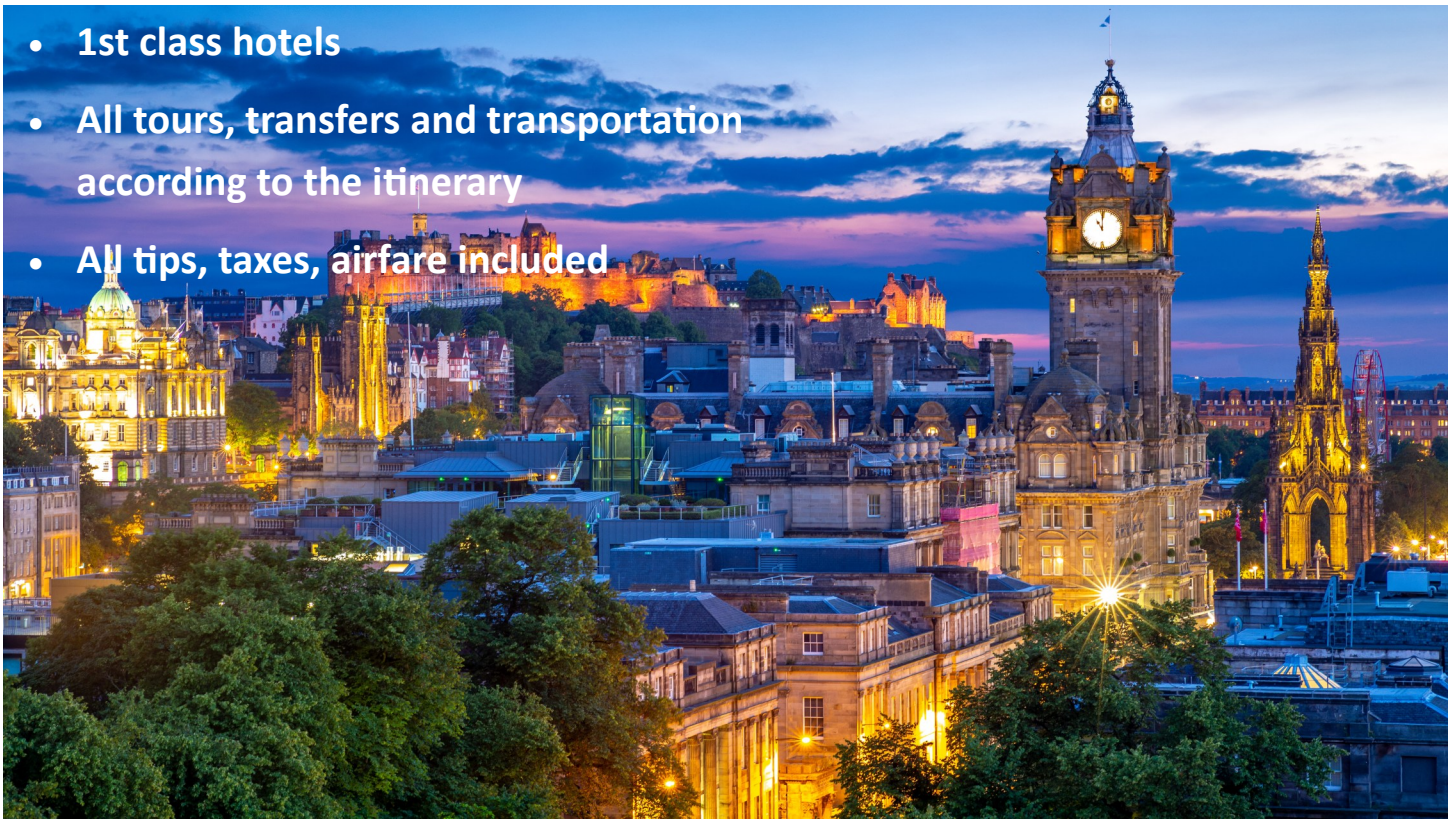
CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED

Footsteps of Faith Through Scotland and the Reformation

11 Days: September 1-11, 2026

Visiting
Edinburgh • Stirling • Inverness • Loch Ness • Oban
Isle of Skye • Iona • Glencoe • Loch Lomond • Pitlochry

Hosted By:
Rev. Andy Gans
$5,585 from Houston
(based on 25 travelers)



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I invite you to join us on our 11 Day Footsteps of Faith tour through Scotland and the Reformation.

