

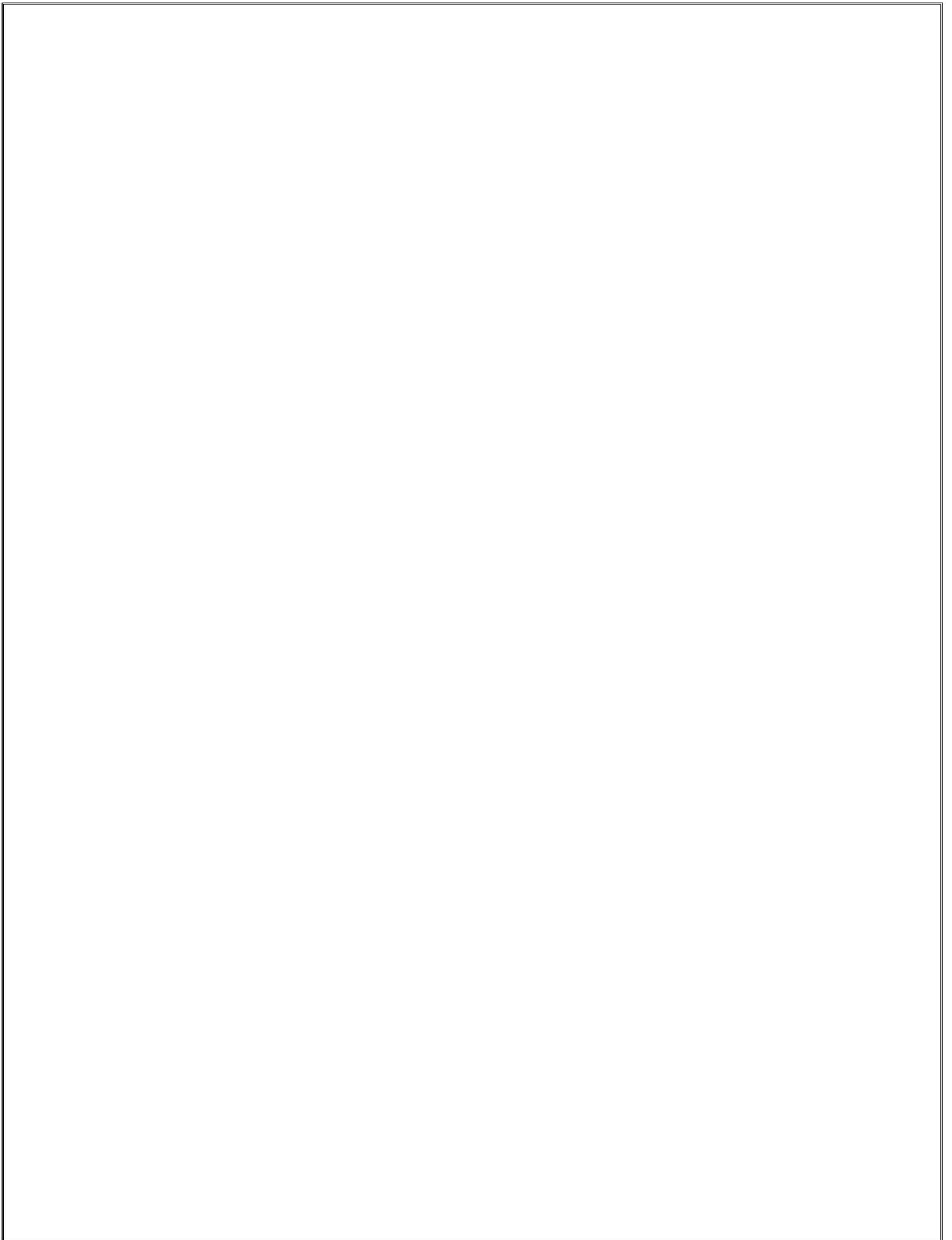
WINGER TRAVEL AGENCY, INC.

*Scotland with the Royal Scotsman Luxury Train*

*October 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017*



*Hosted by Lew and Wendy Winger*



**Scotland** whispers of the ghosts of ancient kings...the shadows of hidden sea creatures...the haunting strains of a bag pipe...and the broad, lyrical brogue of the Highlands. Come with us **October 7 to 16, 2017** as we explore this beautiful region for eight days! We have planned a trip that includes touring with our own van and **private Guide**...combined with 2 nights on board the luxurious *Royal Scotsman* train! Hosted by Lew and Wendy Winger, this is going to be an exciting and enthralling experience!

