

NATURE EXPEDITIONS INTERNATIONAL

presents

THEATRE THEORY EXCURSIONS:

London, Edinburgh, the Scottish Highlands & Glasgow

August 14 – 25, 2024



Your THEATRE THEORY EXCURSIONS Chaperone:

John A. Dalton



ITINERARY

Day 1 ~ Wednesday, August 14, 2024 ~ LONDON, ENGLAND

Upon arrival in London, meet your driver and guide. Transfer by coach to your hotel. Enjoy a walking tour of COVENT GARDEN and the WEST END. WELCOME DINNER this evening at your hotel.

Thistle Holborn Hotel, Holiday Inn Kensington High Street or similar (D)

Day 2 ~ Thursday, August 15, 2024 ~ Guided LONDON Tour

Visit: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

The Gothic masterpiece of Westminster Abbey has been at the heart of British history since the formation of the Abbey by Edward the Confessor in 1065. The Abbey became the coronation church for the English monarchy in 1066, was transformed into the modern stone Abbey in the reign of Henry III and has been the venue for countless magnificent, joyous and sometimes unfortunate royal events. The marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton, coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and funerals of the Queen Mother and Princess Diana have etched the Abbey into the common memory of billions around the globe. See the Coronation Chair, medieval Lady Chapel, museum of royal effigies and the Abbey Gardens.



Continue to: CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

The Churchill War Rooms were an underground bunker that protected the British leadership from the German bombing raids as they plotted the survival and eventual victory of Britain and the Allied Forces during World War II. Navigate the winding corridors of the bunker and discover how life was for Winston Churchill and his staff who lived and worked around the clock under the streets of London. Explore fascinating spaces like the Map Room, untouched since 1945, and the Cabinet Room. The Churchill Museum charts the life of the British leader through artefacts, famous wartime speeches and Churchill's Lifeline, a 15-metre interactive table which pulls together all of Churchill's activities in the context of world events.

Balance of the day free. After dinner on your own, enjoy a WEST END THEATRE PERFORMANCE (*performance TBD*).
London Hotel (B)

Day 3 ~ Friday, August 16, 2024 ~ WIMBLEDON & HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Visit: WIMBLEDON

Travel to Wimbledon for a tour behind the scenes of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club. Visit the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum (WLTM), the largest tennis museum in the world. The museum was inaugurated at The Championships centenary event in 1977. On April 12, 2006, The Duke of



Kent declared the brand-new Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum open to the public inside the grounds of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club.

This museum has exhibits and artefacts dating back to 1555 as well as touch-screen computer consoles for visitors to interact with. Memorabilia from many famous players from Victorian times up to the present day are included in exhibits which change seasonally. The museum allows guests to sample the atmosphere of Centre Court, except for the period around the Championships. Audio guides are available in eight languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Croatian and Brazilian. WLTM is open year-round to the public except during the Championships week where entry is possible for tournament ticket holders only.

Continue to: HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Built in the 16th century as a residence of court favorite Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Hampton Court Palace found itself in the hands of the monarchy when the cardinal fell afoul of Henry VIII. The rebuilding and enlargement by several monarchs over the following centuries created a stately palace with a uniquely beautiful mix of Tudor and Baroque styles. A stand-out feature of the attraction are the world-renowned gardens offering 750 acres of formal gardens and parkland on

the banks of the River Thames. Over one million flowering bulbs, a giant grape vine and herds of deer are contained within these spectacular grounds so close to urban London. The quickest way to get around this vast space is a horse drawn charabanc (Victorian carriage) ride around the



gardens. The gardens also have a playful side with a 300-year-old maze that is still baffling visitors today. On average, it takes twenty minutes to get to the center of the famous puzzle maze which covers over a third of an acre.

Return to London. Dinner and evening on your own. Optional evening at the theater (*performance TBD – ticket not included*).

