



# The Scottish Highlands & Inner Hebrides: Castles, Gardens & Archaeology 2026

26 MAY – 10 JUN 2026

Code: 22627

Tour Leaders **Peter Yeoman**

Fitness Level 

**Level 2 - Intermediate**

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

Explore Scotland's dramatic history, view fine castles and gardens incl. Dumfries House, Inveraray, Inverewe, Gordon, Glamis & Drummond, discover Iona and the pre-historic landscape of Kilmartin Glen.

## Overview

Travel with archaeologist and cultural historian [Peter Yeoman](#) through the beautiful and varied landscapes of his native Scotland, exploring the many layers of its history. Peter was Head of Cultural Heritage and then Principal Heritage Researcher at Historic Scotland, working across their 340 properties, along with the management of World Heritage Sites. He wrote the guidebooks for both Edinburgh and Stirling Castle and is an expert on the fascinating cultural heritage of Iona.

- Explore the prehistoric landscape of Kilmartin Glen on Scotland's west coast. With a local archaeologist explore the Neolithic and Bronze Age burial monuments and standing stones that date from 3500BC.
- Visit Iona, the far-flung island with a rich archaeological landscape of early monastic buildings that formed part of this important pilgrimage centre.
- Walk the trails of dramatic Glencoe, and tour the rugged Isle of Mull.
- Explore Scotland's greatest castles and finest estates including Balmoral, Inveraray Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Glamis Castle.
- View the Scottish Highlands' beautiful gardens: Drummond Castle Garden, Gordon Castle Garden and Inverewe.
- Enjoy a private lunch and guided tour of Dumfries House, a Palladian country house designed by John and Robert Adam. Visit the 5-acre Queen Elizabeth Walled Gardens.
- Travel through the best of Scotland's natural landscapes; we drive through deep glens with towering mountains and glittering lochs, and tour magnificent coastal scenery.
- Encounter the work of Scotland's greatest turn-of-the-century designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Dine at the 'Mackintosh at the Willow' tearoom in Glasgow and visit The Hill House in Helensburgh.
- Take a boat to the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth, where colonies of seabirds inhabit the rocky crags and cliffs.

Overnight Glasgow (2 nights) • Inveraray (1 night) • Iona (2 nights) • Oban (2 nights) • Inverness (2 nights) • Aberdeen (2 nights) • Kinclaven (2 nights) • Edinburgh (2 nights)

### Weather

The tour is timed for late May/early June when the gardens enjoy their late spring flush. Gardens should have combinations of rhododendrons, blue Himalayan poppies, hawthorns, foxgloves, Laburnum, marsh orchids, alliums, euphorbias, aquilegias, late bluebells and roses. We avoid the busy July/August summer season when the biting midges are most active.



## Leaders



### Peter Yeoman

An archaeologist and historian who has worked throughout the UK for over 50 years. A prolific author, he has directed major excavation projects, was Head of Cultural Heritage and then Principal Heritage Researcher at Historic Scotland. He wrote the official guidebooks for Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle and Iona Abbey.

Peter Yeoman has worked as an archaeologist throughout the UK for 50 years, directing and publishing major excavations, while also writing a number of books. He took a BA Hons in Archaeology and History of Art at the University of Leicester, graduating in 1981. Throughout the 1990s he was County Archaeologist for Fife. Until recently Peter was Head of Cultural Heritage and then Principal Heritage Researcher at Historic Scotland, working across their 340 properties, along with the management of World Heritage Sites.

Peter led research programs which underpinned major interpretation projects at James V's Renaissance Palace within Stirling Castle, as well as at Edinburgh Castle, and Iona Abbey where he led the development of an award-winning permanent exhibition.

He now works independently to pursue his own research interests and to provide heritage consultancy services. His expertise is widely recognised across the heritage sector, and served until recently on the Treasure Trove Panel for Scotland. Since 2015 he has been leading cultural tours at home and abroad. He joins ASA in 2026 as a leader for our tour of historic Scotland.

