



The Banks and Braes of Literary Scotland 2023

30 MAY – 17 JUN 2023

Code: 22318

Tour Leaders **Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, David Henderson**

Physical Ratings 

Visit locations that have inspired some of Scotland's famous writers including Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns & Robert Louis Stevenson.

Overview

- Lectures and site visits by [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, with the assistance of award-winning artist [David Henderson](#).
- Explore the beautiful landscapes that inspired generations of poets, from the Scottish Borders to the Highlands, including the glorious Isle of Skye, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond & Loch Katrine.
- Visit the birthplaces and homes of some of Scotland's greatest writers – Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, J.M. Barrie, and Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Visit the National Library in Edinburgh, home to many precious original manuscripts of Scotland's authors, as well as other libraries with special collections.
- Dine in splendour at stunning Dumfries House.
- Enjoy guided walks and special visits in the historic capital, Edinburgh.
- Visit some fabulous Scottish castles – Glamis, Floors, Dunvegan, Eilean Donan, and Inveraray (a filming location in *Downton Abbey*)
- Explore the city of Glasgow's rich artistic collections, and see buildings associated with Charles Rennie Mackintosh.
- Take a trip on the famous Jacobite Railway.
- Dine at historic taverns and restaurants with literary associations, and conclude with a private dinner at Robert Louis Stevenson's home.
- Spend 2 nights within the magnificent Cairngorms National Park at [The Fife Arms](#), a 5-star boutique hotel housed in a former 19th-century coaching inn featuring an exceptional art collection.

Overnight St Boswells (2 nights) • Ayr (3 nights) • Glasgow (3 nights) • Inveraray (1 night) • Portree, Isle of Skye (3 nights) • Braemar (2 nights) • Edinburgh (4 nights)

Weather

The tour is timed for early June when the gardens enjoy their late spring flush. We avoid the busy July/August summer season when the biting midges are most active.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYHTS10mUuQ>

About the Tour

When Robert Louis Stevenson was ill in Samoa, his thoughts turned to the land of his birth: "Be it granted to me to behold you again in dying, Hills of home" he wrote in *Songs of Travel*. He did not live to fulfil that wish, but died in Samoa and was buried on a mountain overlooking the Pacific. His body had gone travelling, but Stevenson's heart had remained in the bonny hills of Scotland. As with so many great Scottish writers, his love for his country shines through his works.

A great work of literature has its own life and can be appreciated without knowledge of the places and buildings mentioned in it, and yet an understanding of the environment and experiences of the author can hugely enrich our appreciation of literature. Visiting places connected with famous novels, poems or plays brings the excitement of recognising places we have long known in our imaginations and the thrill of new perceptions into literary works. To connect with the lives of Scottish writers, to see firsthand the landscapes they described, to walk through their homes and to see the original manuscripts of their novels and poems – these are awe-inspiring and wonderful experiences!

This tour offers you that opportunity. We will follow in the footsteps of Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Walter Scott, James Boswell, John Buchan and J.M. Barrie. You will encounter authors of

whom you perhaps know little – poet Neil Munro, novelist Lewis Grassie Gibbon, naturalist Gavin Maxwell who wrote of otters, Violet Jacob, and Muriel Spark who wrote of schoolgirls. Modern writers are still being inspired by the Scottish cities and countryside – Ian Rankin and Quintin Jardine portray their fictional detectives delving into Edinburgh drug crime and prostitution. J.K. Rowling created Harry Potter in Edinburgh cafes and Alexander McCall Smith has made Scotland Street in Edinburgh famous around the world. Their works are a part of our tour as well. Sometimes we will follow in the footsteps of English writers who have travelled north – Dr Johnson may have remarked that “the noblest prospect a Scotsman ever sees, is the high road that leads him to England”, but he loved touring the Highlands with his friend James Boswell, and we will travel part of the route they both described so memorably in their travel books.

This will be a cultural journey as well as a literary one, with visits to historic castles, to places of battle and massacre that have inspired ballads and songs, to sites connected with music such as Loch Lomond and the crossing to the Isle of Skye. We will look out for the legendary monster at Loch Ness, and will learn about the great architectural brothers Robert and William Adam. You will enjoy the contrasts of being in an elegant Georgian city one day and amidst wild scenery the next; you will visit grand homes and humble cottages; you will climb up a lighthouse, and search for otters. Libraries, those rich repositories of literature, are included, with private viewings of some of their treasures. In shops filled with literary memorabilia you can purchase or browse. Tartans and shortbread, banks and braes, whisky and wynds, bagpipes and haggis – all will add local colour and Scottishness to our journey.

In all these places we will investigate the role played by a sense of place in literary creation. Just how much did environment shape each writer? How did a weaver’s cottage in Kirriemuir influence the creation of Peter Pan, what was it about Georgian Edinburgh that inspired the creation of Miss Jean Brodie, why did the job of ploughing result in one of Burns’ greatest poems? Where does local dialect shape works of Scottish literature – Burns and Lewis Grassie Gibbon chose to write in the vernacular and this is what makes their works so unique, but how does their writing transcend the regional to become universal? In what ways has Scotland’s turbulent history formed novels such as *Kidnapped* or *Sunset Song* and poems such as *Scots Wha Hae* and *Tam O’Shanter*? How did Scottish writers begin the country’s tourist industry? This will be a journey through extremely beautiful scenery and varied landscapes, but it will also be a journey through the very different minds and imaginations of some marvellous writers.

