

Journeys!

What's Inside

- Inspiring Iceland
- Isle of Skye
- Holy Toledo
- Panama Canal Ocean to Ocean
- Independent Cruising
- Tours with Availability



Edinburgh Castle ▲

Interesting facts about The Tattoo...

- The Tattoo has sold out successively for 15 seasons
- About 35 miles of cabling (the distance from Edinburgh to Glasgow) is required to operate the show
- Not a single performance of The Tattoo has ever been cancelled
- The Tattoo is set up and run for charitable purposes. Over the years, it has gifted millions to service and civilian organizations



Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A spectacular production showcasing music, dance and precision teams from around the world.

Edinburgh Castle sits austere-ly on a rocky cliff overlooking Scotland's capital. A massive fortress and iconic landmark, it is visible from almost every corner of the city and has hosted the Royal Military Tattoo since 1950.

Historically, the term "tattoo" comes from the Dutch term "doe den tap toe" (with "toe" pronounced as "too") or "tap toe" meaning "turn off the tap". In the evening, thirty minutes before curfew, drummers or trumpeters were sent from the garrison to the town. This signaled innkeepers near the military fort to stop serving beer and send the soldiers back to barracks. The playing continued until curfew and over the years became more of an entertainment show.

For three weeks in August every year, the Military Tattoo takes place at the entrance to Edinburgh Castle. Rain or shine, people from all over the world attend this open-air extravaganza.

This year's Tattoo will pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday while celebrating "Tunes of Glory". The 100-minute showpiece will feature many outstanding performances including the New Zealand Army Band, the King's Guard from Norway, the Imps Motorcycle Display Team and will culminate with a dazzling fireworks display.

Join one of our August tours to see this amazing spectacle.

Inspiring Iceland

For a memorable trip to Iceland be sure to not miss out on these exceptional sights!

Iceland may be small in size, but it is massive in culture and heritage. With landscapes which will surely take your breath away, this place is truly like none other.

Should you only have a short timeframe to experience Iceland, there are plenty of things to do in and around the Reykjavik area. Take a stroll down both Laugavegur and Bankastræti, the main shopping streets. Be sure to pop into the local shops and pick up souvenirs or perhaps some handmade Icelandic wool products.

After spending time wandering the streets of downtown Reykjavik consider heading out of the city for a taste of what the country has to offer.

The **Golden Circle** is a comfortable one-day excursion filled with some of Iceland's most famous sights. There is plenty to see along the route, so ensure that your camera is charged and you have a window seat!

Three stops you won't want to miss along the way are:

Þingvellir (Thingvellir) National Park – known for being the location where the world's first parliament assembled back in AD 930, as well as being situated on the continental drift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.



▲ Thingvellir National Park

Gullfoss – A massive waterfall on the river Hvita which originates in the glacial lake Langjökull. It's name translates to "Golden Falls" in English.

Finally, the geothermally active valley of Haukadalur contains Iceland's most famous geysers, **Geysir** and **Strokkur**. Be sure to have your cameras ready and to stand back!

All of these stops and more are included during our Fire, Ice and Celtic Lands tour departing August 12, 2016.



▲ Strokkur Geyser

▼ Downtown Reykjavik



▲ Gullfoss



▲ Hallgrímskirkja Church - Reykjavik

Isle of Skye

The magic of Skye... ethereal light peeks through the clouds, bathing the land in rugged splendour.

Famous for dramatic scenery woven from an intricate pattern of inlets, islets, bays, and tiny villages, the Isle of Skye captures the imaginations of thousands of visitors every year.

The largest and most northerly island of Scotland's Inner Hebrides, Skye takes its name from the Old Norse word "*sky-a*" meaning "cloud island". This ancient Viking term is in reference to the mist-enshrouded Black Cuillin Hills, a mountain range with spectacular bare rock summits - visible from all over the island.

The village of Portree is the capital and overlooks a sheltered bay on the east coast. Known for its picturesque harbour, the village name has long been a topic of discussion. There are those who say it was derived from Port Rìgh (King's Port) given when King James V visited in 1540 while others consider the origin came long before that, when the area was called Portray - Gaelic for Port on the Slope.