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### *Combine this tour with*

#### **Bulgaria & the Black Sea: Painted Towns, Byzantine Monasteries & Thracian Treasures 2026**

6 MAY – 20 MAY 2026

#### **Türkiye: The Ages of Anatolia 2026**

24 APR – 14 MAY 2026

#### **Great Monuments, Art and Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence and the Cévennes 2026**

6 MAY – 23 MAY 2026

#### **Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026**

13 MAY – 22 MAY 2026

Iceland, Land of Ice and Fire: Myths, Legends & Landscapes 2026

13 JUN – 30 JUN 2026



## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens and estates which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure in 2026. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Meals included in the tour price and are indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=Lunch and D=dinner.

### Glasgow - 2 nights

#### Day 1: Tuesday 26 May, Arrive Glasgow

- Tour commences at 1pm in the foyer of The Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow
- Welcome Meeting at the hotel
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
- Introductory lecture by Peter Yeoman
- Welcome Dinner at 'Mackintosh at the Willow'

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 1.00pm in the foyer of the [Grand Central Hotel](#) located in central Glasgow, Scotland's most populous city, located on the banks of the Clyde. Following a brief welcome meeting we will visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum for an introduction of Scottish history and to the 19<sup>th</sup> century school of artists, known as The Glasgow Boys, whose work represents the beginnings of modernism in Scottish painting.

On our return to the hotel Peter will present an introductory lecture that outlines the wonderful places to be visited over the coming weeks, before we walk to 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 and 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 before we enjoy a private dining

experience in the beautiful restaurant. (Overnight Glasgow) D

Day 2: Wednesday 27 May, Glasgow – Cumnock – Glasgow

- Dumfries House Estate (*subject to confirmation*)
- The Burrell Collection

Located 60km south of Glasgow, Dumfries House 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 saved by the intervention of King Charles (while Prince of Wales and Duke of Rothesay) and the house and garden have been restored using traditional methods and craftsmanship.

We start our day with 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. Our tour will conclude with a private lunch in the Library before we step out to explore the large Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden.

On our return to Glasgow we visit the city's famous Burrell Collection, which reopened in the Spring of 2022 after a major refurbishment. The collection, which played a key role in Glasgow's 1970s 'Renaissance', was amassed by shipping magnate Sir William Burrell (1861–1958) and given to the City of Glasgow in 1944. It is displayed in an award-winning building located in a beautiful woodland setting, including reconstructions of rooms from Sir William's former home. The collection, which focuses on late medieval and early Renaissance Europe, includes a Bellini *Madonna and Child* and a Rembrandt self-portrait. It also contains important examples of Chinese and Islamic art, ancient artefacts, and Scottish, French and Dutch late 19th-century art, especially the works of artists Manet, Degas and Rodin. (Overnight Glasgow) BL

### Inveraray - 1 night

Day 3: Thursday 28 May, Glasgow – Helensburgh – Loch Lomond – Inveraray

- The Hill House, Helensburgh – a domestic masterpiece by Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- Inveraray Castle & Gardens

Today we drive from Glasgow to Inveraray via The Hill House and Loch. The Hill House (1902–1904), Helensburgh, designed for Walter Blackie of the publishers Blackie and Son, is one of Charles and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh's most famous works, probably second only to their Glasgow School of Art. Mackintosh also designed most of the house's 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 program, Carmody Groarke have 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 affords us with 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.

In the afternoon we drive along the shores of Loch Lomond and on to Inveraray Castle (1743), one of the UK's earliest Gothic Revival buildings, contemporary with Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill. William Adam and Roger Morris designed the house, which originally had flat roofs and crenelated façades. A third floor with a pitched roof and dormer windows was added on all four wings and its four round corner towers topped with steep conical roofs. The castle's 16-acre garden includes around two acres of formal lawns and

flowerbeds which feature a stunning collection of rhododendrons and azaleas which flower from April to June. Tonight we will dine at our hotel. (Overnight Inveraray) BD

### Iona - 2 nights

Day 4: Friday 29 May, Inveraray – Oban – Mull – Iona

- Ferry Oban to Craignure, Isle of Mull
- Drive across Mull with lunch at a local café
- Ferry Fionnphort, Isle of Mull to Iona
- Introductory Iona Walk
- Evening Talk at the Hotel

Today we drive to Oban and take the car ferry to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. We then drive the length of the island to Fionnphort, enjoying a light lunch in a local café enroute. From here we travel across to Iona, an island seeped in history lying 2km from Mull. There are few cars on Iona, with residents requiring a special permit, so our exploration of the island will be by foot. It is a tiny island, measuring just 5km in length and 2.5km in width, and the permanent population is just 170 people.