We'll start in **Edinburgh** with its resplendent array of castles, palaces, botanical gardens, and baryonic halls. Our guide will share some of the history of **William Wallace, Sir Walter Scott, and Robert Burns**. You will have time to explore the woolen shops and tea houses along the cobbled walks of Edinburgh's **Royal Mile**. Make the delightful discovery that Scottish food is way more than porridge and haggis...and let that rich, smoky **Scottish whisky** warm your throat and your spirit.

If you enjoy train travel, you're in for a treat! The *Royal Scotsman*, one of the most famous restored trains in the world, will take us to the heart of the **Highlands**...where we travel through landscapes of pine-clad mountains, reflected in mirror-still lochs. From the moment you step aboard, the welcoming staff will make you feel like part of the family. We'll dine on world-class cuisine, rich with Scottish specialties, and embark on thrilling excursions each day. Life on board is relaxed...one can unwind in a luxurious private cabin...or...trade stories with fellow travelers in the Observation Car. With just **36 guests**, this is railway travel at its most personal!

To cap off our week in **Scotland** we will stay three nights in the beautiful **Kinloch House**, a member of the prestigious **Relais&Chateaux** group of hotels. Owned by the Allen Family, this peaceful Scottish Country Hotel is located in **25 acres** of tranquil **Perthshire countryside**...set on a hillside overlooking a beautiful valley...less than 90 minutes north of **Edinburgh**. Built in 1840, **Kinloch House** is a fine example of a traditional Scottish country house. With an oak paneled hall, staircase and portrait gallery, the house exudes an 'elegant' character and, at the same time, a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Besides touring with our private **Guide**, you will have a day to do as you please and enjoy one of the many activities offered in the region: shooting, fishing (**River Tay and Isla**), golf (Rosemount, St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Kingsbarns, and Gleneagles are all within easy reach), etc.. If you prefer to be more leisurely, there are many wonderful walks in the area, from gentle strolls in bluebell woods...or...along the banks of the **River Tay**...to...more strenuous hikes in the **Angus Glens** with **Loch Brand** and **Loch Muick** where **Queen Victoria** stayed. The choice is yours!

While we would love to take as many guests as have expressed interest in this tour over the last few months, we are strictly limited by the 'group regulations' imposed by the *Royal Scotsman* train. They restrict the number of guests in any group simply due to the small number of sleeping cars and the fact that the train is very popular and always sells out. Thus, if you think you can join us next fall, please complete the **Reservation Form** and forward it with your deposit to us as soon as you can. Wendy and I look forward to hearing from you soon!

**07 October, Saturday**

**Depart USA**

**08 October, Sunday**

**Arrive Edinburgh, Scotland**

You will be met on arrival at Edinburgh Airport and transferred by private vehicle to the historic landmark Balmoral Hotel. Located at the most prestigious address in Edinburgh, the Balmoral Hotel combines the noble character of a Scottish baronial home and classic sophistication of an international hotel, conveniently located in the heart of the city.

The 168 guest bedrooms and 20 suites have been individually designed. Each has its own characteristics, borrowed from Scottish heritage. Each room has individually controlled air conditioning, spacious marble and ceramic bathrooms with fluffy towels, robes and luxury amenities, two telephone lines and independent dataport connection, fax machine and printer, interactive national and satellite televisions and in-room refreshment facilities.



The Balmoral has many culinary delights on offer: Michelin-starred number one restaurant with outstanding cuisine; Hadrian's for informal dining; Palm Court for cocktails or traditional afternoon tea; NB's Bar for drinks with live entertainment. There is also the Balmoral Spa, an exclusive retreat in the heart of the city.

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultural city. The setting is wonderfully striking: a city perched on a series of extinct volcanoes and rocky crags, which rise from the generally flat landscape of the Lothians, with the sheltered shoreline of the Firth of Forth to the north. Edinburgh Castle dominates the city-centre skyline and from its ramparts you can look down on medieval lanes and elegant, sweeping terraces that hold over a thousand years of history, mystery and tradition. Yet Edinburgh is also a modern, dynamic capital where international festivals attract the world's leading performers, galleries display cutting-edge art, and bars, restaurants and clubs create a lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere with a distinctly Scottish twist.

Tonight you are invited to a Welcome cocktail party and dinner at the hotel.

**Balmoral Hotel**

**09 October, Monday**

**Edinburgh**

Today join your Guide and coach for a city tour including Edinburgh Castle and Palace of Holyroodhouse

Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvelous views, it continues to spellbind with its wonderful story.



