



Argyll & Bute Tour

Sept, 2023

Men of Worth

Inveraray Castle

‘Argyll & Bute’ Tour, 2023

‘Men of Worth’ James Keigher & Donnie Macdonald

10 Nights: Wed 20 – Fri 29 Sept (Dispersing morning of 30 Sept)

Mount Stuart; Day trip to Campbeltown; Tarbert, Loch Fyne; Kilmartin Glen; Crinan Canal; Inveraray Castle; Day in Oban; Auchindrain Township; Inveraray Jail; Kilmun Church

The Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport	1 Night
Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Argyll & Bute	4 Nights
Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute	4 Nights
The Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport	1 Night

\$3,150 Per/Person (Sharing room) (Single: add \$500)

Payment by check or money order only, payable to Minch Music.

Minch Music, 8034 Avalos Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610 PH: (916) 723-6320

Includes: 10 nights Dinner, B&B, Coach, Ferries, Activities/Visits, Meal-tips.

Excludes: Air Travel, Lunches, Driver-tip, and Insurance.

Contact: Donnie minchmusic@comcast.net (916) 723-6320 (916) 214-4776 cell

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1

Wednesday 20 Sept 2023

Activity

As tour members arrive independently at Glasgow Airport, cross the road to the **Holiday Inn**, and check in under **MINCH MUSIC TOUR**.

Gather for a **Welcome Drink** at **6.00pm**, then **Dinner** at **7.00p**

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Evening free to relax, and prepare for morning departure.
Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport. (D. B.)

Day 2

Thursday 21 Sept 2023

Activity

Depart Holiday Inn driving west and south to the terminal at **Wemyss Bay** for the ferry crossing to **Rothesay** on the **Isle of Bute**. Our main purpose is a guided tour of **Mount Stuart**, built by the Marquis of Bute. www.mountstuart.com

We depart Bute on the short 5 minute crossing from **Rhubodach** to **Colintraive** on the **Cowal Peninsula**. An abundance of scenery is visible on the drive to **Portavadie**, where we board the third and final ferry of the day across **Loch Fyne** to **Tarbert**. Our destination, **Stonefield Castle Hotel**, is slightly north of Tarbert.
(Independent Lunch at Mount Stuart)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**
Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)
www.bespoke.com

Day 3

Friday 22 Sept 2023

Activity

This is our day to explore the **Kintyre Peninsula**. We drive south to **Campbeltown**. Local guide **Angus Martin** will board our bus for history and comment on the area, including **Machrahanish** and **Southend**.
(Independent Lunch in Campbeltown)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**
Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 4

Saturday 23 Sept 2023

Activity

A free day to enjoy **Tarbert**, a charming fishing village with a storied history. Ex Archivist with Argyll & Bute Council, **Murdo Macdonald**, will open the passages of local history for us. There are **Published Walks** available, as well as the ruins of **Tarbert Castle** which dominate the town. We will offer time in the company of Castle Guide, **Robert MacPhail**.

(Although dated, the *Para Handy Tales* by author **Neil Munro** (1931) gives a feel for the waterways of Argyll & Bute through the antics of the comedic crew of the puffer, **The Vital Spark**.)

(Independent Lunch wherever you are)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**
Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 5

Sunday 24 Sept 2023

Activity

Depart for **Kilmartin Glen**, the richest concentrations of prehistoric monuments and historical sites in Scotland. Other than time to browse in the **Kilmartin Museum**, we will arrange a guided walk which will take in some prehistoric tombs and should last 2.5 hours. www.kilmartin.org

FYI: Dunadd lies a few miles to the south. This is where kings were crowned back when the area was known as Dalriada. (Google Dunadd) (Google Dalriada) (Independent Lunch in Kilmartin. Obvious choice is Kilmartin Hotel)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**
Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 6

Monday 25 Sept 2023

Activity

We bid farewell to Stonefield Castle Hotel and drive north towards Ardrishaig We will stop at Cairnbaan to view **Lock #5 of the Crinan Canal**. Opened in 1801, the canal is still active today as it links Ardrishaig with Crinan.