Iona has a long history of habitation, with an Iron Age fort dating from 100BC – 200AD positioned on its highest point. St Columba came to the island from Ireland with twelve companions around 563 and established the Abbey, and the island became an important centre for Gaelic monasticism and learning during the early Middle Ages. Although weakened by Viking raids and the upheavals of the period of Norse domination of the west coast of Scotland, Iona remained a sacred place. This afternoon we take a short walk to get our bearings and then return to the hotel for a pre-dinner talk by Peter to introduce us to the history of the island. (Overnight Iona) BLD

Note: The main suitcases will be left at the hotel in Oban before we board the ferry to Craignure, and only a smaller overnight/cabin bag should be brought to Iona as the passenger ferry is small and we will be walking from the Iona pier to the hotel.

Day 5: Saturday 30 May, Iona

- Iona Abbey
- Medieval Nunnery
- Reilig Odhrain

Today we explore the main heritage monuments of Iona. Little remains of the Abbey founded by St Columba, and the monastery we see today was founded in 1208 Reginald, son of Somerled, the self-styled 'king of the Isles' and was an important religious centre until the Reformation, with monastic life coming to an end in 1560. The building was restored in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is now an ecumenical church. In front of the Abbey is the beautifully preserved St Martin's Cross.

The medieval Nunnery was founded in 1203 and its first prioress was Beathag, the sister of Reginald. Although a ruin, it is still one of the best preserved medieval nunneries in Britain and retains many finely carved stone details. After the Reformation, it was primarily used as a burial place for women.

Reilig Odhrain is the ancient cemetery on the island and contains many medieval grave monuments. Although no longer identifiable, it is believed that this was the burial site for many early Scottish kings, as well as several kings from Ireland and Norway. (Overnight Iona) BLD



## Oban - 2 nights

Day 6: Sunday 31 May, Iona – Mull – Oban

- Ferry Iona to Fionnphort
- Duart Castle
- Lochbuie Standing Stone Circle
- Moy Castle ruins (time permitting)
- Ferry Craignure to Oban

This morning we return to the Isle of Mull on the early passenger ferry and meet our coach. We drive back across the length of the island to Duart Castle, the seat of the Clan MacLean that dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and sits on a promontory overlooking the Sound of Mull. The original castle had fallen into a state of disrepair and was thorough restored and refurbished in 1911. We shall explore the great hall and state rooms, before having lunch in the tearoom.

We then drive south to the Lochbuie Stone Circle, a small and well-preserved late Neolithic monument set against the beautiful backdrop of Ben Bule. Nine stones of local granite form a ring 12.30 meters in diameter (at some stage one stone was replaced with a stone boulder) and positioned so that the flattest side faced the centre. If time permits we will also view the ruins of Moy Castle, a 15<sup>th</sup> century MacLean stronghold.

We then return to Craignure to take the ferry back to the mainland; dinner will be at the hotel. (Overnight Oban) BLD

Day 7: Monday 1 June, Oban – Kilmartin Glen – Oban

- Nether Largie Cairn
- Temple Wood Stone Circles
- Ballymeanoch Standing Stones
- Achnabreac Rock Art

Today we explore the Kilmartin Glen where we find one of Britain's best-preserved prehistoric landscapes. Accompanied by a local archaeologist we encounter extraordinary burial mounds from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, along with standing stone and examples of carved rock art. From the remains it is evidence that this was an important ritual centre in a landscape that bears the mark of continuous human occupation for over 5000 years. Our day excursion will include a light lunch at the museum café. (Overnight Oban) BL

## Inverness - 2 nights

Day 8: Tuesday 2 June, Oban – Glencoe – Loch Ness – Inverness

- Glencoe & the Lochan Trail
- Loch Ness (scenic drive)

This morning we visit Glencoe, infamous for the Glencoe Massacre (13 February 1692), following the Jacobite uprising of 1689. Thirty-eight men from Clan MacDonald of Glencoe were killed by government forces because they had not been prompt in pledging allegiance to the new monarchs, William and Mary. Dramatic Glencoe, that takes its name from the River Coe, is U-shaped, formed by an Ice Age glacier. It is the remains of an ancient super volcano that erupted 420 million years ago. We shall visit the visitor centre and then take a guided walk of Glencoe village and the beautiful Lochan Trail. There will also be an option



for a longer guided walk for group members wishing to explore more of this beautiful valley.