It is not possible to include all the literary sites of Scotland in this tour – the country’s written heritage is too vast. The tour aims to be informative, varied and fun. It will inspire you to read new works and re-discover old favourites, it will delight you with magnificent landscapes and instruct you about the lives of famous writers. You will travel in the company of others who share your fascination with good books. Treat yourself and discover the literary and historical treasures of glorious Scotland.

Leaders



Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For over 25 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and a memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*.

Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on history and art, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools, for a great variety of clubs and societies, and on zoom. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader.



David Henderson

Award-winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints half the year in Italy, David brings an artist's eye & profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours.

After initial studies in architecture, David Henderson spent four years at London's Royal Academy Schools where he was awarded the S.J. Solomon prize for figure painting and was twice selected for the Academy's annual summer exhibition. Since then, he has held over 30 solo exhibitions in London, Rome, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. His work has been selected for a number of prestigious group exhibitions, including the New English Art Club, the Doug Moran National Portrait Prize and Tattersall's Landscape Prize. David has been the recipient of numerous awards including - on two occasions - Best of Show at the Brisbane Rotary art exhibition. In 2021, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Queensland Art Society. David has lectured for the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland University of Technology and the Brisbane Institute of

Art. He has accompanied over 50 tours for ASA to Italy, France, the UK and the USA and now spends a part of each year living and working in Italy. David brings a trained artist's eye to an analysis of painting, sculpture and architecture and takes great pleasure in sharing his knowledge.

For more about David's work as an artist, see his website: www.visualartist.info/davidhenderson

See YouTube short commentary "Painting in Venice" by David Henderson www.youtube.com

See: *Grand Tour: Artist Abroad brings home swag of sentimental works*, Brisbane News August 26 – September 1 issue.

See a narrated video by David Henderson, in which he makes drawings from a painting by Tintoretto in Venice's Accademia Galleries as a way of engaging with its composition, technique and subject matter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDF3xRy9dco#action=share>

ASA's Travel Tuesdays: Episode 1: Lecture by David Henderson: 'The Art of Venice'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CC6k9rPpz7Q>

Combine this tour with

Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023

16 MAY – 26 MAY 2023

Gardens in Spanish Culture 2023

9 MAY – 28 MAY 2023

Iceland, Land of Ice and Fire: Myths, Legends & Landscapes 2023

17 JUN – 4 JUL 2023



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight/ferry schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches and dinners as indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

St Boswells - 2 nights

Day 1: Tuesday 30 May, Arrive Edinburgh Airport – St Boswells

- Transfer Edinburgh Airport to St Boswells
- Orientation Walk
- Light Evening Dinner

Meeting Point: Please meet your group leaders at the Edinburgh Airport at 3pm.

Our tour will officially commence with a transfer from Edinburgh Airport to the historic [Buccleuch Arms](#) in St Boswells. St Boswells, which lies on the south side of the River Tweed, is in the heart of Sir Walter Scott Country. The town is located on the route of St Cuthbert's Way, a long-distance footpath linking Melrose Abbey to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. In the evening we will take a short stroll through the village before enjoying our first group dinner at our charming hotel. (Overnight St Boswells) D

Day 2: Wednesday 31 May, St Boswells – Kelso – Peebles – St Boswells

- Floors Castle & Gardens
- The John Buchan Story Museum, Peebles
- Literary walking tour of Peebles

This morning we visit Floors Castle, the country house designed by Scotland's leading early 18th-century architect, William Adam, for the first Duke of Roxburghe. Overlooking the valley where the Tweed and Teviot rivers converge, it also features spectacular gardens. Sir Walter Scott described Floors Castle with its idyllic setting as "a kingdom for Oberon and Titania to dwell in". Floors also became 'Greystoke', ancestral seat of the Earl of Greystoke, aka Tarzan, in the 1984 movie *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*. In 2011 an unpublished letter written by Robert Burns was unearthed at Floors. It was sent by Burns from Ellisland Farm, and is dated 13 May 1789. Accompanying the letter is an early version of the Burns poem, *On Seeing a Wounded Hare*. We will view this recent 'discovery' and enjoy a guided tour of the castle, followed by a tour of the gardens with the Head Gardener. Lunch will be provided in the Courtyard Café.

The Border Country was the site of many battles between Scots and English and it's an extremely picturesque part of Scotland. This afternoon we drive to Peebles. Brothers William and Robert Chambers (of *Chambers Dictionary* fame) were born here and John Buchan lived for a while in Peebles. When we arrive we'll visit the John Buchan Museum, situated in the Chambers Institution in Peebles High Street, a building that William Chambers gifted to the town. John Buchan was a diplomat, biographer, publisher and politician. He longed to be remembered as a serious man of letters, but it was his 1914 'shocker' *The Thirty-Nine Steps* for which he is remembered today. We shall take a late afternoon guided walk around this charming market town. (Overnight St Boswells) BL

Ayr - 3 nights

Day 3: Thursday 1 June, St Boswells – Dryburgh – Melrose – Selkirk – Ayr

- Dryburgh Abbey incl. the grave of Sir Walter Scott
- Scott's View, Melrose
- Abbotsford: The Home of Sir Walter Scott
- Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom, Selkirk
- Dinner at The Tam O'Shanter Inn

Dryburgh Abbey was founded in 1150 and Sir Walter Scott and Douglas Haig are buried in its grounds. We take a guided tour of this beautiful and peaceful place.

From Dryburgh Abbey, we drive to 'Scott's View', his favourite stopping place, for a view over the Tweed. Scott stopped here so often that, on the day of his funeral, the horses taking his body to the Abbey stopped automatically in the place that was so special to their master.

