



BURNS' COUNTRY

ADVENTURES IN THE SCOTTISH LOWLANDS

AUGUST 30TH - SEPTEMBER 7TH 2020

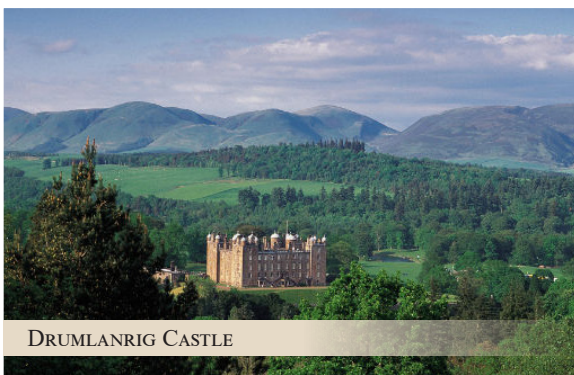
The southwestern corner of Scotland comprises the counties of Ayrshire, Wigtonshire, Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, located in the regions of Strathclyde and Dumfries & Galloway – we call it Burns' Country.

When the Romans came to Britain they found four distinct peoples inhabiting the area north of what became Hadrian's Wall. The people in the region of our tour were the Scotii, from which we now take the name of the whole country and the people who live there. The irony is that the Scotii were actually settlers from Ireland!

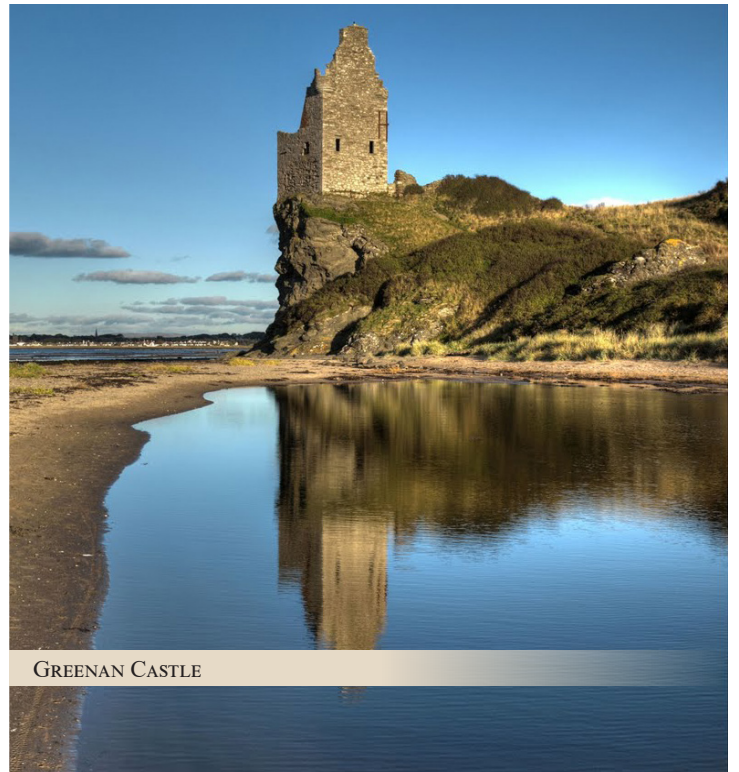
But that is ancient history and the region's claim to fame these days is that it was the home of Scotland's "favorite son," the "Bard of Ayrshire," Robert (Robbie or Rabbie) Burns. His fame is now so widespread that Scots all over the world have founded Burns Clubs and celebrate his birthday every year on January 25th. Burns was born in Alloway in 1759 and died in Dumfries in 1796 – we'll visit both the house he was born in and the house where he was living when he died.

Despite the reflected glory cast upon the region by the "Ploughman Poet," this part of Scotland is well off the usual tourist track that heads up into the Highlands or down through the Borders into England. But just because the lakes and mountains are not as spectacular as they are further north, the gentle rolling hills, dotted with ruined castles, medieval abbeys and megalithic stone circles have a charm and beauty all their own.

This September, join us for an exploration away from the crowds to this little corner of Scottish heaven that is Burns' Country.