We then take a scenic drive through Fort William and Fort Augustus, and then along the shores of Loch Ness to Inverness. (Overnight Inverness) B

#### Day 9: Wednesday 3 June, Inverness – Inverewe – Little Loch Broom – Inverness

- Inverewe House & Garden
- Private gardens of 2 Durnamuck and Dundonnell House Garden (by special appointment)

Today we visit three beautiful gardens. We begin with a visit to Inverewe Garden, a botanical garden created on barren land in 1862 by Osgood Mackenzie on an 850-hectare estate. The garden is noted for the extraordinary variety of its plants, containing nearly 6,000, made possible by the warming effects of the Gulf Stream. It has a noteworthy rhododendron collection in flower throughout the year and a large collection of Erythroniums that flower in Spring. In summer, the sloping walled gardens with views of the sea, display many exotic plants from all over the world.

After lunch at leisure, we drive to 2 Durnamuck, a coastal plantsman's garden situated on the edge of Little Loch Broom. It constitutes a rich mix of herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs, vegetables, drystone wall planting, South African plants, Mediterranean plants and a wild meadow. Plants here have been collected from all over the world. The gardens were featured on *Gardeners' World* in 2016 and in *Garden Magazine* and *Country Life* in 2017. We conclude with a visit to nearby Dundonnell House Garden. Once home to the Mackenzies of Dundonnell, the estate was in the 1940s and the laird of the time emigrated to Australia. Prior to that time the large square garden would have been devoted primarily to the growing of fresh produce for the house. The framework which forms the basis for the current garden was laid out after the war and divides the garden into a series of 'rooms'.

On our return to Inverness, the evening will be at leisure. (Overnight Inverness) B

### Aberdeen - 2 nights

#### Day 10: Thursday 4 June, Inverness – Balmoral – Ballater – Crathes – Aberdeen

- Balmoral Castle Gardens (*to be confirmed in 2026*)
- Ballater Village
- Crathes Castle

This morning we shall drive to Balmoral Castle. Balmoral Castle has been one of the residences of the British royal family since 1852, when the estate and its original castle were purchased privately by Prince Albert. It remains private property of the royal family and is not part of the Crown Estate. Albert found the existing house to be too small and commissioned William Smith of Aberdeen to design the current Scottish Baronial style house; Prince Albert amended Smith's original designs. The new castle was completed in 1856 and the old castle demolished shortly thereafter. The gardens surrounding the granite castle have been extended over time and now include formal gardens, Victorian glasshouses, conservatory, water garden, front lawn, a charming garden created by Queen Mary between 1923 and 1925, as well as a large kitchen garden designed by the late Duke of Edinburgh.

The Balmoral Estate, lying within the Cairngorms National Park, has been added to by successive members of the royal family, and now covers an area of approximately 20,000 hectares. It is a working estate, including grouse moors, forestry, and farmland, as well as managed herds of 2,000 – 2,500 deer, Highland

cattle, and ponies. Approximately 8,000 acres of the estate are covered by trees. Ballochbuie Forest is one of the largest remaining areas of old Caledonian pine growth in Scotland.

After time at leisure in the nearby village of Ballater, we drive to Crathes Castle, whose powerful tower was begun in 1553 and completed in 1596; an additional wing was added in the 18th century. King Robert the Bruce granted the lands of Leys to the Burnett family in 1323: the ancient Horn of Leys, which can be seen today in the Great Hall, marks his gift. We shall tour the castle, which has many important portraits as well as very distinctive Scottish painted ceilings. The castle is surrounded by 530 acres of woodlands and fields and includes a 4-acre walled garden which is considered one of the finest in Scotland. Developed over 300 years, and influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, the garden is full of colour in summer with beautiful borders. Ancient topiary hedges of Irish yew dating from 1702 separate the gardens into eight themed rooms including a double herbaceous border, the Red Garden, the June Borders and the Golden Garden. After our visit we continue on to Aberdeen where we will be based for two nights. (Overnight Aberdeen) B

#### Day 11: Friday 5 June, Aberdeen – Fochabers – Methlink – Aberdeen

- Gordon Castle Garden
- Haddo House

This morning we visit Gordon Castle, the spiritual home of the Gordon Clan since the time of King Robert the Bruce in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Here we will see one of the oldest and largest walled kitchen gardens in Britain. It dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century but fell into disuse after the second world war when it was used for commercial raspberry growing. Using the well-preserved garden plans from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the garden has been restored by designer Arne Maynard and in 2021 was named The Historic House's Garden of the Year.

