This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Rice University

Featuring Newell D. Boyd, PhD, Professor of History
Dear Rice alumni, parents, and friends,

Travel with us on an exclusive 12-day small group tour to Scotland. Discover Scotland’s enduring appeal, traveling from city to country and loch to glen, all while encountering stunning natural beauty and historic treasures. We are pleased to have Newell D. Boyd, PhD, professor of history, lead us on this dynamic journey.

Starting in Glasgow, we see the city’s unique architecture and take a private tour of Pollok House, ancestral home of the Maxwell clan. Then we set off for the scenic Scottish Highlands, stopping by the banks of Bonnie Loch Lomond, Great Britain’s largest lake. We visit beautiful Glencoe and take a full-day excursion to the Isle of Skye, known for its strong Gaelic influence. At Loch Ness, the lake best known for its alleged monster, we’ll enjoy a boat ride, then we’ll explore Urquhart Castle’s evocative ruins. Our final destination is stately Edinburgh, where exploration includes the 18th-century Georgian “New Town,” the medieval “Old Town,” and the Royal Mile. We’ll tour Holyrood and enjoy ample free time for exploring independently.

With space for only 24 Rice-affiliated guests in total, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today and secure your place on this memorable journey through Scotland!

Sincerely,

Rice Alumni Traveling Owls

RICE UNIVERSITY RESERVATION FORM: SCOTLAND – HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $_________ ($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Scotland: Highlands and Islands departing June 6, 2020. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls – MS 520, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251-1892. You may also call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, e-mail travelingowls@rice.edu, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________________ Gender ___________

Full Passport Name ________________________________ Date of Birth __________________ Gender ___________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________ State ___________________________ ZIP _____________

Home Phone (______)_________ __________ Cell Phone (______)_________ __________

E-mail(s) __________________________ ____________________________

Badge Name(s) __________________________________

Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/We request a Business Class upgrade q
I will share a room with __________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) q

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Scotland: Highlands and Islands, June 6-17, 2020, and agrees that their signature below represents acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date __________________

Method of Payment  q Check  q American Express  q Discover  q MasterCard  q VISA

Account # __________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________

Name of Cardholder ______________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Glasgow, Scotland

Day 2: Arrive Glasgow  We arrive in Scotland’s largest city and transfer to our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities planned during the day. Late this afternoon we gather with our tour director for a briefing on the journey ahead. Then we enjoy a welcome dinner at either the acclaimed National Piping Centre or the well-appointed Corinthian Club.

Day 3: Glasgow  This morning’s tour highlights “Glasgow Style,” the city’s distinct architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Though Glasgow has a rich medieval history, very few structures from that time survive; it is the Victorian-era buildings of red or blond sandstone with long lines that define the city’s historic built environment. Among the standout buildings we see: Glasgow Central Station, the Royal Exchange, and Glasgow City Chambers. We also visit Sir John W. Simpson’s immensely popular Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, housing an excellent collection of arms and armaments, and European artwork, including Salvador Dalí’s “Christ of St. John on the Cross.” Following our city tour we visit Pollok House, ancestral home of the Maxwell clan and now a museum with the United Kingdom’s greatest collection of Spanish art. We take a privately guided tour of the Edwardian country house after we enjoy lunch here. We return to our hotel mid-afternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 4: Glasgow/Loch Lomond/Glencoe/Fort William  We leave Glasgow this morning by motorcoach, bound for the scenic Highlands, Scotland’s sparsely populated historic northern region. We stop by the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, Great Britain’s largest lake and part of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. We tour the island-dotted loch by coach before continuing on to Glencoe, one of Scotland’s most beautiful spots with deep valleys flanked by steep-sided mountains, rushing rivers, and dramatic waterfalls. Then we travel on to Fort William, the Highlands’ second largest settlement, arriving late afternoon.

My heart’s in the Highlands,” said Robert Burns – as will you, as we travel from city to country, mainland to island, on this sweet journey. From loch to loch and glen to glen, we encounter stunning natural beauty and welcoming clans, while city life serves up the colorful past – and cosmopolitan present.

Cover photo: Eilean Donan Castle, which we visit on Day 5, stands as one of Scotland’s most beautiful fortresses.

Small Group Tour Highlights

Well-paced journey through Scotland  •  Glasgow touring  •  Glasgow’s unique architecture  •  Private guided tour of Pollok House  •  Beautiful Scottish Highlands scenery, including Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Glencoe, Loch Ness  •  Evocative ruins of Urquhart Castle  •  Isle of Skye excursion  •  Historic Culloden Moor  •  Medieval St. Andrews  •  Edinburgh touring, including Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood  •  Pleasing mix of guided touring and time for independent exploration

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating

1 Depart U.S. for Glasgow
2-3 Glasgow Principal Grand Central Hotel Sup. First Class
4-5 Fort William Nevis Bank Hotel Not rated
6-7 Brora Royal Marine Hotel First Class
8 St. Andrews Old Course Hotel Deluxe
9-11 Edinburgh Tigerlily Edinburgh Sup. First Class
12 Depart Edinburgh for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

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Cover photo: Eilean Donan Castle, which we visit on Day 5, stands as one of Scotland’s most beautiful fortresses.
Day 5: Fort William/Isle of Skye  We embark on a full-day excursion to the Isle of Skye, the largest of Scotland’s Inner Hebrides known for its vivid history, strong Gaelic influence, and stunning scenery. En route, we make a photo stop at Glenfinnan Monument honoring “Bonnie Prince Charlie” for his leadership in the Jacobite Rising of 1745. Then we board a ferry for Armadale on the southern tip of the Isle of Skye, where our touring begins with a visit to Armadale Castle and Gardens, where we have lunch. Next we set out on a scenic drive through the imposing Cuillin Hills (or “Black Cuillin”). Returning to the mainland via the Skye Bridge, we stop to visit iconic Eilean Donan Castle then dine tonight at our hotel.