This most famous of Scottish castles was once the seat of Scottish kings, and the birthplace of King James VI of Scotland, son of Mary, Queen of Scots. Here you see the ancient Honors of Scotland – the Crown, Scepter and Sword of State – on view in the Crown Room. View the Stone of Destiny, on which all Scottish kings were crowned, the famous 15<sup>th</sup> century gun Mons Meg, the One O'Clock Gun, and tour the National War Museum of Scotland.

This afternoon explore the fabulous sites along Edinburgh's oldest street, The Royal Mile, which connects Edinburgh Castle with the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Founded as a monastery in 1128, the Palace of Holyroodhouse is the Queen's official residence in Scotland.

We'll visit Holyroodhouse situated at the end of the Royal Mile. It is closely associated with Scotland's turbulent past, including Mary, Queen of Scots, who lived here between 1561 and 1567. Successive kings and queens have made the Palace of Holyroodhouse the premier royal residence in Scotland.

Today, the Palace is the setting for State ceremonies and official entertaining. In contrast to the castle, you see the elegant tree-lined crescents of the 18<sup>th</sup> century "New Town," built by Robert Adam. This is possibly the largest area of conserved Georgian architecture in all of Europe. Explore some of the 14 historic State Apartments and the ruins of Holyrood Abbey. The Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse hosts a program of changing exhibitions from the Royal Collection.



**Balmoral Hotel**

### **10 October, Tuesday Edinburgh**

This morning experience Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction: the Royal Yacht Britannia was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over 1,000,000 miles around the world. Now berthed in Edinburgh, you can follow in the footsteps of royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of royal residences. Discover what life was like on board The Queen's floating royal residence. You can follow in the footsteps of world leaders such as Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Rajiv Gandhi. Starting at the Bridge, explore the State Apartments, Crew's Quarters and finish at the Engine Room.



From here you can also visit the Royal Sailing Exhibition and view the former ocean racing yacht Bloodhound. The majority are the originals, kindly on loan from the Royal Collection and other contributors.

**Balmoral Hotel**

### **11 October, Wednesday Edinburgh – Depart on the Royal Scotsman**

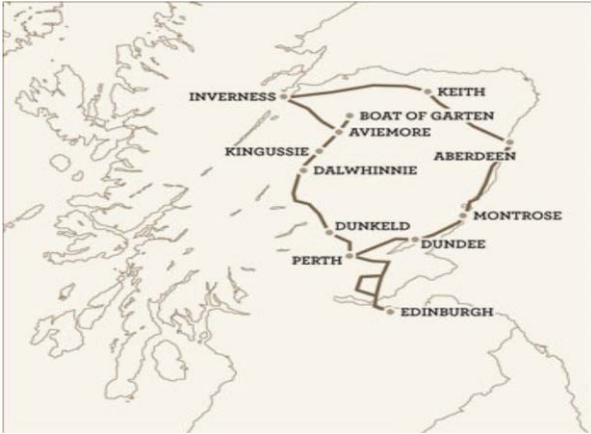
*540 miles, including, Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Keith, Inverness, Strathisla and Perth • Optional activities include clay pigeon shooting, fly fishing and Highland safari • Tour of Strathisla Distillery • Rothiemurchus Estate • Visit Culloden Battlefield.*

Later this morning you will be escorted to Waverley Station, where a piper welcomes you aboard *The Royal Scotsman* train. To step aboard *The Royal Scotsman* is to step into a different world - slip back into a luxurious and timeless way of travel. Luxury, civility and gracious hospitality evoke gentler times; the romantic age of travel when getting there was as much fun as arriving. The train departs approximately 1:40 PM.

Unhurried is a word that fits beautifully with *The Royal Scotsman*. With a maximum of only 36 guests you have plenty of space, time and encouragement to do as you please. Enjoy the company of others, sit idly with a good book or simply let the beauty passing by your window wash over you.



Journey north through the former Kingdom of Fife, then up into the dramatic scenery of the Highlands. In the evening a sumptuous dinner is served, followed by entertainment in the Observation Car. Overnight in Boat of Garten.



Belmond Royal Scotsman is our beautiful moving country house on rails taking you straight to the heart of the Highlands, through landscapes of towering, pine-clad mountains reflected in mirror-still lochs.

