All hotel taxes & service charges.

This itinerary is based upon using the following hotels:

Edinburgh	Roxburghe. Georgian hotel on elegant Charlotte Square.
Oban	Alexandra. Waterfront Victorian hotel.
Portree	Rosedale Hotel. In the center of town..
Stornoway	Royal Hotel. Traditional island hotel with a warm welcome.
Inverness	Priory Hotel, Beaulieu. In the grounds of a ruined priory, just outside Inverness.
Ballachulish	The Ballachulish Hotel. Lovely loch-side hotel.
Stirling	Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan. Just outside Stirling.

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Day 01, Tuesday 28th May. We depart Houston this evening aboard our transatlantic flight to London, Gatwick Airport. **Overnight: Plane**

Day 02, Wednesday 29th May. Upon arrival at Gatwick this morning you transfer to the short connecting flight to Edinburgh. Your courier meets you at Edinburgh Airport to escort you to your city-center hotel. There is time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood before a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) Overnight: Edinburgh**

Day 03, Thursday 30th May. Panoramic sightseeing this morning with a local guide introduces the city. We'll tour the New Town, laid out in the 18th century, before crossing to the Royal Mile and the Old Town. After a tour of Edinburgh Castle the afternoon and evening will be free for individual exploration. **(B) Overnight: Edinburgh**

Day 04, Friday 31st May. Leaving Edinburgh this morning, we turn northwest to Oban. Our route takes us around Glasgow, along the banks of Loch Lomond and then along the shores of Loch Fyne,

stopping for lunch in Inveraray, to Kilmartin Glen, one of Scotland's most important prehistoric sites. Here we celebrate the solstice before continuing up the west coast to the port of Oban and our hotel. Free evening. **(B) Overnight: Oban**

Day 05, Saturday 1st June. Today there is an excursion from Oban across to the island of Mull and onwards to the tiny holy island of Iona. It was here that St. Columba founded a monastery in 563 and began the conversion of pagan Scotland to Celtic Christianity. The evening is free to sample one of Oban's local restaurants. **(B) Overnight: Oban**

Day 06, Sunday 2nd June. Our route this morning takes us toward Glencoe and Fort William, in the shadow of Ben Nevis. This must be one of the world's great scenic drives. We stop as appropriate along the way before arriving at Mallaig, for a ferry crossing to the Isle of Skye. We'll stop in Armadale at the Clan Donald Centre before we cross the island and continue north for a late-afternoon arrival at our hotel in Portree. The evening is free to explore the town. **(B, D) Overnight: Portree**

Day 07, Monday 3rd June. This morning's brief panorama of Skye will highlight incredible Dunvegan Castle and its gardens. A stop at Fairy Bridge perhaps, or the Pictish symbol stone of Clach Ard at Tote, before we arrive at Uig for a 2.00pm ferry to Tarbet on the Isle of Harris. On a brief panoramic tour of the island, we visit St. Clements' Church in Rodel and a working tweed mill in Drinishader before crossing the isthmus that joins Harris to the Isle of Lewis. We continue north to our hotel in Stornoway, the largest town in the Outer Hebrides, for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Stornoway**

Day 08, Tuesday 4th June. A full day drive and exploration round the Isle of Lewis today; we'll begin at the Steinacleit Cairn and Stone Circle and then drive to the very tip of Lewis at Port Nis that has a tiny harbour and lovely golden beach. We'll work our way down to the Callanish stones and we'll also pay a visit to the less famous ring at Garynahaine, where we are welcome to walk amongst the stones, and prehistoric Carloway Broch. We'll make our way back to Stornoway where the evening is free as well to try one of the local pubs. **(B) Overnight: Stornoway**

Day 09, Wednesday 5th June. A free morning in Stornoway before we catch the 12.45 pm ferry to Ullapool, arriving back to the mainland at 3.25 pm. It's a spectacular drive along the shores of Loch Broom, across the Dirrie More and down from the Highlands to Inverness. We arrive at our hotel in time for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Inverness**

Day 10, Thursday 6th June. We'll spend part of the morning in Inverness shopping for our picnic lunch that we'll take at the Clava Cairns, an outstanding collection of burial chambers which are encircled by standing stones. Culloden is just a mile or so away and we'll walk the windswept moorland where Bonnie Prince Charlie met his final defeat, extinguishing the Jacobite hope of regaining the crown. Return to Inverness for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Inverness**

Day 11, Friday 7th June. We take a cruise on Loch Ness this morning, ending at the formidable ruins of Urquhart Castle. More sightings of Nessie have happened from the battlements of Urquhart than any other place on the loch. We continue by coach south along the Great Glen, before we turn to the haunting valley of Glen Coe, scene of the most infamous betrayal and massacre in Scottish history. We visit the Folk Museum and Visitor Centre before checking into our hotel. This evening, dinner at Mrs. McTavish's in Glen Coe village. **(B, D) Overnight: Ballachulish**

Day 12, Saturday 8th June. A free day to enjoy the scenic beauty of your highland surroundings. You might want to take a walk through the glens, hire a boat on the Loch or join an excursion into nearby Fort William. **(B) Overnight: Ballachulish**

Day 13, Sunday 9th June. A leisurely day today to Killin and the Falls of Dochart. Free time in Killin for lunch. We continue to Stirling and our hotel. The evening is free. **(B) Overnight: Stirling**

Day 14, Monday 10th June. The morning begins at historic Stirling Castle, hewn out of the rocky crag in the very heart of the city. After free time for lunch in Stirling, there is an optional afternoon excursion to the Wallace Monument and to the site of the Battle of Bannockburn. We return to Stirling for a farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Stirling**

Day 15, Tuesday 11th June. Transfer this morning to Edinburgh Airport for return flights home. Alternatively, stay on for a few days and take an optional extension to Ireland. **(B) Overnight: Home**