Then we visit Abbotsford, loved home of Sir Walter Scott. Scott single-handedly reinvented Scottish culture, vastly increased Scottish tourism, and restored his country to royal favour. He also transformed Abbotsford from a run-down farm named 'Clarty Hole' to a mock-baronial mansion. We will see its treasury of books, armoury and many literary and historical mementoes, and explore its lovely gardens.

Another attractive Border town is Selkirk. Here Sir Walter Scott's statue stands outside the courthouse where he worked as Sheriff. The courthouse is an excellent museum which we will visit. Selkirk was also the birthplace of Mungo Park, surgeon, explorer and author and he is commemorated by a statue in the High Street.

In the late afternoon we continue to the town of Ayr, located on the southwest coast of Scotland. On arrival we dine at the Tam O'Shanter Inn, which Robert Burns is said to have frequented. Burns based the character of Tam on his friend Douglas Graham who was renowned for getting seriously drunk on market

days, reputedly at this tavern. We will enjoy dinner in this traditional thatched pub, its walls lined with poetry, though we will perhaps be rather more abstemious than was Tam. (Overnight Ayr) BLD

Day 4: Friday 2 June, Ayr – Auchinleck – Cumnock – Ayr

- Morning at leisure in the historic country town of Ayr
- Auchinleck Old Kirk and Graveyard
- Dumfries House: Life in Georgian times, Cumnock
- Dumfries House: Private dinner, Cumnock

This morning is free for you to explore the town of Ayr. Daniel Defoe commented on its “good river” and “handsome stone bridge of four arches” (Burns wrote his poem *The Twa Brigs O’Ayr* about this bridge and its newer rival further along the river).

Auchinleck House was the family seat of James Boswell, 9th Laird of Auchinleck, writer, diarist and biographer of Dr Johnson. Boswell disappointed his father, a judge, by turning into a wild young man, and his exploits with women were notorious. Boswell once described his home as “a most sweet, romantic place”. The house is not open to the public, but we can see the exterior, visit the local church and view the Boswell exhibition to learn more about this social-climbing, complex and remarkable man.

Dumfries House, now owned by The Princes Foundation, is a Palladian country house built in the 1750s for the 5th Earl of Dumfries by John Adam and Robert Adam. It is noted for having retained much of its original 18th century furniture, including fine examples of the work of Thomas Chippendale. This stunning house was recently saved by the intervention of Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay.

In the early evening we take a private tour of the house to view its remarkable collection. Our tour will follow the theme of life within a Georgian country house. We’ll learn about the family members and how the house would have operated for them. A file of letters, sent by a member of the family from Dumfries House, provides a wonderful insight into everyday life! Reference will also be made to Robert Burns who, although there is no evidence he visited Dumfries House, was friendly with the Estate Factor and included the poem *To John Kennedy, Dumfries House* in his collected works. There are also interesting historical links between the Earls of Dumfries and James Boswell, who was courted by the 6th Earl and who dined at Dumfries House. Our tour will conclude with an atmospheric private dinner in either the Library or the grander Great Stewards Dining Room (Overnight Ayr) BD

Day 5: Saturday 3 June, Ayr – Auldgirth – Dumfries – Ayr

- Robert Burns Ellisland Farm, Auldgirth
- Lunch at The Globe Inn, Dumfries
- Robert Burns House, Dumfries
- Robert Burns Centre, Dumfries

Scotland’s National Bard is Robert Burns and today we visit places associated with his extraordinary life and works. Ellisland Farm was rented by Burns from 1788 to 1791 and, like his other farms, it failed to flourish. It was while living here that he took on the extra job of excise officer, and while here he wrote his masterpiece *Tam O’Shanter*. Burns’ time at Ellisland was a particularly creative period for him, with over 130 poems and songs, but, because his crops were not as productive, Burns was glad to leave “this accursed farm” for Dumfries.

In Dumfries we find the historic Globe Inn, where Burns frequently over-imbibed. He also got the landlord’s

niece pregnant! His favourite chair is still there and we will enjoy lunch where the very first Burns Supper was ever held.

A short walk away is the Burns House. Such was their admiration for Burns that Wordsworth, Coleridge and Keats all came here on literary pilgrimage. It was in this sandstone house that Burns died, aged only 37. The nearby Robert Burns Centre is an award-winning visitor centre telling the story of Burns' rise from humble ploughman to internationally famous poet. (Overnight Ayr) BL

Glasgow - 3 nights

Day 6: Sunday 4 June, Ayr – Alloway – Tarbolton – Mauchline – Glasgow

- Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway
- The Bachelor's Club, Tarbolton
- Afternoon tea at Poosie Nansies Inn, Mauchline

Much of today will be dedicated to further travels in the footsteps of Robert Burns. Ralph Waldo Emerson said of Burns: "Burns has given voice to all the experiences of common life ... he has made the Lowland Scotch a Doric dialect of fame. It is the only example in history of a language made classic by the genius of a single man." We see where it all began in the small white house in Alloway where Burns was born in 1759, with its adjacent museum containing rare manuscripts and editions. The bed in which his mother gave birth to him is on display and there are many other items which make this a very special place of pilgrimage.

The raucous adventure of *Tam O'Shanter* is Burns's finest poem. To get a vivid sense of its setting we will visit Auld Alloway Kirk where Tam saw the witches dancing in an eerie glow and where the poet's father is buried. There we can also see the Brig O'Doon which poor Tam must cross in order to escape the pursuing witch, and the Burns Monument.

