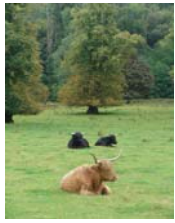




2009 CLAN MACRAE HOMECOMING TOUR OF SCOTLAND



Join us for a wonderful **CLAN MACRAE HOMECOMING** tour of Scotland!



Bruce & Judy MacRae

Going to Scotland is no ordinary trip, especially if you have MacRae blood in your veins. It is a pilgrimage for the scattered children of Kintail to go "home" and it is wonderful that those long ago rugged clansmen with the name of Macrath settled in the most scenic area of Scotland. Scotland is truly a land of contrasts. You can feel the tragedy of the land tear at your heart as it also beckons you to rest and to be at peace. So much of what you experience in the beauty of Scotland is restorative. It is as if she weeps for her children and the land does call her children back home. Once there you find something that was lost. For anyone with Scottish roots, going to Scotland is always about going "home". Our tour will take in the Clan MacRae Gathering and all Clan MacRae sites as well as the largest ever clan gathering in the world in Edinburgh. This truly will be the trip of a lifetime for those who join us and come "home" to Scotland!

THE ITINERARY ~ JULY 24 - AUGUST 7, 2009

Friday, July 24 - Day 1

Arrive in the morning at Edinburgh International Airport where we will greet you once you come through customs. You are free to explore Edinburgh this afternoon and evening. Everyone is on their own for dinner for many will want to turn in early! Overnight at **Carlton Hotel** in Edinburgh.

Saturday, July 25 - Day 2

Today is the first day of **The Gathering 2009** in Edinburgh - billed as the world's greatest clan gathering. Included are the **2009 World Highland Games Heavy Events Championship** which features the top world athletes competing. Clan MacRae will have a tent available to us through the day. In the late afternoon, we will participate in a **Clan Parade** up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. Then we will enjoy a fabulous **Clan Pageant** that will trace the history of the development of the clans through the ages. Overnight at **Carlton Hotel**. **(Breakfast)**

Sunday, July 26 - Day 3

Today is the second day of **The Gathering 2009**. Feel free to enjoy the games again or to explore the city of Edinburgh on your own. Not to be missed is a tour of **Edinburgh Castle** where you can view Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny. Other highly rated sites in Edinburgh include St. Giles Cathedral (John Knox preached here), Queen Mother's Garden and The National Gallery of Scotland. Overnight at **Carlton Hotel**. **(Breakfast)**

Monday, July 27 - Day 4

Today we take in the first of the **Clan MacRae Gathering** activities. In the morning we will reenact the 1778 march up **Arthur's Seat**, the Affair of the Wild MacRaes, which is the only successful mutiny of the British army. In the afternoon, we will head to **Sheriffmuir** where we will have a historical talk and memorial to the 58 MacRaes who died in that 1715 battle. In the evening, we will enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** prepared especially for our group. Overnight at **Stirling Highland Hotel** in Stirling. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Tuesday, July 28 - Day 5

Today we split into two groups. Those new to Scotland will visit magnificent **Stirling Castle** which has been besieged at least 16 times. Nearby, we will visit **Wallace Monument** and those with a brave heart can climb to the top and see his sword! We will also tour the **Bannockburn Battlefield** where Robert the Bruce won his famous victory in 1314 over the English. The second group will visit the fabulous **Glamis Castle**. From there we go to **St. Andrews** which is famous for the Old Course. Your time is free for lunch and touring. Overnight at **Stirling Highland Hotel**. **(Breakfast)**

Wednesday, July 29 - Day 6

Today we visit **Aberfoyle** which is Rob Roy country! We will take in the beautiful scenery of the **Trossachs** and **Loch Katrine** made famous by Sir Walter Scott in his epic poem "Lady of the Lake". In the afternoon, we will take a leisurely boat cruise on Loch Lomond. Overnight at **Stirling Highland Hotel**. **(Breakfast)**

Thursday, July 30 - Day 7

Today we head north to the white turreted **Blair Castle** traveling along the stunning Loch Tay. Then we head to **Pitlochry** for lunch and shopping. In the afternoon we tour the **Edradour Distillery** which is not only the smallest distillery in Scotland, but has beautiful grounds. Then we will return to our hotel through the scenic town of **Aberfeldy**. Overnight at **Stirling Highland Hotel**. **(Breakfast)**

Friday, July 31 - Day 8

Today we depart for the Highlands! Our route takes us through **Glencoe** and **Fort William**. Then we head into **Glen Shiel** where members of Clan MacRae battled the British in 1719. Next is the exquisite **Eilean Donan Castle**. Lunch and registration will take place in Dornie and then that evening we will enjoy a **Clan MacRae Banquet Dinner** at Dornie Hall. Overnight at **Plockton** and **Broadford** hotels. **(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)**

Saturday, August 1 - Day 9

This morning we tour the magnificent **Eilean Donan Castle** which is the ancestral home of Clan MacRae. There is much to explore between the castle and the visitor center and gift shop. Clan MacRae is arranging other local trips during the day and in the evening we will attend the **Clan MacRae Ceilidh**. Overnight at **Plockton** and **Broadford** hotels. **(Breakfast)**

Sunday, August 2 - Day 10

Today we attend the morning memorial service at **Clachan Duich** which is the ancient burial ground of Clan MacRae. After lunch, we will drive to **Portree** on the scenic **Isle of Skye** for some free time there. Overnight at **Plockton** and **Broadford** hotels. **(Breakfast)**

Monday, August 3 - Day 11

Today we head north to Thurso and the Orkneys! We catch the **Pentland ferry** at Gill's Bay to St. Margaret's Hope on South Ronaldsay and then drive over the Churchill Barriers to **Kirkwall** which is on Mainland island. Overnight at **Kirkwall** hotels. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Tuesday, August 4 - Day 12

It's a full day exploring the **Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Sites** including **Skara Brae** (Neolithic settlement from 3100-2500BC), **Stones of Stennis** (Neolithic standing stones), **Ring of Brodgar** (Neolithic henge and stone circle) and **Maeshowe** (Neolithic burial cairn). If time allows, we will see **St Magnus Cathedral** which originates from the 12th century and is one of only two surviving pre-reformation cathedrals in Scotland. Overnight at **Kirkwall** hotels. **(Breakfast)**

Wednesday, August 5 - Day 13

This morning we tour the **Italian Chapel**, built by Italians POWs in 1943. Then we catch our ferry leaving the Orkneys. Once back at **Gill's Bay**, we'll head south to **Inverness** through **Dornoch** with its beautiful **Dornoch Cathedral** built in the 13th century. Overnight at **Columba Hotel** in Inverness. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Thursday, August 6 - Day 14

This morning we leave bright and early for a tour of **Culloden** where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite forces were defeated in 1746. Then we will make our way down to **Glasgow**. Once at our hotel, we will enjoy a **Farewell Dinner**. Overnight at the **Holiday Inn** at the Glasgow Airport. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Friday, August 7 - Day 15

After breakfast, just walk out of the hotel and into the Glasgow airport for your trip home. It's goodbye until the next time! **(Breakfast)**

Details of the Tour

Rates - The price of the tour is \$2,800 per person based on double occupancy with 82 individuals participating (two coaches). There is a supplemental cost of \$300 for singles (some hotels charge an additional single supplement charge). The cost may be higher or lower depending on the final number attending and the prevailing exchange rate. Participation is first-come first-served and once full, we will have a waiting list. All discounts for seniors and families are included. A deposit of \$750 per person is required to sign-up. A second payment of \$1,000 per person is due October 1, 2008 with the third payment of \$1,050 due March 1, 2009. All payments are made payable to Judy McRae in US dollars by personal or cashier's check. We pre-pay all expenses in full prior to departure. Please note that as the exchange rate of US dollars to British pounds fluctuates on a daily basis, it is possible that there could be an additional surcharge or refund. We will not know until 60 days prior to departure, so we reserve the right to levy a surcharge, but we hope to treat you to a refund (which happened in 2007)!

Hotels - We work hard to keep costs reasonable and we choose comfortable accommodations. Our hotels in Edinburgh and Stirling are of a higher quality with the remainder of the hotels being quaint local hotels. All rooms are ensuite (bathroom in your room). Most hotels are centrally located which invites exploring on foot in the evening. Please remember that Scottish hotels are not always like those in the U.S. The rooms can be smaller, might not have air conditioning and might not have an elevator/lift. The bathrooms can be small, but they are functional. As you can tell from the itinerary, we won't be spending much time in the rooms other than sleeping! Here's the list of hotels:

<u>Edinburgh - Carlton Hotel</u>	<u>www.barcelo-hotels.co.uk</u>	<u>3 nights</u>
<u>Stirling - Stirling Highland Hotel</u>	<u>www.barcelo-hotels.co.uk</u>	<u>4 nights</u>
Plockton - Plockton Inn	www.plocktoninn.co.uk	
- Haven Hotel	www.havenhotelplockton.co.uk	
<u>Isle of Skye - Broadford Hotel</u>	<u>www.broadfordhotel.co.uk</u>	<u>3 nights</u>
Orkneys - Ayre Hotel	www.ayrehotel.co.uk	
- Kirkwall Hotel	www.kirkwallhotel.com	2 nights
<u>Inverness - Columba Hotel</u>	<u>www.oxfordhotelsandinns.com</u>	<u>1 night</u>
<u>Glasgow - Holiday Inn Airport</u>	<u>www.holidayinn.com</u>	<u>1 night</u>

Tour Guides - Our first tour guide is Iain Macdonald who is an experienced Scotland Blue Badge Guide. He has done two tours with us and his website is www.touringscotland.com. Our second tour guide will be equally trained, entertaining and informative.

Sightseeing - Several of the places we will be touring have websites where you can learn more about them before the tour.