B,L,D

Day 6: Fort William/Loch Ness/Brora  We depart today for the Northern Highlands, stopping en route at fabled Loch Ness. We enjoy a boat ride on the 23-mile-long lake best known for the unearthly creature alleged to live in its deep waters. We also visit the ruins of lakeside Urquhart Castle, one of Scotland’s most popular attractions. Dating to at least the 13th century, the castle sits surrounded by water on three sides, giving it a once-formidable advantage in battle. Then we travel on to the historic Culloden Moor battle site. After time on our own to tour the museum here, we tour the hallowed grounds, site of the last battle of the Jacobite Rising in 1746. Early this evening we arrive in Brora, a quaint Highlands village and our home for the next two nights. B,D

Day 7: Brora/Highlands  Our exploration of the Highlands continues on today’s excursion along the Pictish Trail, sites connected with the late Iron Age/early Medieval Celtic people who once lived here. We visit striking Dunrobin Castle & Gardens, where we see a falconry demonstration, then embark on a tour and tasting at a small local distillery that has been producing hand-crafted single malt whisky for generations. We continue our drive along the scenic coastal road flanked by small farms with sheep, cows, and Shetland ponies before returning to our hotel, where we enjoy dinner together tonight. B,D

Day 8: Brora/Kincraig/Pitlochry/St. Andrews  Today’s first stop is Kincraig, where we watch a sheepdog demonstration with working border collies, then we move on to historic Pitlochry. A short drive from our hotel, Pitlochry is situated in the heart of Scotland’s Highland region and is known for its scenic beauty and rich history. After some free time to explore the town, we continue on to St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf and a beautiful university town on the Firth of Forth. Our final stop of the day is the historic town of St. Andrews, where we have dinner together.

B,D
known for their herding abilities. We travel on to the holiday town of Pitlochry in the heart of Scotland, where we enjoy some free time before continuing on to legendary St. Andrews late this afternoon; dinner tonight is on our own in this charming town. B

Day 9: St. Andrews/Edinburgh Home of Scotland’s oldest university (St. Andrews) and renowned as the home of golf, where the game has been played for some 600 years, delightful – and compact – St. Andrews measures just one mile across. This morning we embark on a walking tour of the medieval seaside town, followed by lunch together then free time to explore on our own. Later this afternoon we continue on our way to Edinburgh. Dinner tonight is on our own in the Scottish capital, which boasts a robust culinary scene. B,L

Day 10: Edinburgh Our morning tour of this stately city built on seven hills features both the 18th-century Georgian “New Town” and the medieval “Old Town” – together, the districts form a UNESCO site. In the Old Town, we pay an inside visit to Edinburgh Castle, symbolic heart of the country. We also travel the Royal Mile, the warren of medieval streets that form the thoroughfare stretching from the castle to Holyrood Palace, official residence of the Queen when in Scotland. This afternoon is at leisure to discover Edinburgh as we wish; museums, galleries, and shops abound. B

Day 11: Edinburgh This morning we again encounter the Royal Mile, with its mix of attractions, shops, and restaurants. We tour Holyrood, as it is called, and see where British royalty schemed and slept as we tour the State Apartments. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Tonight we celebrate our Scotland sojourn over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 12: Depart for U.S. We transfer this morning to the Edinburgh airport for our return flights to the U.S. B

Your Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Meet Your Faculty Host
Dr. Newell Boyd is a semi-retired professor of history whose primary teaching field is Victorian Britain and the British Empire. He has presented papers at academic meetings and been published regularly in a variety of books and scholarly journals in the field of British history. He has recently published historical novels on the lives of John Ruskin and Joseph Chamberlain. He holds a PhD in history from Texas Tech University and has done post-doctoral research at the University of London, Birmingham University, the London School of Economics, Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Boyd has been a fellow at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London and is a member of England’s Society of Authors and the Royal Historical Society.

Tour Depart: June 6, 2020
Prices include int’l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $501, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $1,195. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $3,495 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and price is subject to change).

For reservations and information, please call the Rice Alumni Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS, or fax your reservation to 713-348-5210 or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

“Take the adventure, heed the call…”
– Kenneth Grahame
Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

- Cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200
- Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price
- Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price
- Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price
- Cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund

Changes from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes within 30 days of departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will not be responsible for any costs associated with the change.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Responsibility

The liability of the Office of Alumni Relations and Rice University, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, but not limited to, weather, hazards of travel, strike, etc.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of international and domestic air schedules, we do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., the Office of Alumni Relations, Rice University shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.