In the afternoon we depart for Glasgow via Tarbolton and Mauchline. In Tarbolton we visit the Bachelors' Club. This restored 17th-century thatched building is where Burns attended dancing lessons in 1779 and in 1780 formed a debating club. Nearby is the town of Mauchline where we stop for afternoon tea at the historical Poosie Nansies Inn. Burns met his long-suffering wife, Jean Armour, in Mauchline. We will view the exterior of their home which now serves as a small museum. Nearby, the graveyard of St Michael's Church contains several of the couple's children, along with the poet's brother and local people immortalised in his poems.

We spend the next 3 nights in Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland and today a very lively, fascinating place. (Overnight Glasgow) B

Day 7: Monday 5 June, Glasgow

- The Burrell Collection
- The Mitchell Library – Special Collections: Robert Burns Collection
- Time at leisure

The Burrell Collection is a Glasgow museum that is not to be missed. The building in Pollok Park seems unassuming, but inside is a treasure trove of art, crafts and paintings. Superb medieval tapestries, Rodin's *The Thinker*, a Rembrandt self-portrait, paintings by Degas and Manet – these are just a few of the items in the collection.

This afternoon, by special appointment, we visit the Robert Burns Collection which is held in the Special Collections department of the Mitchell Library. The collection is one of the largest, most wide-ranging and growing collections of books on Burns in the world. Highlights of the collection include 15 original manuscripts in the poet's hand, the only surviving letter written by Burns in Scots, and the only copy in existence of *The Ordination*.

Following our visit there will be some free time to explore Glasgow at leisure. (Overnight Glasgow) B

Day 8: Tuesday 6 June, Glasgow – Helensburgh – Glasgow

- The Hill House: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's architectural masterpiece
- Walking tour of Glasgow, including The Glasgow Art Club
- Dinner at Mackintosh at the Willow

This morning we drive from Glasgow to The Hill House (1902–1904), Helensburgh, designed for Walter Blackie of the publishers Blackie and Son. This is one of Charles Rennie and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh's most famous works, probably second only to their Glasgow School of Art. Mackintosh also designed most of the interior, furniture and fittings. His attention to detail extended to prescribing the colour of cut flowers that the Blackies might place on a table in the living room! As part of the 10-year conservation programme, the London firm of Carmody Groarke has designed 'The Box', a steel frame structure covered in chainmail mesh, which encloses the house and protects it from the weather. There are elevated walkways looping around and over the top of the house that afford unique perspectives of the house and surrounding countryside. Following a private tour of the house, there will be time to explore 'The Box' and the lovely gardens.

Adam Smith, James Boswell, Tobias Smollett, John Buchan, AJ Cronin and Alexander MacLean were all graduates of Glasgow University and the city has a vibrant contemporary literary scene. This afternoon we take a guided walk led by Peter Trowles, the former Mackintosh Curator at the Glasgow School of Art. Our walk will include a visit to the Glasgow Art Club where we will have a tour of the building .

Tonight we dine at the recently restored Willow Tea Rooms on Sauchiehall Street, now called 'Mackintosh at the Willow'. They are the only surviving tea rooms designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh – they were created for local entrepreneur and patron Miss Kate Cranston. There will be time to view the permanent Mackintosh Collection housed at the Willow and enjoy a private dining experience in the beautiful restaurant. (Overnight Glasgow) BD

Inveraray - 1 night

Day 9: Wednesday 7 June, Glasgow – Loch Katrine – Inveraray

- Loch Katrine: Cruise on the Sir Walter Scott Steamship (*vessel to be confirmed in 2023*)
- Inveraray Castle
- Para Handy Cottage: birthplace of Neil Munro, Inveraray

The Trossachs, an area known as 'the Highlands in miniature', became a mecca for tourists after Sir Walter Scott's popular works *The Lady of the Lake* and *Rob Roy* appeared. The 'Lady' was Ellen Douglas and her 'lake' was Loch Katrine. We will view the loch from the Sir Walter Scott Steamer, and admire the scenery just as Wordsworth, Keats and so many Scott fans did.

In the afternoon we drive to Inveraray Castle, one of Scotland's finest stately homes. The ancestral seat of

the Dukes of Argyll, Chiefs of Clan Campbell, Inveraray Castle was designed by Roger Morris and decorated by Robert Mylne. The castle's 16-acre garden includes formal lawns and flowerbeds which feature a stunning collection of rhododendrons and azaleas (in flower from April to June). Inveraray castle was the chosen location for the 2012 Christmas episode of *Downton Abbey* during which the Granthams and their staff travel north to the fictional Scottish home of 'Duneagle Castle'.

We spend the night at the Inveraray Inn which overlooks Loch Fyne. In 1787 Robert Burns was rejected as a guest of the Duke of Argyll at Inveraray Castle and most likely stayed at this inn. The journalist, author and literary critic, Neil Munro was born in a cottage in Inveraray, the illegitimate son of a kitchen maid. Munro once wrote: "I had the right fond heart for my own countryside". We will take an evening leisurely stroll through the town to view the little home where he was born (which now bears a plaque commemorating him) – it's now called Para Handy Cottage. (Overnight Inveraray) BLD

Portree, Isle of Skye - 3 nights

Day 10: Thursday 8 June, Inveraray – Glencoe – Fort William – Mallaig – Portree

- Glencoe National Nature Reserve: The An Torr Trail (1hr easy trail) & Visitors Centre
- The Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig

We drive north today, taking 'the Road to the Isles' up into the Highlands which are such an historic and stunning part of Scotland. Glencoe, site of the infamous massacre which has been mourned over in story and song, is in *Kidnapped* country where David Balfour and Alan Breck Stewart make their memorable escape through the heather. We shall take a one-hour guided walk in this awe-inspiring valley on the picturesque An Torr Trail before visiting the excellent Glencoe Visitors Centre which explains the 1692 massacre. Our lunch break there will give us time to admire the spectacular glen.

