

# GOTHIC IMAGE

## Tours of Ancient Britain and Ireland **Sacred Scotland**

4 - 16 July 2017

in association with  
Global Spiritual Studies



### **DAY ONE: Tuesday 4 July**

#### **Inverness**

We rendezvous at **1pm** at The Meeting Place café situated within the main concourse of the terminal building. We stop for lunch on the way to our hotel, with the remainder of the afternoon free to relax, walk by the river or do a bit of shopping. In the evening, we have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Scottish folk music at one of the many live music venues in Inverness.

**Overnight: Inverness**

### **DAY TWO: Wednesday 5 July**

#### **The Black Isle**

We drive to Rosemarkie on the Black Isle where we follow a stream through an enchanted wooded glen, with two beautiful waterfalls. The Fairy Glen was once the scene of a well-dressing ceremony, where the children of the village decorated a pool, next to a spring, with flowers. This was said to ensure that the fairies kept the water supply clean. In the afternoon we visit

Balnuaran of Clava, the site of an exceptionally well-preserved group of prehistoric burial cairns that were built about 4,000 years ago.

**Overnight: Inverness**

### **DAY THREE: Thursday 6 July**

#### **Inverness to Orkney**

Today we travel north up the rugged north-east coast of Scotland, to Thurso, overlooking the Pentland Firth. Here we take a boat to the Islands of Orkney. In this timeless place, where the quality of the light and the air are so special, we feel on the edge of the world. Here are some of the best-preserved ancient sites in Europe - stone circles, earth houses, round barrows and prehistoric villages that reveal to us a simple but noble way of life in ancient times. We also have time to explore the capital, Kirkwall, with its ancient paved streets, St Magnus Cathedral, craft shops and galleries.

**Overnight in Orkney**

### **DAY FOUR: Friday 7 July**

#### **Orkney**

We visit the neolithic stone circles of Stennes and the Ring of Brodgar, prehistoric sun and moon temples that are part of a sacred ritual landscape. We are joined here by local guides, Helen and Mark Woodsford-Dean.

### **The Blessed Isles**

The destinations are stunning, but it is the journey that touches your soul - the journey through fairy-tale landscapes and seascapes that are misty one minute and bathed in sunlight the next. This unforgettable journey takes us to the formerly Viking Orkney Islands, to the Outer Hebrides, the romantic Isle of Skye and the sacred Island of Iona. Each destination has a unique quality all of its own with sacred sites, histories and traditions that inspire the mind and delight the soul.



Born and raised in Scotland, **Jamie George** is a co-director, with his partner Frances Howard-Gordon, of **Gothic Image** bookstore and publishing house in Glastonbury. He is the tour leader on all **Gothic Image** tours.

The tours sprang from a call in the early 1980s to offer small groups of pilgrims a way to explore and discover the spirit of the land by visiting the ancient sacred places of Britain and Ireland.

Special guest from Australia is Tarot reader

and author, **Linda Marson**, who shows us how to use the cards to explore the messages these sacred places have for us. The images of Linda's favourite deck, *The DruidCraft Tarot* spring to life as we travel the Blessed Isles.



### **GOTHIC IMAGE**

journeys designed for the  
spiritual pilgrim in search of  
inner peace, renewal and a  
taste of ancient knowledge.

## **DAY FOUR** (continued)

Next is a guided tour of the archaeological excavations on the Ness of Brodgar which show that these sites pre-date Stonehenge and Avebury by some 500 years.

**Overnight in Orkney**

## **DAY FIVE: Saturday 8 July**

### **Orkney**

Today we visit the windswept prehistoric village of Skara Brae by the Bay of Skaill. Here we view the remains of a beautifully preserved 3000BC village with sophisticated architecture and built-in stone furniture. From here, we go to the great chamber of Maes Howe that receives the light of the setting sun at midsummer along its passage. We marvel at the exquisite stonework within the mound and view the runic art etched into the pillars of the chamber.