London Hotel (B)

Day 4 ~ Saturday, August 17, 2024 ~ LONDON

Visit: VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Founded in 1852 and named for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the V & A is the world's largest collection of decorative arts and design with over 4.5 million objects. Private tour of the Theatre & Performance collections that document current practice and history of all areas of performing arts including costumes, puppets, stage sets and more.

Balance of your day at leisure. MATINEE or EVENING at the THEATRE (*performance TBD*).

London Hotel (B)

Day 5 ~ Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ LONDON to EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Transfer to the station for your train to Edinburgh. Upon arrival, meet your driver and transfer to your hotel.

After dinner on your own, attend a performance of the EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE, the world's largest arts festival, spanning 25 days and featuring more than 55,000 performances in over 300 venues (*performance TBD*).

Leonardo Royal Haymarket, Voco Edinburgh Haymarket, Apex Grassmarket or similar (B)



Day 6 ~ Monday, August 19, 2024 ~ EDINBURGH

Visit: The SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTER, a lively art venue on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. There is something going on throughout the year, stories are told, there are theatres, music, exhibitions, family events and workshops.

Optional visit: THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, the largest working theatre in the UK, seating 3,059 people over three levels. The backstage tour is led by real characters who perform in the stunning theatre (*cost TBD*).

Remainder of the day at leisure. Enjoy FRINGE FESTIVAL performances or visit the PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE (*costs not included*).

After dinner on your own, enjoy a true Scottish experience, the ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO. Hosted each year on the castle esplanade, the Edinburgh Tattoo is a series of military tattoos performed by British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and international military bands. A fireworks display follows, weather permitting. *Performance time 9.00 pm. Approx. 100 minutes.* Return to your hotel.

Edinburgh Hotel (B)

Day 7 ~ Tuesday, August 20, 2024 ~ ST ANDREWS

Visit: ST ANDREWS LINKS

Enjoy a guided walking tour of ST ANDREW'S OLD COURSE. Join an expert guide on a tour of the world's most famous golf course. Your tour will take place around the 1st, 17th and 18th holes of the Old Course where you will walk in the footsteps of icons of the game and experience a player's eye view of the fabled links. Records show that golf has been played in St Andrews for more than 600 years although many believe the game's origins here date back to the 12th century. As well as being the birthplace of the game, our tour of the world's most famous Links will give you an insight into the iconic landmarks and a history that is both unique and unparalleled. You may even have an opportunity to visit the Driving Range and hit some balls (*details pending*).



Enjoy some free time for lunch at the Golf Club or nearby.

Continue to: ST ANDREWS CASTLE

Although most of St Andrews Castle has gone, the visitor center provides a small exhibition that summarizes the history of the town. The exhibition explains how the town came to be named Saint Andrews after it became home to an 8th century Sarcophagus which is believed to contain relics of the Saint. Interesting features of St Andrews Castle are the siege tunnels that were dug in 1546 by attackers trying to breach the castle defenses. The defenders realized this and then dug a second tunnel to intercept the attackers' tunnel.

Next: ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL

The remains of what was Scotland's largest and most magnificent church still show how impressive St Andrews Cathedral must have been in its prime. St Andrews Cathedral dominated the history of the medieval Church in Scotland, from its construction in the 12th century until the Protestant Reformation in 1560. As Scotland's largest and most magnificent medieval church, the cathedral was the seat of the country's leading bishops. It occupied a site used for worship since the 8th century AD, when the relics of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint, are said to have been brought here. The cathedral buildings are surrounded by a graveyard and encircled by the most complete and imposing monastic enclosure walls in Scotland.

Return to Edinburgh. Rest of the day and dinner on your own. Enjoy an evening FESTIVAL FRINGE PERFORMANCE (*performance TBD*).

Edinburgh Hotel (B)

Day 8 ~ Wednesday, August 21, 2024 ~ EDINBURGH to the SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS (PERTHSHIRE AREA)

This morning, depart Edinburgh by private coach for your journey to the Highlands.