Today's travellers can take the bridge across to the Isle of Skye, but that's an unromantic way to get there. We shall drive to Fort William where we board The Jacobite steam train. The Jacobite runs a distance of 70 kilometres on the West Highland line between Fort William and Mallaig, passing through an area of great scenic beauty including alongside Loch Eil, Glenfinnan Viaduct and Arisaig. The line, which first opened in 1901, was made famous as the 'Hogwarts Express' in the Harry Potter films, and it has appeared in dozens of other films as well.

After alighting from the train, we'll take the ferry from Mallaig, crossing as did Bonnie Prince Charlie "like a bird on the wing, over the sea to Skye". Many writers have loved Skye – Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *The Skye Boat Song*, Mary Stewart set her popular novel *Wildfire at Midnight* there, George Orwell and Compton MacKenzie were frequent visitors. Our base on Skye for 3 nights will be in the colourful harbour town of Portree. (Overnight Portree, Isle of Skye) BD

Day 11: Friday 9 June, Portree – Eilean Bàn – Armadale – Portree

- Eilean Bàn: Gavin Maxwell cottage, lighthouse & wildlife hide
- Armadale Castle: Library, Archives & Gardens, Isle of Skye

Just below the Skye Road bridge is the little island of Eilean Bàn (now linked to the mainland by a causeway) and a fascinating cottage with one very long room. Originally it was home to lighthouse keepers, but then became the residence of author, naturalist, aristocrat, shark-hunter and social renegade Gavin Maxwell, author of *Ring of Bright Water*. "I felt as if I were coming home", Maxwell wrote when he moved into it in 1968. We can climb to the top of the island's lighthouse which was built by Robert Louis

Stevenson's father and uncle, and hopefully see the island's resident otters.

Armadale Castle, a ruined country house, was once the seat of the MacDonalds of Sleat. Since 1925 the castle, abandoned by the MacDonald family, has fallen into ruin but the magnificent 40 acres of woodland gardens have been maintained. We will tour the gardens and take a private tour of the Library & Archives which are housed in the Museum building. Covering all aspects of Scottish culture and history, the library has one of the best reference collections in northwest Scotland, including a fine collection of poetry from the 15th century to the 21st century. (Overnight Portree, Isle of Skye) BLD

Day 12: Saturday 10 June, Portree – Dunvegan – Trotternish Peninsula – Portree

- Dunvegan Castle & Gardens
- Lunch at The Three Chimneys, Dunvegan
- The Trotternish Loop

Skye is the most romantic and picturesque of the Western Isles and we spend a wonderful day exploring its magnificent scenery and literary connections. We will be following in the footsteps of Dr Johnson and James Boswell who travelled the Highlands together in 1773. Both men wrote accounts of their travels and these make fascinating reading. Dunvegan Castle was their base for 10 days – Johnson was impressed by the hospitality he received and today his portrait is on display there. We will tour the castle, home of Clan MacLeod.

Following our visit to the castle we shall dine at The Three Chimneys, a world-renowned Scottish restaurant set in a stunning location beside the sea.

The best views of Skye are those dominated by the Cuillins, dark jagged mountains that inspired Mary Stewart's story of mountaineering and murder, *Wildfire at Midnight*. A scenic drive, with photo opportunities will be the last item on the day's itinerary. (Overnight Portree, Isle of Skye) BLD

Braemar - 2 nights

Day 13: Sunday 11 June, Portree – Loch Duich – Loch Ness – Braemar

- Eilean Donan Castle
- Highland drive via Loch Ness

Eilean Donan Castle is probably the most photographed castle in Scotland. Perched on a rock in a wonderfully strategic position, the castle was said to have been envisaged by its creator in a dream. It has been used by many movie-makers, notably in the James Bond film *The World is Not Enough*.

We continue our scenic drive to Loch Ness, where we pause for photos and a bit of Nessie-spotting. Stories of a beast in the loch date back to the 6th century and children's literature has made the most of such a monster, as has the Scottish tourism industry. Glen Urquhart Castle is beside the loch and, like Dr Johnson, we will stop there to admire the views.

We spend the next 2 nights in the delightful village of Braemar, situated at the eastern gateway to the Cairngorms National Park. This evening's dinner will be at the hotel. (Overnight Braemar) BLD

Day 14: Monday 12 June, Braemar – Montrose – Stonehaven – Dunnottar Castle – Braemar

- House of Dun: William Adam's Georgian country house, Montrose
- Harbour town of Stonehaven
- Optional walk to the dramatic ruined Castle of Dunnottar (immortalised in *Braveheart*)
- Robert Louis Stevenson Cottage, 3 Glenshee Road, Braemar

The writer and poet, Violet Jacob (1863-1946), author of *Flemington* and *Tales of Angus*, was a member of the Kennedy-Erskine family and was born in the House of Dun. We take a private tour of this charming Georgian country house which was designed by William Adam.

From Montrose we journey to the charming harbour town of Stonehaven. Lewis Grassie Gibbon, pseudonym of James Leslie Mitchell, grew up in Stonehaven. He is best known for his trilogy *A Scots Quair*, set in northeast Scotland and considered to be among the defining works of 20th-century Scottish Renaissance. The first volume in the trilogy, *Sunset Song*, was voted Scotland's most loved novel.

Following a light lunch in one of the harbour's cafés, there will be an optional walk along the coastal path to Dunnottar Castle. This ruined medieval fortress, perched on a rocky headland, has been besieged by Vikings, captured by William Wallace (of *Braveheart* fame) and was once repository of the crown jewels of Scotland. **Note:** The walk from Stonehaven follows a cliff path which, while safe and sound underfoot, needs a reasonable level of fitness and appropriate footwear. It's quite steep at the initial point and levels off somewhat after that. Once at the Castle there are around 260 stairs to go down and up to get into the Castle.

In the late afternoon we return to Braemar for a short stroll of the village and to view the exterior of the Robert Louis Stevenson Cottage. This is the house where Stevenson, who suffered from respiratory illness, spent a summer recuperating – the village was renowned for its healthy air. The plaque above the door reads 'HERE R L STEVENSON SPENT THE SUMMER OF 1881 AND WROTE 'TREASURE ISLAND', HIS FIRST GREAT WORK.' (Overnight Braemar) BLD

Edinburgh - 4 nights

Day 15: Tuesday 13 June, Braemar – Kirriemuir – Glamis Castle – Edinburgh

- J M Barrie's Birthplace, Kirriemuir
- Glamis Castle & Gardens

On May 9th, 1860, in the village of Kirriemuir, there was one major event and one, apparently, minor event. The Barrie family purchased 'six hair-bottomed chairs' and J.M. Barrie was born. As he was his parent's 9th child, his birth was the minor event; the arrival of the chairs was far more exciting! We will visit Barrie's birthplace (the chairs are still there), see the washhouse which inspired Wendy's house in *Peter Pan*, and see the town's statue of the boy who never grew old.

Picturesque Glamis Castle has been owned by the Lyon family since the 14th century. It was the childhood home of H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon), and the legendary setting for Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (Macbeth is Thane of Glamis). Sir Walter Scott spent a night in the castle in 1793. In 1830 Scott published an account of his stay, and added that Glamis was said to hide a secret room. The legend of this secret chamber containing a hidden heir, was one of the great talking points of the 19th century. J.M. Barrie visited the castle and read stories to the two young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret. We take a guided tour of the castle and its Italianate Garden, laid out in 1910 by the Queen Mother's mother, Countess Cecilia.

Then we travel south to Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, rich with literary associations. In fact, UNESCO designated it its very first 'World City of Literature'. (Overnight Edinburgh) BL

Day 16: Wednesday 14 June, Edinburgh

- Palace of Holyroodhouse
- The Royal Mile: Canongate Church, John Knox House & St Giles' Cathedral
- Lady Stair's House Writer's Museum
- Time at leisure

Edinburgh, the 'Athens of the North', has been home to almost every great Scottish writer – Robbie Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Boswell, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Muriel Spark, and many more. Today it is home to Alexander McCall Smith, Ian Rankin and J.K. Rowling. We will spend the morning exploring one of the most historic streets in Britain – the Royal Mile, which Tobias Smollett called "a hot bed of genius" in 1766.

We begin with a visit to the royal residence Holyroodhouse, where Mary, Queen of Scots gave birth to James I of England, and where William Dunbar was once court poet. Continuing along the Royal Mile, we visit Cannongate Kirk with its charming memorial to poet Robert Ferguson, pass by John Knox's House and call in at St Giles Cathedral with its memorials to Burns, Stevenson and to Scott's novel *The Heart of Midlothian*.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we make our way to Lady Stair's House, a historic tenement which now houses a writers' museum. Dedicated to the lives and works of Scotland's greatest literary figures, the museum has permanent displays on Scott, Burns and Stevenson, and changing exhibitions on contemporary Scottish authors.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. You may wish to visit Edinburgh Castle, the earliest parts of which date from 1100. It has a stunning setting and holds the Scottish Crown Jewels (found, after being mislaid for many years, by Sir Walter Scott). Or you could visit historic Mary King's Close, the excellent Scottish National Gallery, or make your way to Leith to board the Royal Yacht Britannia. (Overnight Edinburgh) B

Day 17: Thursday 15 June, Edinburgh – South Queensferry – Swanston – Colinton – Corstorphine Hill – Edinburgh

- Edinburgh New Town Coach Tour: In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson
- Lunch at Hawes Inn, South Queensferry
- Village of Swanston incl. Swanston Cottage
- Colinton Village: RL Stevenson Poetry Trail, Colinton Parish Church & the Swing Café
- David Balfour and Alan Breck Stewart Statue, Corstorphine Hill

In the late 1700s Edinburgh was a stinking, dirty city. Its main streets were famous for the calls of 'Gardyloo' as residents emptied chamber pots from upper windows. Many residents therefore were eager to escape the filth when a New Town was planned, with elegant squares and gardens, north of the city. James Boswell, Burns, Scott, David Hume, Shelley, RL Stevenson, Kenneth Grahame and Hugh MacDiarmid have all been residents in this UNESCO World Heritage area.

Today we follow in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson. First we visit Stevenson's birthplace at 8 Howard Place. From there we'll walk to the Royal Botanic Gardens to see the pond where as a boy he sailed

his paper boats. The family moved to 9 Inverleith Terrace in January 1851 and then to 17 Heriot Row where RLS spent most of his boyhood. We'll pass these residences and also view 14 Canonmills, where he attended school in 1857. We'll view the Edinburgh Academy (his high school), and visit the Old College Quadrangle at the university, where he studied law. As a slight detour we will call into the Oxford Bar, Inspector Rebus's favourite pub (and the favourite of his creator, Ian Rankin).