The Gathering 2009 - Edinburgh	www.clangathering.org	Plockton	www.plockton.com
Clan MacRae in Scotland	www.clan-macrae.org.uk	Eilean Donan Castle	www.eileandonancastle.com
Stirling, Edinburgh, St Andrews Castles	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk	Wallace Monument	www.nationalwallacemonument.com
Bannockburn, Culloden	www.nts.org.uk	Orkney Islands	www.undiscoveredscotland.com
Glamis Castle	www.glamis-castle.co.uk	Pentland Ferries	www.pentlandferries.co.uk

Flights - Flying "open-jaws" (flying into Edinburgh and out of Glasgow) would be ideal for this tour. Please obtain transportation arriving in Edinburgh on the morning of Friday, July 24th which requires at least a July 23rd U.S. departure. We recommend you avoid flying through London and find a flight with only one stop. Continental Airlines (now affiliated with United Airlines) has non-stop flights to Edinburgh and Glasgow from Newark. Delta flies daily to Edinburgh. Other airlines are FlyGlobespan (from Toronto to Edinburgh/Glasgow), Zoom Airlines and Icelandair. Use www.farecompare.com to enter a multi-city or "open jaws" route. Most airlines will allow you to book 330 days prior to your departure. Should you arrive and/or depart outside of tour timeframes, you will need to take care of your own transportation.

Travel Insurance - We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. The website www.insuremytrip.com compares and sells insurance policies for various providers. Consider Travel Guard (800-826-4919, www.travelguard.com). They can customize your insurance needs to include trip cancellation, interruption and delay coverage, emergency medical treatment or evacuation coverage, lost, stolen or damaged baggage or travel documents, luggage delay and accidental death and dismemberment coverage. Make sure you check into pre-existing conditions. Also www.medjetassist.com provides medical evacuation from anywhere in the world to the hospital of your choice.

Baggage - Due to the numbers attending and space available on the coach for baggage, we ask that you take one medium to large size suitcase and one carry on bag per person. We will send you detailed packing lists and tips on what to "lightly" take to Scotland.

Included in the tour cost:

14 nights lodging in mainly quaint, local hotels (bold on itinerary)
14 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners (bold on itinerary)
Luxurious touring coach transportation
Services of an experienced coach driver
Services of a Scotland Blue Badge tour guide
All activities for the Homecoming 2009 in Edinburgh
All activities for the 2009 Clan MacRae Gathering
All group sightseeing tours and admissions (bold on itinerary)
All transportation by ferry
Transportation to/from airport (within tour timeframes into Edinburgh and out of Glasgow)
Pre-tour planning information and Tour Book (while on tour)
Picture CD of tour pictures (delivered after the tour)

Not included in the tour cost:

Passport fees
Airfare
Telephone calls, drinks, gratuities, room service
13 lunches and 8 dinners
Other transportation (taxis, etc)
All guide and driver tips
Travel insurance
Souvenirs

Cancellation Policy - Those canceling prior to January 1, 2009 will receive all monies back. Those canceling between January 1 and March 1, 2009 will receive half their money back and those canceling after March 1, 2009 forfeit all monies. If we have a waiting list and someone fills your spot, then there is a possibility of refunding all monies. However, we strongly recommend you purchase travel insurance!

Contact - Contact Bruce and Judy at 303-670-9611 or at JudyMcRae@aol.com. Mailing address is 682 Ridgeside Dr., Golden, CO 80401.

How do I get started?

- . u **Send in the bottom portion of this page with your deposit. Call or email first to make sure there is availability.**
- . u **Make sure you have a valid passport. If you do not have one, go to the Post Office now to start the process.**
- . u **Once you receive your tour confirmation letter, you will need to obtain your roundtrip airfare to Scotland.**
- . u **Consider purchasing travel insurance. We strongly recommend it.**
- . u **Your tour confirmation letter will include a form to return to us with your airline details and other specifics.**
- . u **Make your second payment by October 1, 2008 and the final payment by March 1, 2009.**
- . u **Sit back and relax and start day-dreaming about Scotland! Once you arrive, all will be taken care of!**

✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂
Please detach this bottom section, complete and mail with your deposit or payment for the trip.

Yes, we want to go on the tour with you!

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home #: _____ Work #: _____ Cell #: _____ Email: _____

What type of room? Single (1 bed sleeps 1): _____ Twin (2 beds sleeps 2): _____ Double (1 bed sleeps 2): _____ Family: _____

Will you leave the tour early? _____ If so, when will you depart? _____

____ I am enclosing a check for the amount of \$750.00 per person as a deposit for the tour.

____ I am enclosing a check for the amount of \$2,800 or \$3,100 (single) per person for the tour.

Checks are to be made payable to Judy McRae. Please mail your payment to:

Bruce and Judy McRae
682 Ridgeside Dr.
Golden, CO 80401

Please call either Bruce or Judy at 303-670-9611 should you have questions. See you in Scotland in 2009!

An áit a bhfuil do chroí is ann a thabharfas do chosa thú.

♥ "Your feet will bring you to where your heart is." ♥