

Oban Bay, from McCaig's Tower

'Argyll & Bute' Tour, 2022

With 'Men of Worth' ~ James Keigher & Donnie Macdonald

Mount Stuart; Kilmartin Glen; Crinan Canal; Inveraray Castle; Oban Distillery; Auchindrain Township; Kilmun Church; Cruise on Loch Lomond!

10 Nights: Fri 10 – Sun 19, June (Dispersing morning of 20thJune)

| The Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport | 1 Night |
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| Stonefield Castle Hotel , Tarbert, Argyll & Bute | 3 Nights |
| Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute | 5 Nights |
| The Holiday Inn at Glasgow Airport | 1 Night |

\$2,950 Per/Person (Sharing room, Double or Twin)) \$3,450 Per/Person (Single)

(Note: Limited Single space. Please check availability)

Check or money order only, payable to Minch Music. (No credit card, sorry)
Minch Music, 8034 Avalos Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

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

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

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Proposed Itinerary

Day 1 Friday, 10th June, 2022

Activity As tour members arrive independently at Glasgow Airport, cross the road to the

Holiday Inn, and check in under MINCH MUSIC TOUR.

Gather in the Bar for a Welcome Drink at 6.00pm, then Dinner at 7.00p

Evening After **Dinner**, Evening free to relax, and prepare for morning departure.

Hotel Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport. (D. B.)

Day 2 Saturday, 11th June, 2022

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.

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 is Stonefield Castle Hotel.

(Independent Lunch at Mount Stuart)

Evening After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 3 Sunday, 12th June, 2022

Activity Depart for **Kilmartin Glen**, the richest concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze

Age sites in Scotland. Other than time to browse in the <u>Kilmartin Museum</u>, we will arrange a guided walk which will take in some Bronze Age tombs, and

should last 2.5 hours.

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 After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 4 Monday, 13th June, 2022

Activity A free day to enjoy <u>Tarbert</u>, a charming fishing village with a storied history. Ex

Archivist with Argyll & Bute Council, **Murdo Macdonald**, will open the passages of local history and government for us. There are **Published Walks** available, as well as the ruins of <u>Tarbert Castle</u> which dominate the town. We

will offer time in the company of Castle Guide, Robert MacPhail.

FYI: Author, **Neil Munro**, wrote *Para Handy Tales*, first published 1931 Although dated, we get 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 After Dinner, Entertainment with Men of Worth, and Guest singers from the

Tarbert & District Gaelic Choir

Hotel Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 5 Tuesday, 14th June, 2022

Activity We bid farewell to Stonefield Castle Hotel and drive north to the **Crinan Canal**.

Our main stop will be <u>Cairnbaan</u> Hotel which is located at Lock #5 of the canal. Opened in 1801, the canal is still active today as it links Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne with Crinan on the Atlantic coast. During this stop we should see boating activity in the lock, and there will be time for a leisurely stroll along the canal.

Later, we continue north along the eastern shores of Loch Fyne to Inveraray, and our destination, the **Loch Fyne Hotel**.

(Lunch at Cairnbaan Hotel)

Evening After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 6 Wednesday, 15th June, 2022

Activity Driver rest day. We are free to explore <u>Inveraray</u>, traditional county town of Argyll, and ancestral home of the **Dukes of Argyll**, one of whom founded the town in 1745, alongside his new dwelling, **Inveraray Castle**.

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

You will find the Woolen Shop, and two Whisky Shops, among many interesting aspects of Inveraray. One of the popular attractions is the <u>Old Inveraray Jail</u>, available to us for a self-guided tour.

A good physical activity would be to hike up to <u>Dùn na Cuaiche</u> for the view over the town, and down the reaches of Loch Fyne.

(Independent Lunch, wherever you are)

Evening After **Dinner**, Free time

Hotel Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 7 Thursday, 16th June, 2022

Activity Morning 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.

Afternoon visit to <u>Auchindrain Township</u>. "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 implements.

(Independent Lunch in Inveraray)

Evening After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 8 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Activity To the eastern area of the county lies **Loch Lomond**. We drive by Loch Fyne and

Loch Long to **Tarbet** where we board a **Cruise Loch Lomond** vessel to fully enjoy the famous loch. This will include berthing on the far shore at **Inversnaid** which offers spectacular views of **Arklet Falls**, the muse of Wordsworth and Sir

Walter Scott, with un-spoiled surroundings and peaceful tranquility.

(Provided Lunch on board)

Evening After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 9 Saturday, 18th June, 2022

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. Today we will organize a visit to **Oban Distillery**. Also, a brief stop at **St. Conan's Church**, in the village of Loch Awe is well worth a brief stop.

(Independent Lunch in Oban, or wherever you are)

Evening After **Dinner**, Entertainment with **Men of Worth**

Hotel Loch Fyne Hotel & Spa, Inveraray, Argyll & Bute (D. B.)

Day 10 Sunday, 19th June, 2022

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 After **Dinner**, No scheduled activity. Time for socializing, or packing, etc.

Hotel Holiday Inn, Glasgow Airport. (D. B.)

Day 11 Monday, 20th June, 2022

Activity Breakfast is included. This is the morning we all disperse.

This is the Official End of the Tour! Thank You! You could plan to fly out this morning...or make other plans.

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 (Donnie's E-mail)

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