Late morning, we depart Edinburgh for lunch at the Hawes Inn at South Queensferry. The 17th-century inn is almost underneath the Forth railway bridge, and it was the setting for the kidnap in *Kidnapped*. The inn is wonderfully atmospheric and has Stevenson memorabilia – we will enjoy lunch here.

In 1867, RLS's father leased Swanston Cottage, a property just outside Edinburgh on the northern slopes of the Pentland Hills. The family often stayed there, and RLS wrote about the Swanston gardener Robert Young and the shepherd John Tod in *An Old Scotch Gardener* (1871) and *Pastoral* (1887). These essays were later included in *Memories and Portraits* (1887). He also used Swanston in his fiction – it was Flora's home in *St Ives* (1898). We will visit this tiny hamlet which features a number of charming thatched cottages and view the exterior of RLS's cottage.

From Swanston we travel to the picturesque village of Colinton. Colinton Manse, by the Water of Leith, was home to Stevenson's grandfather, Lewis Balfour, who was minister of Colinton Parish Church. As a child, Stevenson often visited here. He developed a strong bond with his Aunt Jane Whyte Balfour, who lived at the manse. He also played here with his cousins. The manse's garden and his memories of playing there inspired poems in *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885). Stevenson also wrote about his experiences at Colinton in *The Manse* (1887), later included in *Memories and Portraits*. We will follow the RL Stevenson Poetry Trail, marked by a series of plaques, through the village to view the house and church, and enjoy afternoon tea at The Swing Café. Stevenson wrote a poem about the swing in the manse garden where he had played as a child ("How do you like to go up in a swing, Up in the air so blue?"). The location of the swing can be seen, outside the Dell Room window, in the old yew tree.

On our return journey to Edinburgh we make a brief stop to view the statue of David Balfour and Alan Breck Stewart, the main characters in *Kidnapped*. They said farewell to each other at a spot referred to as "Rest and Be Thankful" on Corstorphine Hill, which is where the statue stands. It was unveiled in 2004 by Sir Sean Connery. (Overnight Edinburgh) BL

Day 18: Friday 16 June, Edinburgh

- National Library of Scotland
- White Hart Inn
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell Dinner at The Stevenson House

The National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge has priceless archives, including manuscripts of Hugh MacDiarmid, Robert Garioch and others. A recent addition is the John Murray archive, an incredible collection of papers and letters relating to the publishing firm of John Murray, founded by a Scot but based in London. Seven generations of John Murrays published works by the great authors of their day – Darwin, Jane Austen, Byron, David Livingstone, Disraeli, Washington Irving, Herman Melville and many more. We will enjoy a talk about the incredible collection before looking round the exhibition.

The Grassmarket is a street rich in literary associations, from William Dunbar to Wordsworth. We will stroll to the Grassmarket via the Elephant House Café, where J.K. Rowling wrote her first *Harry Potter* book, and will stop and admire Greyfriar's Bobby, the statue of a faithful little dog. In the Grassmarket we'll enjoy a short

walk along the historic street with its tales of hangings, body-snatchers and visiting poets. Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy stayed at the White Hart Inn because it was cheap.

Following an afternoon at leisure we end our tour with a private farewell dinner at Robert Louis Stevenson's home. He grew up in this house, and was often ill in bed there. His illness inspired *The Land of Counterpane*, while the lamplighter who came along the street each night to light the gas was the inspiration behind his poem *The Lamplighter*. The old lamp outside the house has been preserved because of this poem. It's a very special place for our last night of the tour. (Overnight Edinburgh) BD

Day 19: Saturday 17 June, Depart Edinburgh

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Edinburgh after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Edinburgh Airport. B

Accommodation

ASA has selected 3- to 5-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure, in the meantime a summary is given below:

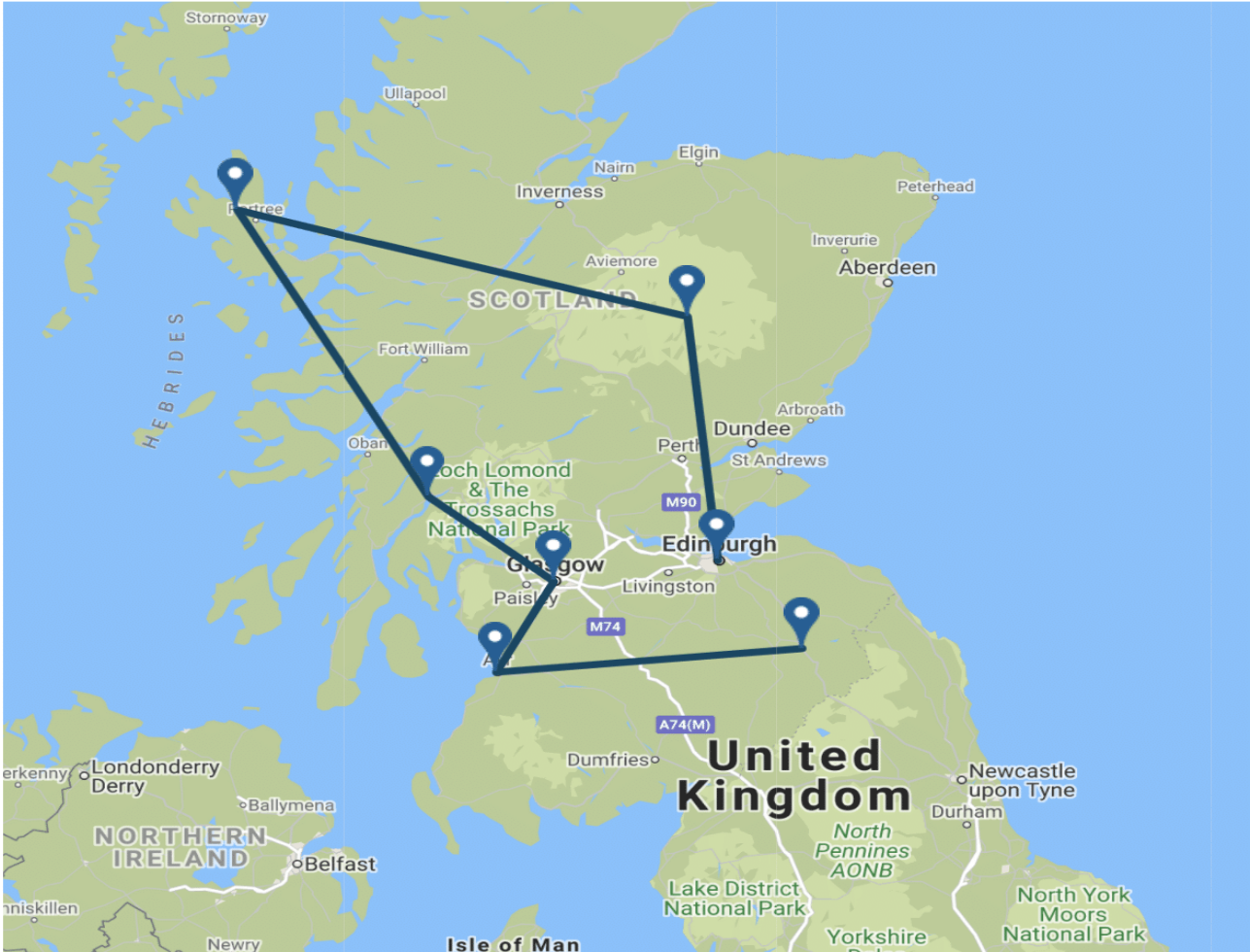
- St Boswells (2 nights): 4-star Buccleuch Arms Hotel – an award-winning hotel dating back to 1836, located within a 5-minute walk from the River Tweed in the heart of the Scottish Borders. www.buccleucharms.com
- Ayr (3 nights): 4-star Fairfield House Hotel – housed in a restored Victorian mansion situated on Ayr's seafront. www.fairfieldhotel.co.uk
- Glasgow (3 nights): 4-star Apex City of Glasgow Hotel – a modern, boutique-style hotel in the heart of the vibrant city centre. www.apexhotels.co.uk
- Inveraray (1 night): 3-star The Inveraray Inn – opened in 1755, this historic hotel which was designed by John Adam, overlooks Loch Fyne. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, various famous figures stayed at, and in some cases wrote about, The Inveraray Inn including Robert Burns, Johnson & Boswell and Dorothy Wordsworth. www.inveraray-inn.co.uk
- Portree, Isle of Skye (3 nights): 4-star Skeabost Hotel– 23 acres of woodland on the edge of a loch, with views out to sea and crofting hamlets. <https://skyehotel.co.uk/skeabost/>
- Braemar (2 nights): 5-star The Fife Arms – housed in a Victorian coaching inn, situated within the village of Braemar, deep in the breathtaking Cairngorms National Park. Owned by Iwan and Manuela Wirth of internationally acclaimed art gallery Hauser & Wirth, the property has recently undergone a complete renovation and boasts a stunning art collection and a garden by a royal-approved designer. thefifearms.com
- Edinburgh (4 nights): 5-star InterContinental Edinburgh The George – undergone a recent multi-million pound refurbishment, this Grade II listed building comprising at its heart, five Georgian townhouses built in 1775 for Edinburgh's most prosperous citizens, including acclaimed novelist Susan Ferrier and her lawyer father James Ferrier. www.edinburgh.intercontinental.com

Note: Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. The number of spaces available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$14,780.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2880.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3-, 4- and 5-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and dinners indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Arrival transfer Edinburgh Airport to St Boswells
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person where available at hotels (Buccleuch Arms hotel does not offer this service, and not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Edinburgh return
- Personal spending money
- Departure transfer to Edinburgh Airport
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 19-day Literary Tour of Scotland involves:

- A daily schedule generally involving an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (5.30-6.00pm).
- 2-3 site visits most days involving up to 1-2 hours of walking at each (sometimes on uneven terrain, cobbled streets, and steep slopes) and/or standing, interspersed with coach travel.
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.
- 3- to 5-star hotels with six hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person (where portage is available).

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate

Commencing from November 2021 it will be a condition of travel that all group leaders and ASA travellers are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. All participants must send ASA a copy of their vaccination certificate at the time of submitting their Reservation Application Form. For information on how to obtain either a Covid-19 digital certificate or a certificate in PDF format please view the [Australian Government Services Australia "What types of proof there are"](#) web page.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Passport Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Nationality _____

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date ____ / ____ / ____

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____
Membership # _____ (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? YES NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? YES NO

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic? YES NO

Are you insulin dependent? YES NO

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? YES NO
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

- More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
- 75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
- 45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
- 30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
- 14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

- I accept the conditions on this booking form I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel Tour Deposit
 Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
 Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) _____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____