During our trip, we won't just be admiring Scotland's rugged landscapes and ancient castles, but also delving into a pivotal period of its past: the Scottish Reformation. Our journey will take us through the stunning scenery that is so often associated with Scottish identity, from the misty lochs to the dramatic coasts. But our trip is about more than scenery; it's about the people and the ideas that transformed this nation.

We will walk in the footsteps of those who navigated this seismic shift. We will explore how this movement influenced everything from art and education to the establishment of the Kirk as the moral center of society. By looking into the story of the Reformation, we can better understand the Scottish character—a blend of fierce independence, intellectualism, and deep-seated resolve.

The story of the Reformation is a tale of shifting power and fierce convictions. It was a time of immense change, when figures like John Knox challenged the established Roman Catholic Church and fought for a new Presbyterian order. This monumental shift not only altered the spiritual heart of Scotland but reshaped its politics, its society, and its very national identity.

As we explore historic sites across the country, we'll walk the same streets as these reformers and revolutionaries. We'll visit places where key events unfolded. By visiting these landmarks, we can better understand the sacrifices and struggles that molded modern Scotland.

This trip offers a chance to experience the depth of Scottish culture - its music, literature, and enduring spirit of independence. But most importantly, it allows us to connect with the powerful history that has made Scotland what it is today.

The price of our tour includes round-trip airfare, first-class hotels, most meals, all scheduled tips and transfers, an outstanding tour director and sightseeing in a deluxe motorcoach. We look forward to having you join us on this trip of a lifetime.

NOW is the time to make plans and reserve your place on the tour as space is limited and we expect will sell out quickly. Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the history, culture and remarkable scenery of Scotland!

Sincerely,
Rev. Andy Gans

Phone number 713-467-2234 • Email address: andy@pinespc.org

TOUR FEATURES

- Round-trip airfare from Houston.
- Government taxes/airline surcharges/tips.
- Accommodations at first class/select hotels, based on two persons sharing in twin-bedded rooms with private bath.
- Most meals while on tour.
- Services of a professional tour director.
- Comprehensive sightseeing throughout.
- All hotel service charges, value-added taxes, porterage where available, entrance fees per itinerary and tips.

YOUR DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

TUE, SEP 1 - CROSS THE ATLANTIC

Depart Houston on board your transatlantic flight to Edinburgh, Scotland, arriving the following day.

WED, SEP 2 - ARRIVE EDINBURGH (2 Nights)

Arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. A city of great history and beauty. Transfer to our central hotel. Balance of the day for relaxation (Dinner).

THUR, SEP 3 - EDINBURGH

Set on a series of volcanic hills and divided into Old and New Towns, each with their own distinct character, Edinburgh is known as the Athens of the north for its neo-classical architecture. The city's prestige was further enhanced in 1999 with the opening of the Scottish Parliament. Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour, including Edinburgh Castle, home of the Scottish Crown Jewels and Stone Of Scone, the Royal Mile, with John Knox's House, Princes Street and the New Town (Breakfast and Dinner).

FRI, SEP 4 PITLOCHRY (1 Night)

Follow the course of the River Forth to Stirling, occupying a strategic site which bridges the Lowlands and Highlands. It was here that William Wallace defeated the army of Edward I in 1297, immortalized in Mel Gibson's 'Braveheart'. Following a guided tour of the castle, perched high above the city and a childhood home of Mary Queen of Scots, continue north into the Highlands and our hotel near Pitlochry (Breakfast and Dinner).

SAT, SEP 5 - INVERNESS (2 Nights)

Begin the day by visiting Blair Castle, home of the Atholl family for nineteen generations over seven centuries. Then continue through the lovely Cairngorms National Park north to Inverness, cultural capital of the Highlands (Breakfast and Dinner).

