

A scenic view of Edinburgh Castle perched on a rocky hill, surrounded by lush green grass and trees. The castle's stone walls and towers are prominent against a clear sky. In the foreground, there are weeping willow trees and a path with wooden benches.

THE EDINBURGH SPRING FESTIVAL



 **YOUTH
MUSIC**
OF THE WORLD



Performance Travel Ltd

Spring Tour London, York & Edinburgh Sample Itinerary

YOUR HOTELS

London
The Holiday Inn Kensington Forum
97 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4DN
Telephone: +44 (0)871 942 9100
www.hikensingtonforumhotel.co.uk

Edinburgh
Jury's Inn
43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DH
Telephone: +44 (0)131 200 3300
www.jurysinns.com/hotels/edinburgh



DAY 1

Depart from USA to London.

Dinner and breakfast will be served on-board, along with a complimentary drinks service and movies and audio entertainment.

DAY 2

11.05am

Arrive in to London.

Once you have collected your bags, please make your way to the arrivals hall, where you will be met by a representative of Youth Music of the World.

There is a short walk to your luxury coach, where you will load up and board for the drive in to London.

Arrive at your hotel and check-in. There may be a short delay before you receive your room and so we will schedule lunch and a walk of the local area.

This afternoon is unstructured. The hotel is only a short walk away from the Natural History, Science and Victoria and Albert Museums (all free) and the most famous department store in the world, Harrods. Or you may wish to travel further, to Hyde Park Corner (the original Hard Rock Cafor Piccadilly Circus.

7.00pm

Dinner will be served in the Forum Restaurant on the first floor in your hotel.

Immediately after dinner your tour assistant will run a brief orientation meeting, where you will learn all about your week in Britain. The rest of the evening is free for you to acclimatise to European time.

DAY 3

**From
6.30am**

A full English buffet breakfast will be served in the Forum Restaurant on the first floor in your hotel. Your breakfast will include the full continental service with a full selection of cereals, fruit juices, yogurts and fresh fruit plus a selection of breads and pastries, plus a hot buffet selection of sausage, bacon, eggs, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, hash browns etc. A choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate will also be available.

9.00am

This morning we will whisk you away on a spectacular tour of London's most famous landmarks, including the Palace



1.00pm

of Westminster, home of the two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Soak up the atmosphere as your guide introduces you to over 1,000 years of history. This is also your opportunity to look out for the places you would like to visit during your unstructured time.

There will be a couple of stops for photographs.

Tour ends at the Tower of London. Lunch at leisure.

This afternoon you will visit the Tower of London. The ancient stones reverberate with dark secrets, priceless jewels glint in fortified vaults and ravens strut the grounds. The Tower of London, founded by William the Conqueror in 1066-7, holds some of the most remarkable stories from across the centuries. Despite a grim reputation as a place of torture and death, this powerful and enduring fortress has been enjoyed as a royal palace, served as an armoury and for a number of years and even housed a zoo!

Gaze up at the massive White Tower, tiptoe through a kings' medieval bedchamber and marvel at the priceless Crown Jewels. The famous Yeoman Warders have bloody tales to tell; stand where heads rolled and prisoners wept. The Tower held many famous prisoners, from the highest levels of society; some in astonishing comfort and others less so ... Visit the places of their confinement and read the graffiti left by prisoners from over 500 years ago.

When your visit is over, walk to Tower Hill Underground Station on the Circle and District Lines, and, using your Day Travelcard provided, travel back in to the West End.

The rest of the afternoon is unstructured and the perfect time to discover London for yourself.

If you have time you may wish to visit the British Museum or the National Gallery, they're free, and although you have to pay, a visit inside St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey are a must.

For shopping, the most famous department stores are Harrods (Knightsbridge), Liberty's (Regent Street) and Selfridges (Oxford Street), although there are many more wonderful shops to choose from in Bond Street and Covent Garden. The most popular places for young people to visit are Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Covent Garden, the Hard Rock Café (Hyde Park Corner) and Planet Hollywood (Haymarket).

