

2014 Covenanter Holiday Tour

DATES AND ITINERARY

Saturday 12th July-Saturday 19th July.

Friday 11th July - Folks leave USA and travel overnight to arrive on the 12th July. Each participant books his/her/their own international flights - you may have frequent flyer miles or other things you may wish to use. Arrive in Glasgow (GLA) airport at any time as long as you realize you may have to sit for a wee while until someone can pick you up. If you want to come in early to sightsee on your own, that is fine, we will just need to organize with you where to meet on the Saturday.

Saturday 12th July - Tour arrives into Glasgow airport. Those arriving before noon will be taken on a Tour of Glasgow. (Those arriving in the afternoon, depending on the time, will either be taken to meet up with the others or taken directly to the hotel.)

We may visit:

- The Provand's Lordship House, the oldest house in the city (built in 1471) - <http://www.museumsgalleryscotland.org.uk/member/provands-lordship>
- Glasgow Cathedral, seeing some Covenanter sites there - http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertyresults/propertyoverview.htm?PropID=PL_140
- Lunch at the People's Palace, a museum and park about the history and culture of Glasgow - <http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/peoples-palace/Pages/default.aspx>
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum - <http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/kelvingrove/Pages/default.aspx>

After the Tour of Glasgow, we will travel to our hotel and check in and have dinner there.

Lord's Day 13th July - Worship in Airdrie in the morning; lunch in the church hall; then they can either relax in the church hall, or go for a walk at the local Dayzell Park and visit the Covenanters Oak. There will be a light supper before the evening service in Airdrie, and then they will return to the hotel. (Possibly we will incorporate North Edinburgh RP Church into this day...)

Monday 14th July - Head to St. Andrews stopping at Reformation sites in Leuchars and Magus Muir, then they will visit the martyrs monument; see the spot where Patrick Hamilton - the first Scottish martyr of the Reformation - was killed; see where George Wishart, the mentor of John Knox, was executed; see where John Knox preached; and visit the grave of Samuel Rutherford the great Covenanter minister. There will then be free time to walk about this historic university town, run on the Chariots of Fire beach, or visit the birthplace of golf - the Old Course. We will have a High Tea in St Andrews before returning to our hotel.

Tuesday 15th July - Today we will tour Edinburgh and visit St. Giles Cathedral, National Museum of Scotland (which houses copies of the National Covenant and Solemn League and Covenant), Greyfriars kirkyard (where the National Covenant was signed), and the Grassmarket where many Christians were put to death for adhering to the Reformation. After lunch, we will Tour Edinburgh Castle, then have some free time for shopping before dinner in Edinburgh.

Wednesday 16th July - Today we will visit rural Reformation and Covenanting sites. We will visit places like:

- Bothwell Bridge - the site of a landmark Covenanter battle in 1679.
- Hamilton old kirkyard - memorial to the Covenanter martyrs from Hamilton
- Glassford - Grave of William Gordon shot by dragoons
- Strathaven - visit Castle which played a key role during the 'Killing Times' and graves nearby
- Drumclog - visit museum with Covenanter exhibits and battle site of great Covenanter victory.
- Muirkirk - see the memorial to the 18 year old boy shot for reading his Bible.
- Airds Moss - This is the memorial to Richard Cameron, the minister known as 'the Lion of the Covenant'.
- Cumnock - See various memorials including one for Rev. Alexander Peden, one of the famous Covenanter ministers.
- Sorn - See the grave of 16 year old George Wood, the last martyr.
- Newmilns (depending on time) - See the keep that was stormed by Covenanters to free prisoners.
- Fenwick kirkyard - See various graves including William Guthrie author of 'The Christian's Great Interest' and Captain John Paton.

Thursday 17th July - We will travel to Wigtown, Scotland's book town, stopping at Sanquhar and Anwoth along the way. In Wigtown we will see where the two Margaret's were martyred. There will be some free time to look in the bookshops before dinner in Wigtown and heading back to the hotel. *(This is our longest driving day.)*

Friday 18th July - We will start our day by visiting the newly re-opened Bannockburn Visitor Centre where the iconic battle for Scottish Independence was fought. It's the 700 anniversary of this battle in 2014, and they are working on a whole new visitor centre. Then we will visit and tour Stirling Castle and the Church of the Holy Rude. Next we will travel over to Falkirk and go for a ride on the Falkirk Wheel, a marvel of Scottish engineering. After dinner in Falkirk, we will return to our hotel.

Saturday 19th July - We will check out of our hotel and travel to Balloch for the Loch Lomond Highland Games. After spending time at the games, we will travel on to Gartmore House and check in for the Irish International Conference.

Saturday 19th July-Saturday 26th July.

Covenanter International Holiday Conference (Gartmore 2014)

Saturday 26th July – Early morning departure via bus for Glasgow International Airport.

Please note: The dates are firm, but the places we visit are subject to change.