En route visit: STIRLING CASTLE



One of Scotland's grandest castles due to its imposing position and impressive architecture, Stirling Castle commands the countryside for many miles around. It towers over some of the most important battlefields of Scotland's past including Stirling Bridge, the site of William Wallace's victory over the English in 1297, and Bannockburn where Robert the Bruce defeated the same foe in the summer of 1314. Situated on a volcanic outcrop guarding the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling Castle is a great symbol of Scottish Independence and a source of enduring national pride. It has seen many royal dramas and witnessed the lives and deaths of almost every Scottish monarch up to the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

Enjoy a visit to a LOCAL DISTILLERY (*location TBD*).

Continue to your Perthshire area hotel where you will enjoy dinner this evening.
Moness Resort, Dunkeld House Hotel, Fishers Hotel Pitlochery or similar (B,D)

Day 9 ~ Thursday, August 22, 2024 ~ SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Visit: NEIL ROSS & HIS WORKING SHEEPDOGS for a SHEEPDOG DEMONSTRATION

During a 45-minute demonstration amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, you will see up to eight dogs working as a team maneuvering sheep and ducks through various obstacles. Every dog has its own commands enabling visitors to see just how each of them responds to their individual whistles and each move by the dogs is explained by handler Neil Ross. This truly is an experience not to be missed, giving people of all ages the chance to enjoy and participate in the traditional working day of a Highland Shepherd and his dogs. Meet the collie pups, bottle-feed the orphan lambs and take part in shearing a sheep. You'll have excellent opportunities to capture some unforgettable memories – so don't forget your camera!

Continue to: the HIGHLAND FOLK MUSEUM

The Highland Folk Museum brings to life the domestic and working conditions of earlier Highland peoples. Visitors to this living history Museum can learn how our Scottish Highland ancestors lived, how they built their homes, how they tilled the soil and how they dressed, in a friendly and

welcoming environment. An award-winning visitor attraction, the Museum not only encapsulates human endeavor and development in Highland life from the 1700s to the present day but offers an opportunity to explore a beautiful natural setting, home to red squirrels and tree creepers, within the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park.

Return to your hotel. Dinner on your own followed by optional local theatre performance (*performance TBD – ticket not included*).
Perthshire area Hotel (B)

Day 10 ~ Friday, August 23, 2024 ~ PERTSHIRE AREA to GLASGOW
This morning: CRUISE ON LOCH LOMOND



No visit to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park would be complete without a trip out on the loch. Peacefully cruising across the waters provides you with unique views of the surrounding mountains, close-ups of numerous islands and perhaps the chance to spot local wildlife too. A cruise will give you the opportunity to explore Loch Lomond's fjord-like northern end, its islands, wildlife, history, and of course magnificent views of Rob Roy Country. During your cruise you'll sail past the lands of the Clan Colquhoun, MacGregor, Buchanan, Montrose, Graham and the ruined strongholds of the MacFarlanes.

Visit: INVERARY CASTLE

Inveraray Castle is the ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell and the iconic, must-see visitor attraction on the West Coast of Scotland. Most notably, Inveraray Castle featured in the television drama *Downton Abbey*.

Continue to your hotel in Glasgow.

Novotel Glasgow City Centre, Maldron Hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Glasgow SEC or similar (B)

Day 11 ~ Saturday, August 24, 2024

Visit: KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

One of Scotland's most visited attractions is a magnificent building with 22 themed, state-of-the-art galleries displaying an astonishing 8000 objects. The internationally significant collections are extensive and wide-ranging, covering natural history, arms and armors, art from many art movements and periods of history, and much, much more. There is even a real Spitfire! Visitors to Kelvingrove can enjoy its cafes and shops and make use of its Study Centre and Library to find out more about Glasgow Museums' collections and carry out research online.