DRUMLANRIG CASTLE



GREENAN CASTLE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3660**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 750**

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS: 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS: Breakfast daily, 6 dinners
GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide throughout and local guide for sightseeing in Glasgow
BAGGAGE: Portage of one large suitcase per person
TICKETS: Round trip ferry crossing from Ardrossan to Arran
ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

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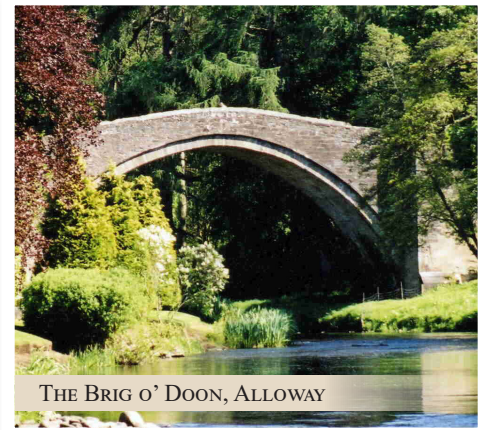


FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH - Departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST - Your morning arrival at Glasgow Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight, there will be a chance to explore the local neighborhood. This evening we'll gather for a dinner party to welcome to Scotland! **(D) OVERNIGHT: GLASGOW**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - This morning the city of Glasgow will be introduced in a panoramic sightseeing tour with a local guide. The city won the coveted title of European City of Culture in 1990 and it has worked hard to shed its grimy industrial image. It is a city of fierce character and an appetite for the avant garde. Our tour will end with a visit to the internationally acclaimed Burrell Collection. The afternoon and evening are free for personal exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: GLASGOW**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - Heading south from the city through Kilmarnock, our first stop will be in the town of Mauchline. Mauchline is where Robbie Burns went to live to escape from his father's strict control, where he wrote some of his best known poems, and where he spent much time on the "cutty stool" in the local church in penance for several local girls unwanted pregnancies! His house is now a museum, which we'll visit. After time for lunch we'll visit nearby Dumfries House, built between 1754 and 1759 for the 5th Earl of Dumfries. The house was preserved and restored largely thanks to the intervention of HRH the Prince of Wales. From here we'll make a brief stop to visit Drumlanrig Castle before ending the day at our country house hotel just north of Dumfries. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DUMFRIES**



THE BRIG O' DOON, ALLOWAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - We'll spend the day today in nearby Dumfries and explore some of its many Burns' connections. Our walking tour will start on Bank Street (formerly known by the attractive name of "Stinking Vennel" when Burns lived here at no.11) and pass the Burns statue to visit the Robert Burns Centre and the Burns House Museum. We'll end our tour by paying our respects at the Burns Mausoleum in St. Michael's churchyard (he died in Dumfries). There will be free time to explore the town on your own before we return to our country house hotel for time to rest and relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DUMFRIES**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH - Our route today takes us south from Dumfries along the coast road round Solway Firth. Our first stop will be Threave Castle and Gardens. Threave Castle was the main stronghold of the "Black Douglasses," the Lords of Galloway. This afternoon, on our way to our hotel in Newton Stewart, we'll stop at the ruined castles of Cardoness and Carsluith and visit the standing stones and chambered cairns at Cairnholy. Dinner will be at our hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: NEWTON STEWART**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH - Today we'll explore The Machars. This lovely isolated peninsula encapsulates the long history of this region. We'll begin with a stop in Wigtown - the National Book Town of Scotland. Wigtown hosts an annual book fair every October and boasts a book shop for every 50 residents! We'll stop in the Isle of Whithorn for lunch and visit nearby St. Ninian's Chapel. Our return journey will take us past neolithic stone circles, iron age settlements and medieval castles. The evening is free when we return to our hotel. **(B) OVERNIGHT: NEWTON STEWART**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH - Leaving Dumfries & Galloway this morning, we cross over into Ayrshire and join the North Sea coast at Girvan. This is an area as famous for golf as it is for its Robert Burns connections. We'll pass the world famous course at Turnberry and arrive at our first visit of the day - Culzean Castle. Culzean is considered one of the greatest achievements of the Scottish architect Robert Adam. This afternoon we continue the short distance to Alloway where we'll visit the Burns Cottage, see the Burns Monument and walk on the Brig o' Doon, made famous in the poem Tam o' Shanter. From here we drive to our hotel, just north of Kilmarnock, where dinner awaits. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BARRHEAD**



CULZEAN - THE ADAM STAIRCASE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - A short drive this morning brings us to Ardrossan, where we board the ferry for Arran. Then crossing takes just under an hour and on arrival at Brodick we'll visit the castle, pause for lunch in the town and then take a circular tour of the island, seeing stone circles, ruined castles, beautiful beaches and spectacular scenery. We'll return to our hotel on the mainland for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BARRHEAD**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH - Morning transfers to nearby Glasgow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner