

UK Highlights Pilgrimage : Our Ancient Future

With Revd Tony Welty & Revd Matthew Firth

14 Days

30th March – 12th April 2025



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

UK Highlights Pilgrimage – Our Ancient Future

Unlike the journey of a tourist, pilgrims undertake travel to visit holy places and cultivate connections with other Christians, both past and present. This is what our UK Highlights tour seeks to achieve, whilst also deepening one's own connection and relationship with God. This wide-ranging pilgrimage will take in many places of holy significance from the Holy Isle at Lindisfarne – one of the most important centres of English Christianity – to Iona Abbey. We will also discover two Great British Capitals - London and Edinburgh. We also visit the great cities of Glasgow, Liverpool and Oxford. Our pilgrimage will include awe-inspiring architecture, imposing castles, cathedrals and shrines as well as opportunities to come together in worship, community and prayer.

Revd Matthew Firth read astrophysics at Cambridge and theology at Oxford. His career has included pastoral work in Warrington, parish ministry in Ipswich, university chaplaincy and church planting in Carlisle, parish ministry in Darlington, and now church planting in York. He is the Northern Diocesan Church Planter for the Free Church of England, as well as being Diocesan Secretary.

The Revd Tony Welty, a former commercial and investment banker, has served congregations in The Episcopal Church and The Reformed Episcopal Church ("REC") for the past twenty-two years. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the REC Diocese of Mid-America and the Anglican Schools Association, and leads a Congregational Revitalization Cohort of Anglican clergy from around the world. He and his wife Cherie have been married for thirty-five years and enjoy spending time with their four adult children and eight grandchildren.

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this pilgrimage is £5199 per person (based on a minimum of 15 participants) and includes most expenses. International Airfare is not included in the price.

You will stay in 3 and 4-star hotels throughout. Breakfasts are included as well as evening meals. Water is included with all meals.

What's Included

The cost includes a room with private facilities, airport transfers, coach travel, attractions as stated in the itinerary, McCabe Tour Guide and gratuities. Time together as a group is a highlight, so breakfasts and dinners are included.

What's Not Included

International airfare, personal expenses, lunches and any meals and activities not specifically noted as included.

Travelling Alone

A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplement of £749 per person.

Special Requests

Special diets and other requests should be noted at the time of booking.

Final Travel Documents

These will be sent to you via email, two weeks before departure.

Payments

A non-refundable deposit of £500 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance is due 14 weeks before departure.

Completing your Booking

Please ensure that we have your full name (as in your passport), correct address, email address and contact numbers as soon as your booking is confirmed. We will need your passport details no later than 10 weeks before departure.

Financial security

This pilgrimage is protected by the ABTOT scheme. The McCabe ABTOT number is 5269. McCabe is also a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators and abides by the Associations code of conduct.

Terms and Conditions

A full copy of our terms and conditions can be found on our website: [Booking Conditions - McCabe Pilgrimages \(mccabe-travel.co.uk\)](https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions)

To book your place on this UK Highlights Pilgrimage, please [visit our website to book online](https://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/booking-conditions) or contact McCabe by phone or email. A nonrefundable deposit of £500 per person is required at the time of booking. You can pay by either bank transfer or debit or credit card.

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DAILY PROGRAMME

Sunday 30th March | Arrival Day in London

On arrival in London, your guide will meet you at the airport and we will drive the short distance into the city Centre. We will have some free time in the Covent Garden Piazza, formerly a market hall selling fruit and vegetables, now converted into a great mix of shops and restaurants. After our lunch break, we will carry on to our accommodation to check in and freshen up. We will enjoy a welcome dinner tonight with a chance to meet our fellow travelers.

Monday 31st March | Full day in London

Our guide will take us on a sightseeing tour today. From our coach, we will see Big Ben, the River Thames with all its bridges, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly circus and Trafalgar Square to mention just a few. A visit to Westminster Abbey will also be included. You may want to come back later to attend Evensong. After a break for a chance to get some lunch, we will visit the stunning domed St Paul's Cathedral. We will finish our busy day in London with a visit to the British Museum.

Tuesday 1st April | Day trip to Canterbury

We drive through the pretty countryside of the county of Kent to Canterbury. Founded by St Augustine in 597 AD, Canterbury Cathedral is a place of worship, of pilgrimage, and a masterpiece of architecture. It is the mother church of the worldwide Anglican Communion, the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. You will have time to visit the cathedral to see the site of Becket's Martyrdom after our walking tour, and of course have some free time to explore on your own. Today would be a good day to enjoy a cream tea before we head back to London.

Wednesday 2nd April | Journey from London to York to Durham

We will leave bright and early today to start our journey to North. Our first stop will be the medieval walled city of York. You have time to have a break and stretch your legs and find some lunch. Then we will have a short walking tour of this beautiful city, walking its narrow-cobbled streets and even a short stretch on the medieval wall itself. You will have free time to visit the stunning Gothic Minster, such an important Cathedral here in the North of England. At the end of the afternoon, we continue our journey North to the majestic city of Durham. It is perched on a hill in the middle of a huge loop in the River Wear, the city dominated by the Cathedral. Next to the Cathedral is the castle, now a part of the university.

Thursday 3rd April | A Day in Durham

We have the whole day to enjoy this very special city. We will start by visiting the cathedral together. The Cathedral is the Jewel in the crown of the city of Durham. It has stood for over a thousand years and when you enter you will see the giant stone pillars with their unusual decorations holding up the vaulted ceiling. Then you have some time to explore Durham on your own.

Friday 4th April | Drive to Lindisfarne

The island of Lindisfarne is known as 'the most holy place in England' and we will visit the ruined priory and hear about the Lindisfarne Gospels. We have to cross to Lindisfarne via a causeway which is covered by the sea at high tide so make sure you're not late back to the bus! We will continue our journey North, heading over the Scottish border next and reaching the capital Edinburgh.

Saturday 5th April | Journey from Edinburgh to Oban

This morning, we will have a tour of the grand city of Edinburgh with a local guide, finishing with a visit to its impressive castle. After some free time to enjoy its medieval cobbles streets and to find some lunch in one of its many little cafes. We will board our bus to continue across the dramatic highlands to the little coastal town of Oban over on the west coast.

Sunday 6th April | Travel to Iona

We have reached the Highlands of Scotland: rugged mountain landscapes, breathtaking scenery, coastal cliffs, sparkling lochs, white sandy beaches and ancient history all rolled into one. But our goal today is the tiny peaceful island of Iona. It is one of the oldest Christian religious centers in Western Europe. The Abbey was a focal point for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland. Its monastic community was founded by St. Columba in 563 AD and St Aidan served as a monk at Iona, before helping to reestablish Christianity in Northumberland, on the island of Lindisfarne. We have a spectacular journey to reach Iona, first taking the ferry over to Mull by foot, then driving over the island of Mull, and then finally the foot ferry across to Iona. We will have the rest of the day to enjoy the peace of this island before settling into the accommodation for the night.

DAILY PROGRAMME

Credit: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins



© The Dean & Chapter of Westminster

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Monday 7th April | Day on Iona

We have the luxury of a whole day on this island retreat. The isle of Iona is special in so many ways. It is three miles long and just one mile wide, so you could maybe walk the length of the island, or find the isolated 'Bay at the back of the Ocean' with its pristine white sand. If you walk into the heart of the Island, you are almost immediately away from the other visitors and can really feel the peace. Of course, we will visit the Abbey and its museum too!

Tuesday 8th April | Travel back to Glasgow

Sadly, we must leave this oasis behind as we start our journey back to the South. We will retrace our steps with the foot ferry to Mull, the coach across Mull, and ferry to Oban. We will have a stunning journey through the Highlands, and along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond to reach the city of Glasgow. Check in to your hotel in Glasgow.

Wednesday 9th April | Travel from Glasgow to Liverpool

We continue south through the Lowlands of Scotland, just as beautiful as the highlands, then over the border to England. Maybe a quick stop at Gretna Green, famous for eloping couples running away to be married here. We will wend our way through the countryside and make short stops at Holy Trinity Oswaldtwistle and St John's Tottington, both Free Church of England/Reformed Episcopal Churches. Our final destination today is Liverpool, home of that very famous band, The Beatles.

Thursday 10th April | Liverpool to Oxford

Liverpool today has reinvented itself since its glory days as one of the major ports in the country. Before we continue with our journey, you will have time for a stroll along the waterfront, watching the boats on the Mersey, or you could investigate the former haunts of the Beatles, and pop into The Cavern to see where they first performed. After lunch, we will head to Oxford. On arrival, we will head for Wycliffe Hall, our accommodation here in Oxford.

Friday 11th April | Day in Oxford

Our last day together will be here in Oxford, a world-renowned Centre of learning known for its many 'dreaming spires' and we will include a visit inside one of the colleges. After a short walking tour, you will have some time to explore some more on your own. We are following in the footsteps of greats such as John Wycliff, the Wesley brothers, and William Tyndale as they all attended Oxford university, not to mention 26 prime ministers of Great Britain. And in the turbulent years of the Reformation this became the site where three Protestant martyrs, Bishops Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, were burnt at the stake for their Protestant faith. The group known as the Inklings would meet regularly to discuss their books. CS Lewis was one of the Inklings, spending most of his life in Oxford. We will visit his home, The Kilns, still used today as a place of study, fellowship and creative scholarly work *Circumstances permitting. This evening, we will come together one last time for our Farewell dinner.

Saturday 12th April | Departure Day

From Oxford, we will drive direct to Heathrow airport for your flight home.

ACCOMMODATION

The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, London

The Royal Foundation of St Katherine's is a retreat centre where many have found its sense of calm transforms the way they feel. The Royal Foundation of St Katherine's is a quiet sanctuary in which to take time out from daily life for reflection, contemplation, or just 'to be'. The beautiful, historic Chapel is also available to use with interesting features representative of St Katherine's past. It's hard to imagine a more peaceful setting in the heart of London. Set in beautiful gardens, St Katherine's provides an extraordinary urban oasis in the city. The spacious lounge, conservatory, garden and library are all wonderful settings to spend time relaxing. The beautiful garden is home to undisturbed wildlife also finding sanctuary at St Katherine's. You can often see Blackbirds, wood pigeons or squirrels in the sheltered space of the garden. You may also be interested to go across into the rose garden, where you can find the rose bush planted by our patron Queen Elizabeth II during her last visit.

What's included in Guest rooms: Your single, double- or twin-bedded room will have ensuite bathrooms, hairdryer, Chair, desk, double glazing windows, air conditioning, coffee/tea making facilities and complimentary wireless internet. Please note, in keeping with the peaceful environment, there are no televisions in the bedrooms.



© The Royal Foundation at St Katherine.



© The Royal Foundation at St Katherine.

Radisson Blu, Durham

The Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham is the ideal spot to relax, with views of the River Wear directly in the heart of the city. Durham, a traditional English city full of historical and cultural charms, is located in the northeastern part of the nation. In addition to its winding, mountainous, cobblestone streets, the city is home to multiple UNESCO World Heritage monuments. See Durham University, Durham Castle, and Durham Cathedral. The Radisson Blu is only a short stroll from all of these attractions. You'll have all you need in a standard room to ensure a restful stay and restful sleep. Savor the spacious bed, free Wi-Fi, and coffee and tea making amenities in your accommodation. A hairdryer and a magnifying mirror are among the additional amenities.



ACCOMMODATION

Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Haymarket

Our Edinburgh Haymarket hotel offers the best location for your trip to the capital, with the optimum blend of comfort, style, and convenience. There are 282 bedrooms in the Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Haymarket overall. Every room at Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Haymarket has a TV and free Wi-Fi, giving visitors all the conveniences of home.

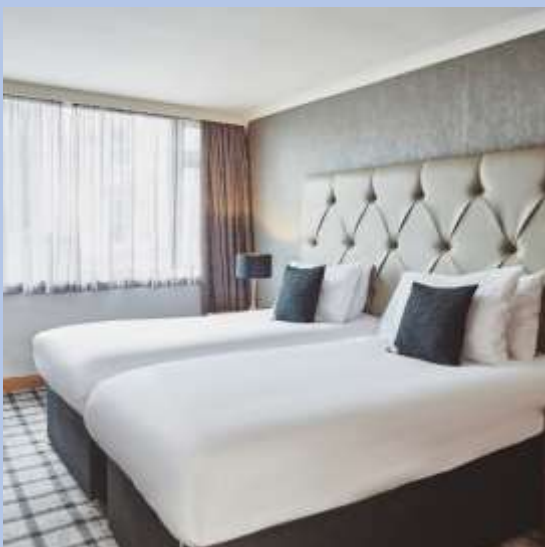
What's included in Guest rooms: Your single, double- or twin-bedded room will have ensuite bathrooms with complimentary toiletries, a TV, coffee/tea refreshment dock, Iron and Ironing board, Free WIFI, a hairdryer, a work desk and 24-hour room service.



The Scot Hotel, Oban

With its ideal central location, The Scot is an ideal starting point for discovering Oban's great local attractions and historical sites. After a day of visiting Oban and the west coast, discover a warm welcome in our restaurant or lounge. Throughout your time at The Scot, all visitors may enjoy elegantly furnished rooms with opulent bathrooms and careful attention to detail, making it the perfect place to unwind.

What's included in Guest rooms: Your single, double- or twin-bedded room will have ensuite bathrooms with complimentary toiletries, a TV, coffee/tea refreshment dock with some tasty welcome drinks, a hairdryer and Free WIFI.