The seasonal produce of the walled garden forms the focus of the menu in the Gordon Castle café where we enjoy a light lunch, before travelling on to Haddo House in Methlink, another home belonging to the Gordons. This stately home was designed in the Palladian style by William Adam in 1732, and its interior remodelled in the 1880s. Now managed by the National Trust for Scotland, the house includes a large art collection with an early work by Claude Lorrain and a Madonna believed to be by Raphael. (Overnight Aberdeen) BL

#### Kinclaven - 2 nights

#### Day 12: Saturday 6 June, Aberdeen – Glamis – Kinclaven

- Glamis Castle & Gardens

Grand Glamis Castle has been owned by the Lyon family since the 14th century; it was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother (Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon). Glamis is situated in the centre of the Vale of Strathmore, in a picturesque and well-wooded part of Forfarshire. The pink-grey castle's original 14th-century central tower was altered to an L-plan in the 16th century and had a large round stair-tower attached to it (1605); the spiral staircase within, possibly designed by Inigo Jones, is magnificent. The walls of the oldest parts of the tower are up to 5 metres thick, allowing for hidden passages within them. During the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, the building has been extended and features like bartizans and dormers have been added. The park was landscaped in 1790s in the style of 'Capability' Brown, and an Italianate Garden hedged by yew trees was laid out in 1910 by The Queen Mother's mother, Countess Cecilia to designs by Arthur Castings. It includes a raised terrace between two small gazebos, two long bowers of pleached beech, and borders of alliums, roses, *Iris sibirica*, nepeta and geraniums, punctuated by obelisks

bearing honeysuckles, golden hops or roses. Wildlife such as butterflies, bees, pheasants and squirrels can also be spotted in this garden. The Walled Garden was redeveloped in 2015 by the 18th Earl and Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne as it has fallen into disuse. It now beholds new flower beds, fruit trees and vegetables, and water features including a Monet-style bridge over an ornamental pond. The Nature Trail meanders through woodlands and pastures surrounding the Castle. Eastwards along the trail is the Pinetum that comprises a variety of exotic trees planted by the 13th Earl in c.1870. As Glamis Castle is famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's play *Macbeth* (1603-09), a series of seven sculptures have been commissioned to capture the essence of the play. They are located within the Pinetum and are carved by collaborative artists from Neith Art and Sculpture from Oak, Douglas Fir and Noble Fir grown on the Estate.

After lunch at Glamis Castle, we continue on to Ballathie House Hotel in Kinclaven, a charming country house hotel where we will be based for two nights. (Overnight Kinclaven) BLD

#### Day 13: Sunday 7 June, Kinclaven – Isle of May – Kinclaven

- Boat excursion to the Isle of May

This morning we transfer to Anstruther from where take the 'May Princess' boat out into the Firth of Forth to the Isle of May, an important National Nature Reserve, where large colonies of kittiwakes, guillemot, razorbills, puffins and fulmars nest in the cliffs. There will be 2.5 hours on the island to have a picnic lunch and walk the cliff paths to view the nesting birds, and NatureScot rangers will be at hand to provide information about the wildlife. If the weather permits, the boat will also sail the circumference of the island so the scenery and wildlife can be enjoyed from the sea. (Overnight Kinclaven) BLD

#### Edinburgh - 2 nights

#### Day 14: Monday 8 June, Kinclaven – Muthill – Stirling – Edinburgh

- Drummond Castle (*to be confirmed in 2026*)
- Stirling Castle

Drummond Castle, the property of Drummond family from the 14th century, occupies a prominent spine of rock known as the Gask Ridge in Perthshire. The castle is especially famous for its gardens, which Historic Environment Scotland describes as 'the best example of formal terraced gardens in Scotland'. The gardens date to the 1630s, when the 2nd Earl of Perth laid out the first terraced garden around the castle. The gardens were restructured in the 19th century and renewed again in the 20th century. A dominant feature of the garden is the *parterre* designed in a St Andrew's Cross with a multiplex 17th century sundial at its centre. Both French and Italian influence can be seen throughout the garden. The castle comprises an original tower house, built by John Drummond, 1st Lord Drummond of Cargill (c. 1490). Appended to the tower is a 17th-century mansion. Both the tower and mansion were rebuilt in the 19th century.