SUN, SEP 6 - INVERNESS

Enjoy a scenic tour of the Highland countryside around Inverness, including the Visitor Center at Culloden Moor, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was finally defeated by the English troops of King George II in 1746 at the last battle to be fought on British soil. The prince escaped the pursuing English soldiers by disguising himself as a woman and fleeing across the sea to the Isle of Skye, taking with him the last chance of restoring the Stuart kings to the throne. Then pass along the shores of Scotland's most famous lake, Loch Ness, hoping for a view of Nessie, its most famous inhabitant, and enjoy a cruise on its legendary waters (Breakfast).

TUE, SEP 8: OBAN (2 Nights)

Begin with a short drive west to the spectacular Glenfinnan Viaduct, famous the world over as part of the route of the Hogwarts Express, and the view of Loch Shiel, one of Scotland's finest. Stop briefly at Glencoe, site of the infamous Glencoe Massacre of 1692, when 38 members of Clan MacDonald were massacred by forces of King William III. Continue along the shore of Loch Linnhe to Oban, a bustling fishing village and resort (Breakfast and Dinner).

WED, SEP 9 - IONA

Enjoy a trip to Iona, a small island situated off the island of Mull, where St Columba brought Christianity to Scotland in the 6th century. Take a guided tour of the Abbey, including the recently restored museum, and see St. Martin's Cross, a Celtic high cross of astounding preservation from the 9th century. Also visit the ruined Nunnery, actually an Augustinian Priory for women. Free afternoon, may-be to climb Dun I, site of an Iron Age hill fort and the highest point on Iona, or for personal devotions in this most special of places, before returning to Oban for the night (Breakfast and Dinner).

THU, SEP 10 - EDINBURGH (1 Night)

Leave the Oban area and journey south back to Scotland's capital city. As we drive through the gorgeous countryside we'll pass along the 'bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond' as we travel back to Scotland's fair city, Edinburgh, for our last night and a special farewell dinner (Breakfast and Dinner).

FRI, SEP 11 - DEPART FOR HOUSTON

For an application or more information please go to: www.pinespc.org/scotland

General Conditions

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT:

Reservations may be secured upon payment of an initial deposit of $500 per person, by check payable to Pines Presbyterian Church ("Pines"). Pines shall forward all proceeds to Cultural and Religious Tours Services Limited ("CRTS"), and other travel agencies for this tour. No reservation is considered firm until your deposit has been received by Pines. Your initial deposit payment shall be deemed to be an acceptance of all the terms of the General Conditions. Following your deposit, a first payment of $1,500 is due at Pines on or before February 1, 2026 (total payment required by 2/01/26 is $2,000). A second payment of $1,500 is due at Pines on or before April 1, 2026 (total payment required by 4/01/26 is $3,500). A third payment of $1,000 is due at Pines on or before June 1, 2026. The balance of payment is due at Pines on or before July 1, 2026.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: A U.S.A. passport valid for at least 6 months after our return date of the trip is required to travel. It is the sole responsibility of the traveler to check their passport's expiration date. Non-U.S.A. citizens may require visas in addition to a valid passport. It is the sole responsibility of non-U.S.A. citizens (including green card holders) to ensure they have the required visas/travel documents for each country to be visited on their tour and for re-entry into the U.S.A. Visa fees (if any) are not included in the tour price.

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

AIR TRANSPORTATION: By any IATA/ARC air carrier or other scheduled jet carrier in standard economy class. Flights and air routings are at the discretion of air carriers and are subject to change without notice. Air arrangements are based on non-refundable bulk group airfares and cannot be upgraded. Cancellations made after air tickets have been issued are subject to full cancellation penalties as imposed by the airlines. Per TSA regulations, airline tickets must bear your first, middle, and last name as it appears on your passport and passengers are responsible to bear any name-change fees should they not provide the local travel agent accurate passport information.

AIRLINE SEATING: A local travel agency contracts non-refundable bulk group airfares in standard economy class. Airlines no longer provide seat assignments for groups and does not guarantee specific seat assignments. Seat assignments for groups are made at the discretion of the airline and are typically allocated by automated airline computer systems in alphabetical order. Seat assignments will not be advised until check in at the airport. The travel agent cannot request and does not guarantee specific seat assignments.