Dinner at leisure, using the vouchers provided. You may choose where you would like to dine using the vouchers provided. These are accepted in many London restaurants.

Evening at leisure.

DAY 4

**From
6.00am**

Breakfast will be served in the Forum Restaurant.

7.00am

Depart by luxury coach to Edinburgh.

**12.00
Midday**

Arrive in to York. Walk from the coach park to York Minster, from where you can disperse to find lunch at leisure. There are many eateries in the surrounding streets.

1.00pm

Return to the Minster, where you will meet your local guide for a tour of the Minster and a walk of the surrounding streets and the city walls.

York was founded by the Romans in AD71 and served as a provincial capital and base for the Emperor Hadrian for his northern campaigns. It became a Christian stronghold under the Saxons, before being captured by the Vikings in AD867, who named the city Yorvik, from which the name York is derived. In Medieval times the City became a centre for the prosperous European wool trade, and in the 15th Century Richard, Duke of York, founded the dynasty that ruled England from 1461 to 1485. The city was a Royalist stronghold in the Civil War but surrendered after the Battle of Marston Moor. In the 18th Century York became a fashionable resort, and was once again prosperous when the railway arrived in the 19th century. Your walk will include the city walls, built in the 14th century on earlier foundations, and the narrow medieval streets including Stonegate and the Shambles, the street of butchers. The magnificent York Minster, which dominates the city, was founded as a wooden chapel in 627, before a stone structure was started by the Normans in 1080. Parts of the present day building date from 1220, with the main tower dating from 1480.

3.00pm

Return to your coach at Union Terrace Coach Park and continue the journey to Edinburgh.

8.30pm

Arrive in to Edinburgh and check-in.

9.00pm

Dinner will be served in the main restaurant in your hotel.
Evening at leisure.





DAY 5

A full Scottish buffet breakfast will be served daily in the main restaurant on the ground floor of your hotel from 6.30am. Your breakfast will include a full selection of cereals, fruit juices, yogurts and fresh fruit plus a selection of breads and pastries. This will be augmented by a selection of hot items, including sausage, bacon, cooked tomatoes, mushrooms, hash browns and fried or scrambled eggs. A choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate will also be available.

8:00am

Meet your Blue Badge Guide in the lobby of your hotel and depart on a full day tour to Loch Lomond, the Trossachs and Stirling Castle.

9:30am

Arrive in Balloch and make your way to Sweeney's Cruises, where you will join your privately chartered boat for a cruise on Loch Lomond. Described by many as the Queen of Scottish Lochs and 'Gateway to the Highlands', Loch Lomond measures 23 miles long and five miles wide, making it the single largest expanse of fresh water in Great Britain. Over 200 metres in depth, it's also Scotland's third deepest Loch. But it's what happens on and around the water that perhaps makes the Loch most special. Wildlife, a mysterious floating island, stately homes, ruins - Loch Lomond has them all in abundance, all just waiting to be explored.

Return to Balloch and visit the National Park visitor centre at Loch Lomond shores.

12:00pm

Lunch at leisure in the local area.

1:00pm

Depart Loch Lomond and drive through the Trossachs, by Aberfoyle & Callander.

3:00pm

Arrive in Stirling for a visit to the Castle and a walk of the town. A site as important as the castle rock at Stirling, guarding as it does the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, would always have been of strategic interest to anyone wanting to control central Scotland. During a long and bloody history Stirling Castle has been attacked or besieged at least 16 times. Three battles have been fought in its immediate vicinity, two of which were turning points in Scottish history: and a fourth equally important battle took place just a few miles to the north. A number of Scottish Kings and Queens have been baptised, or crowned, or died in or near Stirling Castle and at least one King was murdered nearby, while another committed murder within its walls.

5:00pm

Depart Stirling, glimpsing the ruins of Linlithgow Palace where Mary Queen of Scots was born, on your way back to Edinburgh.