We continue to Stirling Castle, one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland. The first record of Stirling Castle is from 1110AD, with the founding of a chapel by King Alexander I. From then on it became an important royal stronghold, a setting for many of the politics, intrigues and power-struggles of the following 500 years. The buildings we see today primarily date between 1490 and 1600 during the reign of the Stuart kings. Having written the official Stirling Castle guide book, Peter will lead us through the castle to share his wealth of information about this extraordinary building and the fascinating histories of its past inhabitants.

We then proceed to Edinburgh for the final leg of our tour. (Overnight Edinburgh) B



#### Day 15: Tuesday 9 June, Edinburgh

- National Museum of Scotland, Curator-led tour
- Edinburgh Castle
- Farewell Dinner at a Local Restaurant

This morning we visit the National Museum of Scotland where a curator will give us a special tour of the collections that draws together all the fascinating history and sites that we have encountered on our journey through the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

We then conclude our program with a visit to Edinburgh Castle, a symbol of the city and another extraordinary and evocative site for which Peter wrote the official guidebook. Castle Rock, at the head of the Royal Mile, has been occupied since the Iron Age, a strategically defensive sites with steep cliff-faces on three sides. There has been a royal castle here since at least 1093, when Malcolm III ruled. The castle and grounds have evolved through the ages, and Peter will take us on a tour of the castle and grounds explaining the defences and towers, wards and military buildings, the Great Hall and the Royal Palace.

This evening we shall enjoy a farewell dinner at a local Restaurant. (Overnight Edinburgh) BD