Enjoy: a PANORAMIC CITY TOUR OF GLASGOW

Discover Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, with a panoramic city tour. From the magnificent St Mungo Cathedral to the People's Palace and Glasgow Green, explore Glasgow rich past as a religious center and one of the most important industrial cities in Britain. The Victorian architecture of the center offer a striking contrast to the extensive parks of the West End. Among those,



Kelvingrove offers a haven of peace in the city, with amazing views on Glasgow University's striking buildings and the Kelvingrove Museum. It is not hard to imagine why Glasgow is home to Scotland's most celebrated architect: Charles Rennie Mackintosh.
Rest of the day on your own. FAREWELL DINNER (*time, place and cost TBD*)
Glasgow Hotel (B)

Day 12 ~ Sunday, August 25, 2024 ~ HOMEWARD BOUND
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**** END OF TRIP ****
(Code: B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)

TRIP COST per person (double occupancy) based on 15+ travelers:

\$6,200 (payment by check or bank transfer); \$6,460 (payment by credit card)
Single supplement: \$2,000 per person (check or bank transfer); \$2,085 (credit card)

***SIGN UP WITH DEPOSIT BY DECEMBER 31, 2023 & RECEIVE
\$100 DISCOUNT PER PERSON!***

*Cost based on a minimum of 15 paying guests traveling together.
Price reduction of \$500 per person for 20 –25 paying guests. Maximum of 25 guests.*

*Pricing may change due to availability & cost of hotels, tours, admissions & tickets.
NEI reserves the right to change the trip cost if the
US Dollar depreciates significantly against the British Pound.*

INCLUDES:

- 11 nights at good 4-star hotels
- Breakfast at hotels daily
- Dinners on Days 1 & 8 (3 courses with coffee or tea)
- Tickets to two London theatre performances, two Festival Fringe performances, one Military Tattoo ticket
- Tours & transfers by motor coach with driver & English-speaking guide OR public transportation
- Oyster Card with GBP £25 credit – one per person
- Train ticket from London to Edinburgh (standard class)
- Whisper headsets
- Service charges, taxes & portorage

EXCLUDES:

- International airfare
- Transfers for travelers arriving or departing at different times than the group
- Meals not listed in the itinerary as included
- Additional theatre tickets & optional tours
- Travel insurance – highly recommended
- Tips & gratuities to drivers, guides, hotel & restaurant staff
- Items of a personal nature

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, TERMS & CONDITIONS

PRICE & ITINERARY CHANGES

Cost based on a minimum of 15 paying guests traveling together. Price will be reduced by \$500 per person for 20 – 25 paying guests. Maximum of 25 guests. NEI reserves the right to change the trip cost if the US Dollar depreciates significantly against the British Pound. Price may increase if the cost of hotels, tours, admissions & tickets are significantly higher than expected. Itinerary routing may change due to ticket availability, openings & closures.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

\$1,500 deposit per person & Reservation Form due by FEBRUARY 14, 2024.
Final Payment due by MAY 14, 2024.

CANCELLATION BY TRAVELER & REFUNDS

Should a cancellation become necessary, please inform NEI immediately in writing by e-mail & request written confirmation of cancellation.

Cancellation prior to final payment: Refund of deposit amount minus \$500, any credit card fees, non-refundable deposits paid by NEI & additional costs incurred by NEI as a result of the cancellation.

Cancellation after MAY 14, 2024: No refund.

CANCELLATION BY NEI

Deposits will be refunded minus any credit card and handling fees should NEI cancel the trip if the minimum of 15 paying guests do not sign up with deposit by February 14, 2024.

Your NEI Reference #2408TTUK



FLIGHTS

NEI will advise preferred flights. NEI can often get discounted fares for business class & will book these flights at no additional cost. Travelers may book their own flights or NEI will book at a cost of \$75 per ticket. Any travelers who arrive or depart on flights different than the majority of the group will need to coordinate arrival & departure transfers with NEI or arrange their own transfers at additional cost.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. NEI will provide quotes for travel insurance from CSA/Generali and/or Allianz upon request. Coverage includes trip cancellation or interruption for a covered reason, trip delay, baggage delay or loss, medical & dental emergencies, emergency transportation, accidental death, etc.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact John Dalton at daltonjohna@gmail.com or Nature Expeditions International at info@natureexp.com or 954.693.8852 for further information.