For our main stop, we continue north along the shores of Loch Fyne to **Auchindrain Township**. “Long ago, Scotland had thousands of “townships”, small farming communities where groups of families worked together. Then, two hundred and fifty years ago, the world began to change. The townships were replaced by modern farms, crofting and large estates”.

The visit will include an introductory welcome, refreshments, and self-guided time around the old houses, barns, and impliments.

(Provided Lunch at **Cairnbaan Inn, or Auchindrain**) TBD

www.auchindrain.org.uk

Depart at 3.00pm for a short drive north to the **Loch Fyne Hotel** in **Inveraray**.

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Free Time
Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

www.crerarhotels.com

Day 7

Tuesday 26 Sept 2023

Activity

Driver rest day. We are free to explore **Inveraray**, traditional county town of Argyll, and ancestral home of the **Duke of Argyll**, who founded the town in 1745, alongside his new dwelling, **Inveraray Castle**. www.inveraray-argyll.com

Much of the town, including the church, was designed and built by the Edinburgh-born architect Robert Mylne between 1772 and 1800.

You will find the Woollen Shop and two Whisky Shops, among the many aspects of Inveraray. One of the popular attractions is the **Old Inveraray Jail**, available to us for a self-guided tour. www.inverarayjail.co.uk

A good physical activity would be to hike up to **Dùn na Cuaiche** for the view over the town, and down Loch Fyne.

(Independent Lunch, wherever you are)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth** in the Waterfront Room
Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 8 **Wednesday 27 Sept 2023**

Activity

A day trip to **Oban**, the largest town in the county and an important ferry terminal. An opportunity to enjoy leisurely shopping and all else there is to offer. The population is just over 8,000, which can be tripled during the summer months. A visit to Oban Distillery is an option. We will also stop at **St. Conan's Church** in Lochawe, which is well worth a look. www.stconanskirk.org.uk (Independent Lunch in Oban, or wherever you are)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth** in the Waterfront Room
Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 9 **Thursday 28 Sept 2023**

Activity

Morning at leisure. Afternoon visit to **Inveraray Castle**. We will have a guided tour of the castle, the home of the **Duke of Argyll**, who is also the Chief of the Clan Campbell. An Inveraray Castle has been standing on the shores of Loch Fyne since the 1400s, although the impressive castle we know today was inspired by a sketch by Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard in the 1700s. www.inveraray-castle.com

(Independent Lunch in Inveraray)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, Final Concert with **Men of Worth** in the Waterfront Room
Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 10 **Friday 29 Sept 2023**

Activity

We depart Inveraray and return to the Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport for our final evening. After a stop at **Loch Fyne Oysters**, the route takes us into the **Cowal Peninsula**, stopping in Strachur, for Lunch at **Creggans Inn**. Then south along the shore of Loch Eck to the **Argyll Mausoleum** at **Kilmun Church**. A talk by staff member explains the historical importance of this area. Mid-afternoon departure on the Car-Ferry from **Dunoon** to **Gourock**, and a fairly short drive past the famous ship-building towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow en route to the Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport for our final night. (Provided Lunch at Creggans Inn)

Evening Hotel

After **Dinner**, No scheduled activity. Time for socializing, or packing, etc.
Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport (D. B.)

Day 11 **Saturday 30 Sept 2023**

Activity

Breakfast is included. This is the morning we all disperse.
This is the Official End of the Tour! Thank You!

Additional night, or nights, at the Holiday Inn before or after the tour?

We can make your reservation. This arrangement is booked through Donnie.

Call Donnie with questions: (916) 723-6320 (916) 214-4776 (cell)

minchmusic@comcast.net

www.menofworth.com

Note: Also, if you would like input relating to flights, and/or any additional time you plan to spend in Scotland, contact Donnie.