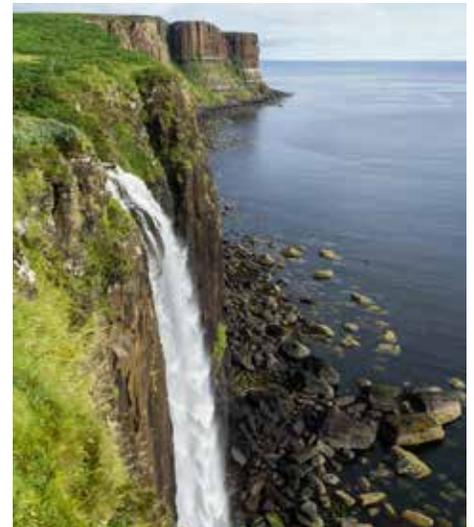
Skye's rich history includes Norse rule and a long period dominated by Clan MacLeod and Clan Donald. After defeat at Culloden, Bonnie Prince Charlie fled to the Isle of Skye in search of sanctuary. Flora MacDonald helped him escape pursuers by taking him in a small boat disguised as her Irish maid, "Betty Burke". The Jacobite risings eventually led to the collapse of the clan system on the isle and forced emigrations to other lands.

In addition to the island's beauty and history, there is abundant wildlife including otters, seals, whales, dolphins, red deer, and the White Tailed Sea Eagle which is at the top of any bird watcher's

list. Skye is a world class destination for walkers and climbers, plus, it has an intriguing mix of traditional Celtic music, art and enduring folklore.

Skye is a place where time means little and beneath every footstep lies a compelling past. You can visit this fascinating island on two of our 2016 tours to Great Britain.

▼ Kilt Rock Waterfall



▲ Eilean Donan Castle

▼ Neist Point with Lighthouse





▲ Toledo, Spain

Holy Toledo

Toledo is known as the “city of the three cultures” where Christians, Arabs and Jews have lived together for centuries preserving an artistic and cultural legacy.

Holy Toledo isn’t just an aphorism often spoken when surprised; it is more likely a reference to the city of Toledo which was the main religious centre of Spain.

The city traces its religious roots back to Roman times, followed by successive conquerors including the Visigoths, the Moors and the Christians. Toledo has often been compared to Jerusalem with its ancient biblical landscape and the coexistence of Christian, Arab, and Jewish faiths. These three religions - Islam, Judaism and Christianity made a momentous impact on the city with their integrated culture and unique blend of eclectic architecture. This well-preserved spiritual mosaic led to the entire city being declared a national monument and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Toledo is one of the oldest cities on the Iberian Peninsula and sits atop a rocky outcrop with the Tagus River wrapping around it on three sides like a moat. Its dramatic skyline is dominated by the mighty Alcázar fortress, and the massive cathedral. The Alcázar’s rich history and imposing design combine with commanding views - in particular the medieval maze-like city streets below. It served as a fortress, and now holds one of Europe’s largest municipal libraries as well as Toledo’s Military Museum.

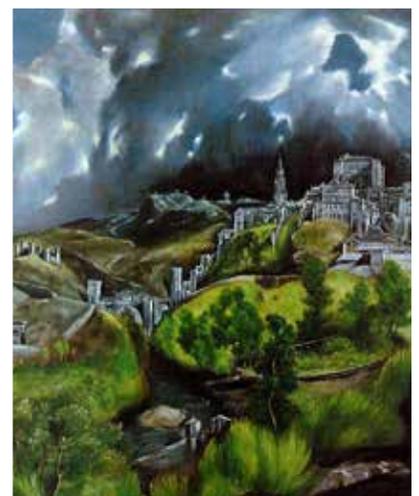
The most exceptional structure of Toledo is the awe-inspiring Gothic Cathedral built on the site of the Moorish Great Mosque. Construction of this monumental white limestone building began in the 13th century and continued for over

two hundred years. The cathedral houses many art treasures, among them an ornate baroque marble and alabaster sculpture, the 500 pound 15th-century gilded monstrance, and a rich collection of works by Goya and Van Dyck. Also housed here are *El Greco’s Twelve Apostles* and *Spoilation of Christ* paintings.

The artist Domenico Theotocopuli, better known as El Greco, lived and painted in Toledo and used the city as inspiration. His two famous landscape paintings are *View of Toledo*, which can be seen at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the *View and Plan of Toledo* that hangs in the Museo Del Greco in Toledo.

Like a living museum, the city is also a great place to wander the labyrinthine streets, or people watch from a café in one of the squares. Enthroned in its antiquity, Toledo remains a historic, artistic, and spiritual centre of Spain.

Join one of our Spain & Portugal tours and have your own “Holy Toledo” encounter.



▲ View of Toledo by El Greco

Panama Canal Ocean to Ocean

Join Rostad Tours cruise specialist, Julie Barr on a “bucket list” trip sailing October 17 - November 1 from Los Angeles California to Fort Lauderdale Florida.