TAXES/SURCHARGES: U.S. departure taxes, overseas airport taxes, overseas local government taxes, security fees and airline imposed international surcharges are included as of October 31, 2025. Future price increases may be applied due to additional costs as imposed by a supplier or governments.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION: By deluxe motorcoach

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations are at first class and select hotels based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room with private bath. A person taking a single room (subject to availability) must pay a supplement of $1,550. Single rooms are limited and may be small.

MEALS: Breakfast daily and 8 dinners are included

SIGHTSEEING: As specified in the itinerary, using motorcoach transportation or other conveyances as required. Entrance fees and the services of local English-speaking guides or tour managers are included.

TRANSFERS: Assistance and transfers from airports to hotels and vice versa in private motorcoach

PORTERAGE: Porterage at hotels (where available) of one normal size suitcase (maximum weight 50 lbs.) is included in the tour price.

HOTEL SERVICES CHARGES/TAXES: Service charges and taxes normally included in bills, VAT and government taxes on hotel bills in effect on October 31, 2025 (excluding hotel tourist taxes), taxes on scheduled sightseeing and scheduled excursion trips are included in the tour price. Tips to tour director and long-distance coach driver included. Future price increases may be applied due to additional costs as imposed by a supplier or governments. Recovering VAT taxes is the sole responsibility of the passenger/purchaser.

LAND ONLY/DEVIATIONS: Passengers wishing to do their own air arrangements or wishing to deviate from the group itinerary must advise CRTS and Pines in writing no later than June 1, 2026. For air deviations, a $100 non-refundable fee per person will be charged on all deviations in addition to any extra airfare that may be incurred. Air deviations are subject to availability and restrictions as imposed by the airlines.

BAGGAGE: Airlines may now charge baggage fees for checked luggage on international/domestic flights based on the policy of each carrier. The maximum number of pieces of luggage, the weight allowance and baggage dimensions may also vary by airline from the U.S.A. to overseas/domestic destinations and beyond. Many carriers require that checked luggage in economy class not exceed 50 lbs. with a combined length/width/height of 62 inches. Regulations vary for business/first class passengers. Airline policies regarding baggage are subject to change at any time without prior notice. It is the responsibility of each passenger to check with their airline prior to departure for baggage information, regulations, and compliance. Please refer to your electronic airline ticket receipt once received with the final tour documents. CRTS and Pines are not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers regarding baggage.

Due to the limited capacity of luggage compartments on CRTS motorcoaches, CRTS can only allow per person one normal-size suitcase (total dimensions of 62 inches) plus one carry-on bag (total dimensions of 45 inches). CRTS accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to the tour members' baggage or personal belongings at any time. Baggage insurance is recommended.

TRAVELERS REQUIRING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Disabled travelers requiring special attention or care must advise CRTS and Pines in writing at the time of reservation. A physically able companion must accompany any person who needs special assistance. Tour directors, guides, drivers or other tour, hotel personnel are not able to provide such assistance. CRTS and Pines are not responsible for any denial of services to the disabled participant by air carriers, hotels, restaurants or other independent suppliers. Certain countries/destinations involve extensive walking. Be aware that outside the U.S. the *Americans with Disabilities Act* is not applicable and facilities for disabled individuals are limited. CRTS and Pines are not responsible for any passenger requiring special medical equipment.

THE TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Passport fees, visa fees (if any), phone calls, valet, laundry service, wines, liquors, mineral water, after dinner coffee or tea, tips to non-tour related guides, local drivers/transfer agents and waiters, sightseeing, meals, and other services not specifically mentioned, excess baggage and all other items of a purely personal nature.

CANCELLATIONS: All cancellations must be received in writing at Pines or CRTS directly from the tour member. Written cancellations received by February 1, 2026 are subject to a $200 per person administrative cancellation fee. Written cancellations received by Pines/CRTS between February 1, 2026 and April 1, 2026, are subject to a $1,200 per person cancellation fee. Written cancellations received by Pines/CRTS between April 1, 2026 and June 1, 2026, are subject to a $2,000 per person cancellation fee. Written cancellations received by Pines/CRTS after June 1, 2026 is subject to a $3,000cancelation fee. Written cancellations received by Pines/CRTS after July 1, 2026 is subject to a 100% cancellation fee of the total tour price per person. No shows are subject to a 100% cancellation fee and reservations will be cancelled. Failure to receive additional deposits and final payment by the respective due dates may result in the cancellation of your reservation and the forfeiture of all deposits. Airline tickets are not refundable once issued. No refunds will be given for any unused services while on tour.