The running order of Belmond Royal Scotsman carriages is: Observation Car with verandah viewing platform; Dining Car Number One (Raven); Dining Car Number Two (Swift); State Car number one, two, three, four and five; and a Service Car. The sequence is in running order from the rear so guests can best enjoy the passing countryside.

### Royal Scotsman

#### 12 October, Thursday Royal Scotsman

After breakfast, travel by coach to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Rothiemurchus offers a magical setting in which to try a spot of clay-pigeon shooting or fishing or a tour of the estate.

The estate's woodlands, mountains, lochs and streams are home to a wealth of different plants, animals such as red squirrels, red deer and pine martens, and rare birds including crossbills, crested tits and capercaillie. The 30-mile-long footpath network follows in the paths of the ancient warrior clans who travelled along the *Rathad nam Meirleach* (The Thieves Road). Travel along the shores of Loch an Eilein, with its mysterious 13<sup>th</sup> century ruins of an island castle.



Rejoin the train for lunch and travel to Culloden Battlefield for a private tour. This is the, site of the last pitched battle fought on British soil, and thus the beginning of the end of the traditional Highland way of life. Here, in 1746, the hopes of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonny Prince Charlie) were crushed by the forces of his cousin, the Duke of Cumberland. Generations later, no name in Scottish history evokes more emotion than that of Culloden's bleak moor.

Enjoy an evening visit to Strathisla Distillery, one of the oldest working distilleries and home to one of Scotland's most famous whiskies. Back on board enjoy some spectacular panoramas on the way south through Aberdeenshire and Angus. A formal dinner is served on the way to Dundee.

### Royal Scotsman

#### 13 October, Friday Arrive Edinburgh – Blairgowrie

After breakfast, travel over the Tay Bridge, through the former Kingdom of Fife, cross the Firth of Forth, to arrive in Edinburgh's Waverley Station at approximately 9:45 AM. Our private motor coach will be waiting with our Guide and we will travel north to Scone Palace.

Once the crowning place of the Kings of Scots, Scone Palace occupies a unique position in the history of Scotland, it is regarded as a national treasure and is revered as the historic jewel in the crown of Scotland. Today, Scone Palace is the home of the Earls of Mansfield. There is so much to see and enjoy at Scone Palace, the history, an outstanding collection of antiques, paintings and rare art-facts. Even its grounds, as splendid as the Palace itself, are renowned throughout the world. Right above the River Tay, Scone Palace overlooks the routes north to the Highlands and east through Strathmore to the coast. The Grampian Mountains form a distant backdrop, and across the river stands the city of Perth



After lunch, proceed to Kinloch House in Blairgowrie, Perthshire where the Allen family welcomes us. Experience 5 star luxury, character and traditional comfort at stunning Kinloch House Hotel one of the very finest authentic country house hotels in Scotland set in 25 acres of Scottish countryside. They offer the very best of Scottish hospitality and a truly fabulous dining experience.

Blairgowrie is known as “Blair” and lies on the southwest side of the River Ericht. Blair developed over the centuries at the crossroads of several historic routes with links from the town of Perth, Coupar, Angus, Alyth and Braemar. The roads to Coupar, Angus and Braemar form part of General Wade’s military road from Perth to Fort George. **Kinloch House**

**14 October, Saturday  
Blairgowrie**

Today you will once again meet with your driver and guide for an excursion to Glamis Castle, a living and breathing monument to Scottish heritage. The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret. Steeped in history, Glamis Castle has evolved over the years to create a stunning architectural treasure that is full of vitality to this day. You will not fail to be touched by every painting, every piece of furniture, every little detail along the way, as they are sharp reminders that this is not a museum but an incredible family home. **Kinloch House**

**15 October, Sunday  
Blairgowrie**

Today is at your leisure to enjoy various activities available in the area such as golfing at the famous Blairgowrie Golf Club founded as a private members club in 1889. The Blairgowrie Club features the renowned Rosemount and Lansdowne championship courses plus a very attractive 9-hole course all of which are set in heather lined avenues of pine and silver birch. Salmon or trout fishing on the River Tay is also available, as well as cycling or walking....Perthshire and the area surrounding Kinloch House is a walker’s paradise with iconic Scottish scenery, some of the finest mountain trails, lowland trails, unspoiled roads and designated walking routes in the UK.

Tonight enjoy a Farewell Cocktail party and dinner at the hotel.

**Kinloch House**

**16 October, Monday  
Blairgowrie – Edinburgh – Depart**

This morning you will be transferred to Edinburgh Airport for your flight home.