An incredible feat of engineering connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal opened in 1914. This man-made marvel reaches across the Isthmus of Panama through the Continental Divide. Massive locks control the water level that enables ships to be lifted and lowered a total of 170 feet, allowing each to pass through this 51 mile “water bridge”.

A full transit takes about nine hours, and, it is almost impossible to grasp the enormity of its construction without seeing it yourself. What would be a better way, than onboard a luxurious Princess cruise ship!

The Island Princess was built specifically to travel through the canal. It boasts ninety percent ocean view staterooms which are perfect for witnessing this epic waterway. During the passage an Expert narration details the history of the construction, plus the culture and beauty of the surrounding countryside.

While the Panama Canal holds tremendous historical significance and has long attracted the attention of tourists, this cruise also has a diverse itinerary with ports of call in Puerto Vallarta and Huatulco Mexico; San Juan del Sur Nicaragua; Puntarenas Costa Rica; Cartagena Colombia; and the island of Aruba.



▲ Panama Canal

Independent Cruising

Viking Ocean Cruises announces new Caribbean and North American itineraries!

For independent cruise passengers looking to try a Viking Ocean cruise, consider one of their brand new Caribbean and Eastern Seaboard itineraries, just announced for 2016 and 2017.

West Indies Explorer - cruise the beautiful Caribbean islands roundtrip from San Juan - visit St. Lucia, Tortola, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, Guadeloupe, St. Kitts, St. Martin, and St. Thomas

West Indies to Iberia - a Trans-Atlantic voyage from San Juan Puerto Rico to Barcelona Spain stopping in St. Martin, Madeira Islands, Casablanca Morocco, Seville and Valencia Spain

Eastern Seaboard to the West Indies - sailing from New York to San Juan, discover rich colonial histories, cultural capitals and lush Caribbean islands - ports of call include Newport, Baltimore, Norfolk, Fort Lauderdale, Grand Turk, Antigua & Barbuda, and St. Thomas

Eastern Seaboard Explorer - this cruise highlights the vibrant fall colours while visiting Montreal, Quebec City, Halifax, Boston and New York

In The Wake of the Vikings - depart from Bergen, and visit the Shetland Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, Quebec City and Montreal

Remember, at Rostad Tours we are happy to assist you with any individual trip, river cruise, or ocean cruise!

▼ Barbados





Bible Lands

Holy Scriptures, Holy Places - a Biblical Journey

Israel • Jordan

October 28 - November 12

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dr. Murray & Diana Henderson

A Spiritual Journey Through the Holy Lands

Israel • Jordan

November 2 - 16

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dennis & Corrine Aicken



South Pacific

Great Wonders of New Zealand and Australia

November 4 - 25



RIVER CRUISES

Our 2016 group departures on Viking are virtually sold out, however, we can still find space on other cruises at excellent rates if you feel comfortable travelling on your own.

Our 2017 river cruise program will be launched in April. Watch our website or contact your Tour Hosts to see what they are planning.



Britain & Ireland

From Glen to Glen - Journey to Scotland

May 22 - June 5

TOUR HOST:

Rev. Bill Wheeler

Britain Experience

England • Scotland

June 14 - 28

TOUR HOSTS

Pastor Norm & Ruth Miller

Scotland - The Highlands, Islands and Tattoo

August 3 - 15

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald

Rev. Kim Vidal

Fire, Ice, and Celtic Lands

Iceland • Scotland • Ireland

August 12 - September 4

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dr. Bob & Fay Jackson

The Best of Scotland & Northern England

September 18 - October 5

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Jim & Louise Thompson



Ocean Cruise

Panama Canal Ocean to Ocean

October 17 - November 1

CRUISE HOST:

Julie Barr



Europe

Highlights of Italy

May 11 - 26

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dr. James & Valerie Clubine

Helsinki and the Baltic States

Finland • Estonia • Latvia • Lithuania

September 7 - 22

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dr. Roger & Lynda Ellis

Glorious Spain & Portugal

October 3 - 20

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Linda & Gordon Hunter

Magnificent Spain & Portugal

September 23 - October 10

TOUR HOSTS:

Canon Bill & Edith Noel

Spectacular Scandinavia

Denmark • Norway • Sweden

September 4 - 19

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Dr. Rolf & Grace Nosterud



Africa

Stunning Southern Africa and Victoria Falls

South Africa • Zimbabwe • Botswana

October 24 - November 13

TOUR HOSTS:

Rev. Johan Olivier

Jean Van Wyk

Tricia Bechthold

ROSTAD FREQUENT TRAVELLER DISCOUNTS

\$

IF YOU TRAVELLED WITH US IN THE YEAR

THEN YOU SAVE

2013

\$100

2014

\$150

2015

\$200