The Argyll Hotel, Iona

Welcome to The Argyll Hotel, where Katy, Daf, Wendy, Rob, and the team carry on the illustrious heritage of Hebridean hospitality. Being a small hotel, their goal is for you to experience comfort and a "home away from home." The hotel is a fantastic starting point from which to see and experience the enchanted island of Iona. This little, family-run hotel is tucked away in a village street with a view of the Sound of Iona. The staff strives to ensure that your stay is as comfortable as possible, and we take great satisfaction in providing our guests with exceptional care and attention to detail.

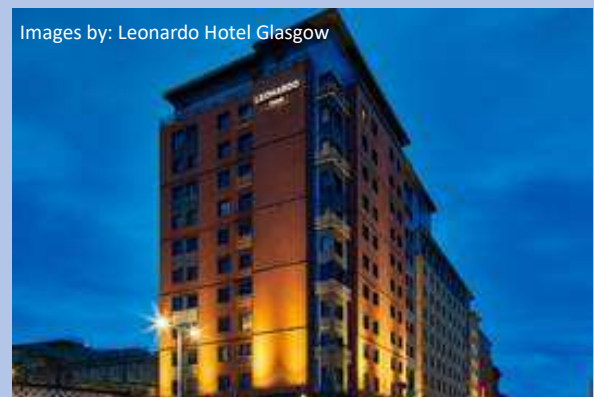


Leonardo Royal Hotel, Glasgow

The 4-star hotel is located on Jamaica street, Glasgow offers cozy guestrooms, a brand-new executive lounge and a great bar and restaurant. The Leonardo Hotel has free high-speed internet, complimentary instant coffee, baggage storage, laundry service and many more facilities. Your room has a Flatscreen TV, Air-con, 24-hour room service, hair dryer, tea, coffee and hot chocolate refreshment dock, spacious work area and a luggage rack. Each bedroom has an en-suite bathroom with complimentary toiletries.



Images by: Leonardo Hotel Glasgow



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Leonardo Hotel, Liverpool

Few hotels in Liverpool can match its prime position, just close to the renowned Royal Albert Dock and on the banks of the Mersey River. It's obvious you'll get a warm welcome from the moment you enter the hotel thanks to the neon "nice to see you" sign in the lobby. The Leonardo Hotel Liverpool is well-suited for the event, boasting roomy and cozy suites, a great restaurant and lounge with city views, and an ideal location on Kings Waterfront and only ten minutes' walk from Liverpool Central train station. With 310 spacious bedrooms available, you'll enjoy a DREAM bed by Leonardo Hotels with super-soft duvet and pillows, plus a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi, complimentary toiletries and tea and coffee making facilities as standard.



Wycliffe Hall, Oxford

Wycliffe Hall is only ten minutes' walk from Oxford's centre and is situated close to the University Parks on the outskirts of North Oxford. Accommodations are available in ordinary rooms in the main Hall, many of which have washbasins in the room and share unisex toilet facilities, or in newly remodelled ensuite rooms in a cottage in the Hall's garden. Bed linens, towels, and a continental breakfast are included in all reservations. WIFI is accessible to all visitors.



MCCABE PILGRIMAGES

McCabe Travel is a company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. McCabe has been responsible for organising hundreds of pilgrimages to the Bible Lands with churches from all over Britain for 40 years. The company is a member of AITO and is fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority.

THE MCCABE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The McCabe Educational Trust is an independent registered charity with the aim of helping inspiring people we meet on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. McCabe Pilgrimages invite all travellers to become partners in this work. A £20 voluntary donation to the Trust's work is added to every pilgrim's invoice and all money raised in this way is given in full to the projects the Trust supports. This scheme is voluntary and confidential with nobody put under any pressure to participate.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond the end of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. Visas are not required for British or other EEC passport holders. No inoculations are required. We do, however, advise you to consult your doctor regarding your own personal requirements.

HOLIDAY INSURANCE

Ensuring that your holidays are appropriately protected is one of our main priorities. That's why we have partnered with Holiday Extras so you can get a travel insurance quote to protect you before and whilst you are travelling.

Holiday Extras Cover Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and has been independently rated 5-stars by Defaqto. Holiday Extras provides a range of services including...

- Holiday insurance - annual and single trip policies with cover for pre-existing conditions and all ages.
- Airport parking - including meet and greet and valet parking services.
- Airport transfers - travel in comfort with a door-to-door service.
- Airport hotels - never worry about getting to the airport in time. Travel the day before and relax.
- Airport lounges - enjoy refreshments in a comfortable and calm atmosphere before your flight.

For more information or to obtain a quote, please click here, <https://www.holidayextras.com/travel-insurance.html?agent=WU987> Or call them on 0800 083 3551 to speak to a friendly advisor. Please quote AG628 upon calling.

**McCabe Travel acts as a referral partner of Holiday Extras. For all queries regarding insurance cover and claims please contact the Holiday Extras insurance team. **



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