**Overnight: Orkney**

## **DAY SIX: Sunday 9 July**

### **Orkney to Ullapool**

An early start this morning to travel south across the water from Orkney to the mainland, to the 12th century Tulloch Castle in Dingwall, where we have lunch. Onwards to Ullapool on the Highland west coast for our overnight stay.

**Overnight: near Ullapool**

## **DAY SEVEN: Monday 10 July**

### **Island of Lewis**

Today we take the ferry across to the Outer Hebrides, to the island of Lewis, where we meet Margaret Curtis, an expert on the prehistory and folklore of the ancient sites of this region. Margaret comes with us to the Callanish complex of megalithic sites where she explains the astronomical alignments that feature so vividly in this sacred landscape.

**Overnight on Lewis**

## **DAY EIGHT: Tuesday 11 July**

### **Lewis to Skye**

This morning we travel across the isthmus from Lewis to the island of Harris. As we wait for the ferry to the Isle of Skye, there's time to shop for that special Harris tweed hat, scarf or jacket. We travel south on Skye stopping in the capital, Portree, for shopping and sightseeing.

**Overnight: Skye**

## **DAY NINE: Wednesday 12 July**

### **Isle of Skye**

This morning we visit the crystal clear Fairy Pools at the foot of the Black Cuillins on the Isle of Skye. It's an easy walk with a few shallow water crossings over stepping stones. If it's a warm day, be ready for a swim! The afternoon is free to explore the island or just relax by the water and soak up the atmosphere.

**Overnight: Skye**

## **DAY TEN: Thursday 13 July**

### **Skye to Iona**

We journey across the water to Mallaig on the mainland and travel to Oban where we take the ferry to the island of Mull and thence to the sacred island of Iona. Here is an island of dreams - a place that, as Fiona Macleod described, "None can understand who do not see it through its pagan light, its Christian light, its singular blending of paganism and romance and spiritual beauty". Here we feel refreshed and renewed as we walk this timeless land, enjoy the flora and fauna and perhaps swim in the aquamarine sea.

**Overnight: Iona**



**Skara Brae**



**A perfectly preserved pathway dating back 5,000 years uncovered during excavations on the Ness of Brodgar which commenced in 2004.**



**Callanish Stones on the island of Lewis**



**Relaxing in a fairy pool on the Isle of Skye**

## DAY ELEVEN: Friday 14 July

### Iona

There are many sites to visit on Iona, mainly Christian, such as the 12th century Abbey, St Columba's Chapel, Oran's Chapel and the 12th century Nunnery. But the treasures of the island are to be found in the enchanted places where nature shows herself slowly and shyly to the curious pilgrim. Jamie will lead an

optional walk to St Columba's Bay via the Bay at the Back of the Ocean and the Machair, or you may wish to explore on your own or rest.

**Overnight: Iona**

## DAY TWELVE: Saturday 15 July

### Iona to Loch Lomond

We travel back through Mull to the mainland by ferry to Oban, where we have lunch and time for shopping for that special gift. As we journey southwards we stop at the beautiful valley of Kilmartin to visit one of Scotland's most attractive megalithic sites - Temple Wood, with the nearby line of chambered cairns and standing stones. We are soon at Loch Lomond where we stay a night and have our farewell dinner by the Loch.

**Overnight: Loch Lomond**

## DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday 16 July

### Glasgow airport

After breakfast we drive to Glasgow Airport for international flights and transfers, arriving by 10am. Please arrange onward flights from Glasgow from noon onwards to provide time for check in.

### Cost

**£2,595** per person, twin share  
(approx. \$US 3,288 or \$AUD 4,389)

**Earlybird: £2,495** (to qualify, book and pay your deposit by the end of January 2017)

Single supplement: **£350** per person

**Deposit: £500**, payable upon booking

Balance of payment is due by **4 May 2017**.

#### Price includes:

- excellent quality accommodation. All rooms have private facilities.
- coach travel
- full English breakfasts **and** dinners each day
- all sea transportation
- entrance fees
- Complimentary copy of the guidebook, *Sacred Scotland*
- Tarot activities
- guide fees, taxes and gratuities (excl. driver) .

#### Not included:

- international airfares and travel insurance
- gratuities for the coach driver



### Payment options

Payment is in UK pounds sterling only. We regret that we cannot accept US or Australian dollar cheques. Payment can be made by:

- Bank transfer into the UK Gothic Image bank account
- Visa or Mastercard.

The simplest and most economical way to pay your deposit is by bank transfer in pounds sterling. Details relevant to both payment options can be found under the booking form on the last page or online at [www.gothicimagetours.co.uk/long-tours/tour-registration/](http://www.gothicimagetours.co.uk/long-tours/tour-registration/).

### Cancellation policy

If you cancel your booking by **3 May 2017**, your deposit minus a £50 administration fee will be refunded. If you cancel after that date, your full tour payment can only be refunded if you find someone to take your place.

We **strongly** recommend that you take out travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances that could lead to you cancelling your place on a tour.

## The Gothic Image approach

We always spend a good amount of time at each site so that you benefit fully from the ambience and subtle magic of the experience. Ours are not 'now you see it - now you don't' tours. Our focus is on experiencing the 'spirit of place' and the peculiar enchantment that each site offers, and learning something from it.

We visit inspiring locations where the ancient spirits of each place still reside. In addition, some of you will be returning to the homes of your ancestors. This can raise spiritual and emotional issues. On our tours we seek to build a supportive atmosphere, and your fellow travellers tend to be of a supportive and understanding disposition. At different sites that we visit, you will be given opportunity for reflection and peace. This inner dimension is what makes our tours especially memorable - a pilgrimage and nourishment for the soul.

The pace is not rushed. There are some areas where we climb steps or hills, but otherwise each site is easily accessible and within walking distance from the coach. Nevertheless, you will get some physical exercise!

We reserve the right to vary the itinerary as necessary, to provide the best possible experience under the circumstances prevailing at the time.



Tour	<b>Sacred Scotland</b>
Date	4 – 16 July 2017
Cost	<b>£2,595</b> per person, twin share Single supplement: <b>£350</b> per person Earlybird: <b>£2,495</b> (to qualify for this rate, you must book and pay your <b>£500</b> deposit by the end of January 2017) These are LAND ONLY prices (international airfares and taxes are additional).
Name	Title: _____ Surname: _____
	First name(s): _____
	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F Date of birth: / /
Address	_____
	_____
	City _____ State _____ Postcode _____ Country _____
Tel	AH: ( ) _____ BH: ( ) _____
Email	_____
Medical conditions	_____
Dietary requirements	_____
Emergency contact	Name: _____ Tel: _____
	Address: _____
	_____

I would like to reserve (tick one) \_\_\_\_\_ twin share (two bed) accommodation sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ double bedded (one bed for two people) \_\_\_\_\_ a single room \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my deposit of **£500** to \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard (tick one)  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security No: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay my **£500** deposit into the **Gothic Image** UK bank account.

**Account name:** Gothic Image Tours of Ancient Britain.  
**Address:** 7 High Street, Glastonbury, Somerset, England BA6 9DP  
**Bank:** HSBC PLC, 101 High Street, Street, Somerset BA16 OEY.  
International Bank Account Number: GB06MIDL40220731367161. (IBAN Number)  
Swift Code (if necessary): MIDLGB2131W

Please mail this completed form to;

Jamie George  
Gothic Image Tours  
7 High Street, Glastonbury  
Somerset BA6 9DP, UK

Alternatively, scan and email the completed form to [jgeorge@gothicimagetours.co.uk](mailto:jgeorge@gothicimagetours.co.uk)