

## SCOTTISH LIFE THROUGH THE CENTURIES TOUR: 5 DAYS

DAY 1. Commence at **St. Andrew's**, a fine city and home to Scotland's oldest university (est. 1410), the famous Old Course (golf) which dates back to pre-1457, Castle (12<sup>th</sup> century) and Cathedral (founded 1160). Afternoon visit to nearby **Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse**, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century family home packed with fine collections of French and Chippendale-style furniture, porcelain and paintings—all of great interest to collectors and antique lovers. Then travel east to nearby Kellie Castle, which overlooks the Firth of Forth and was completed in 1606. This castle has magnificent plaster ceilings and panelling as well as an intriguing history to discover.

DAY 2. To Dundee and then north to the **Angus Folk Museum** to experience life of a Scottish land worker. The Angus cottages offer a vivid insight into the realities of rural life in Scotland over the past 200 years. Then on, further north, to **J M Barrie's Birthplace** and learn about the magical story of how Peter Pan's adventures was created. Then head east stopping off at **The House of Dun**, a handsome Georgian house overlooking the Montrose Basin. Here can be found exquisite collections of furniture, porcelain, portraits and embroidery. The House sits in its own formal gardens surrounded by beautiful parkland and woodland. It is possible to venture further afield to explore the **Montrose Basin Nature Reserve**, internationally important for its migratory wading birds and wildfowl. Then continue north to Aberdeenshire, home to some of the finest castles in Scotland.

DAY 3. Morning visit to **Crathes Castle**, a magnificent 16<sup>th</sup>-century tower house which is favourite destination for fans of Scottish history, gardeners and romantics. Then to **Craigievar Castle** near Alford, an enchanting, 17<sup>th</sup> century tower house which is undergoing restoration. On the way to Aberdeen visit to **Drum Castle** which comprises a medieval tower, a Jacobean mansion house and several Victorian additions all being the work of 21 generations of the Irvine family who lived here for over 650 years.

DAY 4. Morning visit to **Pitmedden Garden**, north of Aberdeen. This was laid out to an extravagant scale in 1675 and features over 5 miles of box hedging arranged in intricate patterns to form six parterres which are filled with over 40,000 plants which burst with colour in the summer months. There is also a fascinating agricultural museum and pretty woodland walks. Then to **Haddo House** for a tour of this Georgian mansion house with sumptuous Victorian interiors. Lunch in the Edwardian tearoom before moving on to **Fyvie Castle**, a magnificent Scottish Baronial masterpiece. Fyvie boasts an 800-year history complete with ghosts, legends and folklore. Then on to Forres via the scenic coastal route.

DAY 5. To **Brodie Castle** the contents of which will be of great interest to art and antique connoisseurs. The oldest part of the castle, the Z plan tower house, is 16<sup>th</sup>-century. In spring the grounds are carpeted with a unique collection of daffodils. Then on to Aberdeen via **Leith Hall**, a charming and intimate Scottish family home dating from the 1600s and **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest Castles of Mar. This castle, which dates from the late 1500s features huge granite walls and distinctive turrets.