CRTS strongly recommends trip Insurance. Insurance for trip cancellation, medical evacuation, medical emergencies, baggage, etc. is available for purchase from third party providers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The airfare used is based on non-refundable bulk group fares in effect on October 31, 2025. Airlines reserve the right to increase fares without prior notice. Tour members will be required to pay any airfare increases and international surcharges as imposed by the airlines prior to departure. Airlines require a minimum of 15 persons departing from the same gateway city.

Land costs are based on estimated 2025 tariffs, overseas government taxes and rates of exchange in effect on October 31, 2025 and a minimum of 25 or more participants per coach. While we have made the best possible estimates of what we expect costs to be in 2026, we cannot guarantee actual prices, exchange rates and airfares. Any increases in land costs or airfares that may occur will be collected from each passenger prior to departure. CRTS reserve the right to increase the cost of the tour consistent with normal increases should the group fall below 25 persons, and/or in the event of fluctuations in exchange rates.

All prices are based on rates of exchange listed above and while every effort will be made to hold them firm, they are subject to change.

Travel in the year 2026 is expected to be at an all-time high. CRTS will make every effort to adhere to the itinerary and scheduled departure as outlined herein; however, actual group size, or circumstances beyond our control may necessitate iterations. Departure date, itinerary sequence, and cities for overnight accommodations may change.

Please note that healthcare/medical costs outside the U.S.A. are not covered by Medicare or private medical insurance plans. Please consult with your health insurance supplier to obtain the necessary health/medical coverage for overseas travel.

STATE DEPARTMENT/GOVT AGENCIES: On occasion, a U.S. or foreign government agency, such as the U.S. State Department (www.state.gov). Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), etc., may issue a travel advisory, warning or alert for a destination or surrounding area you may be visiting while on tour. CRTS encourages you to refer to these agencies to obtain the most current and up-to-date information. The terms and conditions of your tour program, including cancellation policies, cannot be altered based on any occurrence whatsoever and/or any travel advisory, warning or alert issued in the U.S. or foreign countries where your tour is scheduled to visit, including but not limited to weather conditions, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, explosion, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance bankruptcy, force majeure, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, local governmental regulations and intervention, sickness, epidemics, quarantines, pandemics, natural disasters, strikes, local, civil disorders, or any other act that may affect the service or agreements of a particular carrier or supplier.

RESPONSIBILITY: CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRAVEL SERVICES LIMITED, and its agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours, and transportation, whether by railroad, motor bus, motor car, cruise vessel, boat, air, or any other means. Pines is neither an agent nor employee of CRTS and is not responsible for any act of omission beyond transmitting any deposit or payment to CRTS. Except for the wilful negligence of its direct employees, neither CRTS nor Pines is liable for any damage, loss (including but not limited to personal injury, loss of enjoyment, distress, death and property loss), expense or inconvenience caused by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or by any other person or reason whatsoever or by any delays or changes in the itinerary, or the acts and omissions of the tour leader/host or travel agent. CRTS assumes no liability or responsibility for any injuries, inconveniences, illness, irregularity, or incidental damages occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of the tour operator, or by any person or reason whatsoever, including but not limited to events such as weather conditions, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, explosion, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance bankruptcy, force majeure, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, local governmental regulations and intervention, sickness, epidemics, quarantines, pandemics, natural disasters, strikes, local civil disorders, closure of airports, hotels or included sites, default or omission of any common or private carrier, or any other act that may affect the service or agreements of a particular carrier or supplier. CRTS reserves the right to cancel the tour at any time, to operate the tour with a substitute tour leader at any time, or to decline or not to retain any person as a member of the tour for any cause at any time. CRTS reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary if needed, including deleting and/or adding cities, and changing the sequence of the itinerary, or whenever, in CRTS's sole judgment, as conditions warrant, CRTS deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their vessel or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of this tour and/or passengers. The services of any IATA/ARC air carrier may be used in connection with this tour.

Travel Arrangements by:

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