6:00pm

Arrive back in Edinburgh.

Dinner at leisure (vouchers). This evening we will provide you with a book of vouchers that can be used in a great selection of reasonably priced restaurants in Edinburgh.

9.00pm

Meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel, from where you will walk to the Royal Mile for a Ghost Tour of Old Edinburgh. You will be regaled with macabre tales of the supernatural while visiting some of the ancient parts of the City.

10.00pm

Walk back to your hotel.

DAY 6

9.00am

Meet your Blue Badge Guide in the lobby of your hotel and depart on a walking tour of the old City of Edinburgh, including entrance to the famous Castle.

We will take you on a leisurely walk along the Royal Mile, where your guide will point out many of the buildings and historical events that have helped forge the City. One of these is St. Giles' Cathedral. Founded in the 1120s, St Giles' was the church of John Knox during the Reformation and is often referred to as the 'Cradle of Presbyterianism'. Highlights of a visit include the beautiful stained glass windows. The impressive Rieger organ was installed in 1992 and the famous Thistle Chapel, home of the Knights of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's great order of chivalry designed by Robert Lorimer, was added in 1911.

Your guides will take you inside Edinburgh Castle, the most famous of Scottish castles with a complex building history. The oldest part, St Margaret's Chapel, dates from the 12th century; the Great Hall was erected by James IV around 1510; the Half Moon Battery by the Regent Morton in the late 16th century; and the Scottish National War Memorial after the First World War. It houses the Crown Jewels of Scotland, the Stone of Destiny, the famous 15th century gun Mons Meg, the One O' Clock Gun and the War Museum of Scotland.

Lunch at leisure.

**1.00pm –
2.15pm**

This afternoon we have arranged for you to visit Mary King's Close which lies below the City Chambers on the Royal Mile. The close was made famous when in 1645, 400 plague victims were rounded up and the exit sealed shut. This hair-raising tour is now one of Edinburgh's most

	popular visits. Your tour assistant will inform you on the time of your entrance, as only parties of 20 are able to visit at any one time.
3.30pm	The orchestra will depart by coach from your hotel for a rehearsal at St. Cuthbert's Church.
4.00pm	Rehearsal begins for the orchestra.
4.30pm	The concert band will depart by coach for a rehearsal.
4.45pm	Orchestra rehearsal ends, return by coach to your hotel. Concert band rehearsal begins.
5.00pm	Dinner will be served for the orchestra in the main restaurant in your hotel.
5.45pm	Concert band rehearsal ends, return by coach to your hotel.
6.00pm	Dinner will be served for the concert band in the main restaurant in your hotel.
7.00pm	Depart by luxury coach for St. Cuthbert's Church
7.30pm	Concert begins.
8.45pm	Return by coach to your hotel. Evening at leisure.

DAY 7

From 7.30am	A full Scottish buffet breakfast will be served in your hotel.
9.00am	This morning you will walk to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Her Majesty The Queen's official residence in Scotland, and take one of the excellent self guided audio tours. The Palace stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. The Royal Apartments, where The Queen hosts state ceremonies and other official occasions, are infused with centuries of history and have witnessed many important events in Scotland's rich history. The Palace is perhaps best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots and as the setting for the most dramatic episodes in her reign, culminating in the murder of her secretary Rizzio.
11.00am	Tour ends. The rest of the day is free for independent shopping and sightseeing.
6.15pm	Depart your hotel by coach for the Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place, where you will take part in a Scottish Ceilidh, including a four course banquet and traditional Scottish entertainment.



7.00pm

Dinner is served.

8.00pm

The entertainment begins.

10.00pm

Return by coach to your hotel.

DAY 8

Please ensure that you have brought your bags down to reception so that you may load the coach prior to departure.

A continental buffet breakfast will be served in your hotel.

Depart by coach from your hotel for the airport to check-in for your flight.

We wish you a safe journey home!