#### Day 16: Wednesday 10 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 the airport. B

## Accommodation

ASA has selected hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

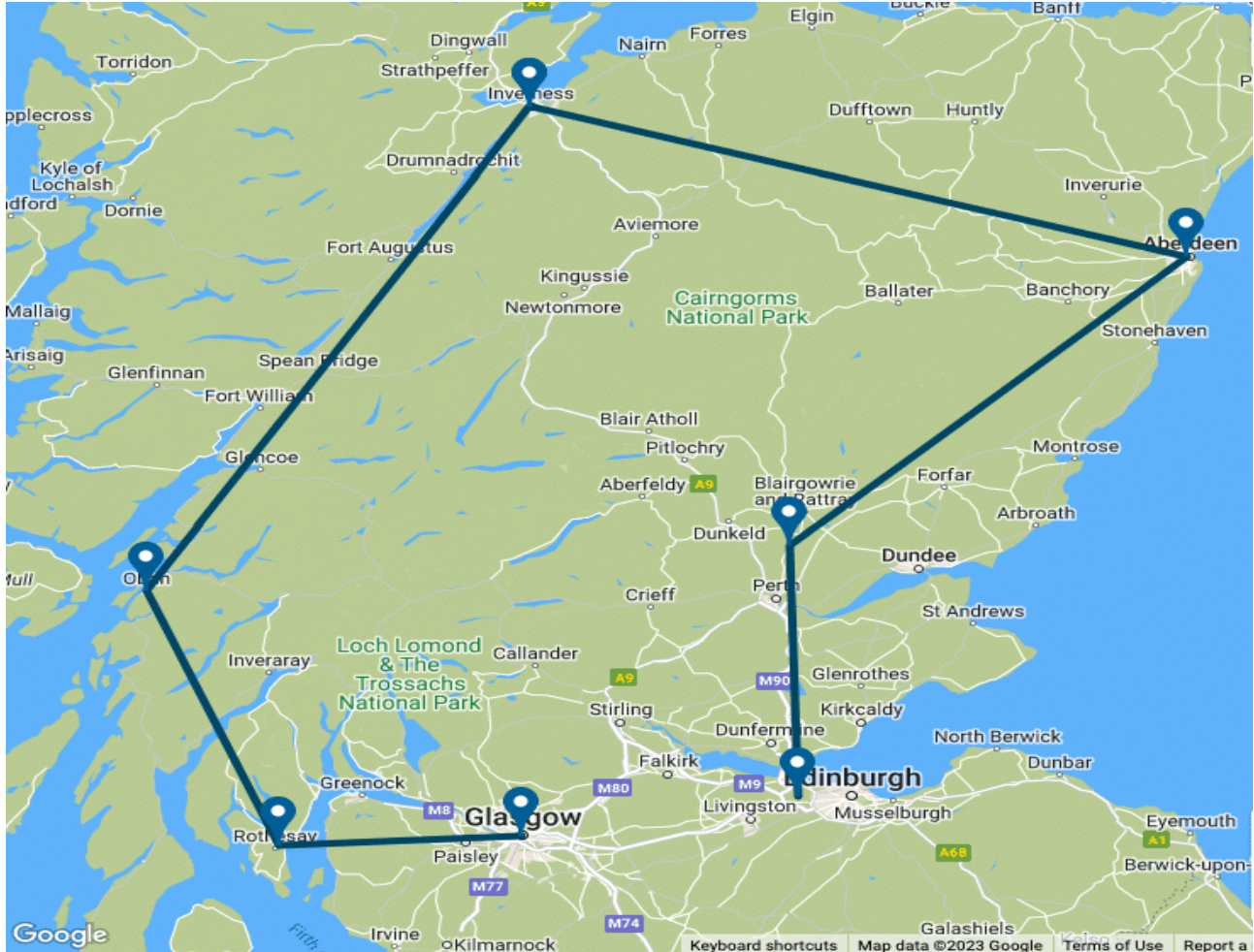
- Glasgow (2 nights): 4-star [voco Grand Central Hotel](#) – an historic hotel in the heart of the vibrant city centre, renovated throughout to provide modern accommodation while celebrating the past.
- Inveraray (1 night): 3-star [The George Hotel](#) – 160 year old family-run boutique hotel, with charming and unique rooms and fine dining restaurant.
- Iona (2 nights): 3-star [Argyll Hotel](#) – a small charming hotel with snug lounges overlooking the Sound of Iona. This is an historic building and each room varies in size and aspect.
- Oban (2 nights): 4-star [Perle Oban Hotel](#) – built in 1882, this historic hotel is located in the town centre, overlooking the harbour. Porterage is NOT available at the Perle Oban Hotel.
- Inverness (2 nights): 3-star [Best Western Palace Hotel & Spa](#) – set on the banks of the River Ness opposite Inverness Castle; within a 5-minute walk to restaurants and shops.
- Aberdeen (2 nights): 4-star [Sandman Signature Aberdeen Hotel](#) – a contemporary-style hotel housed in a historic building, located in central Aberdeen, close to restaurants and shops.
- Kinclaven (2 nights): 4-star [Ballathie Country House Hotel](#) – one of UK's leading country house hotels, situated within its own private estate overlooking the River Tay. Facilities include an award-winning 2AA Rosette Restaurant.
- Edinburgh (2 nights): 4-star [Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel](#) – located on Grassmarket in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town with views of the Castle, and offering elegant contemporary accommodation.

*Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance 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 \$15,880.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2025

AUD \$16,580.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2830.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- and 4-star hotels.
- Breakfast daily, lunches & dinners as indicated in the 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 as outlined in the itinerary
- Full day excursion by minibus to Kilmartin Glen
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels where available (not at the Oban Hotel)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tour notes
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- International Airfare: Australia-Glasgow, Edinburgh-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel Insurance



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level



### Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to six hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace on flat or undulating terrain; some stretches include uneven cobbled streets and steeper slopes.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- negotiate challenging historic sites: several flights of stairs feature in the majority of castles and stately homes.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

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. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please

read the fitness requirements carefully.

## 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 \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.





# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME The Scottish Highlands: Great Country Houses, Castles & Gardens

TOUR DATES 26 May - 9 June 2025

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

**Covid Certificate** ☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

☐ 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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://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. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** 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. You do NOT 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? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? ☐ ☐

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? ☐ ☐
- 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? ☐ ☐

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? ☐ ☐
- Are you insulin dependent? ☐ ☐
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? ☐ ☐
- 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 non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 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: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

***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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_