

## INCENTIVES TRIP TO EDINBURGH



### MICE SHEET

#### WHY ABERCROMBIE & KENT FOR INCENTIVE TRAVEL

We have dedicated incentive specialists who invest time in researching new and innovative ideas, and tailor bespoke itineraries for groups of all sizes.

Intimate knowledge of our destinations, alongside our 'insider access' to the most sought-after events, are a standard for any A&K incentive trip.

This, combined with the art of listening to our clients' needs and our understanding that no two events are the same, is what sets us apart in the world of incentives.

#### Why go to Edinburgh?

Edinburgh is one of Europe's most beautiful cities, filled with rich culture and steeped in history. Entwining a city life with a beautiful landscape draped across a variety of rocky hills overlooking the sea, the many buildings and monuments of the Scottish capital are perched on top of crags and overshadowed by cliffs.

Edinburgh seamlessly blends old and new with unique historical sights, famous art, comedy & film festivals, and the taste of a diverse and vibrant city, making it the perfect destination to experience.

For more information and quotes please contact Adam Gabbetis, Incentives Specialist & Project Manager by phone +44 1242 546670 or e-mail:

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## EDINBURGH

### **Recommended stay – 2 nights**

#### **Best season**

The best season to travel to Edinburgh is during the spring and summer as the temperatures warm, with temperatures averaging between 6 - 12 ° C, although the spring may incur some rainfall. The summer months (June - August) tend to be warmer and drier than the rest of the year, with highs of 20 ° C. During the summer months, the festivals, consisting of comedy, art and films, take place

### **We recommend you visit**

- Visit Edinburgh Castle, symbol of the Scottish nation and home to the Honours of Scotland and the oldest set of Crown Jewels in Europe. Within this is St Margaret's Chapel, which is the oldest building in the city
- Take a walk down the Royal Mile, stretching through the Old Town, where you find exclusive restaurants, shops and authentic pubs
- Visit St Giles' Cathedral (dating back to the 15th Century) where the towering crown-like peak is a dominant feature of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Traditionally called the High Kirk of Edinburgh, the cathedral is named after the patron saint of cripples and beggars.
- Holyrood Palace – the Queen's official residence in Scotland. When no member of the royal family is staying you can tour the staterooms and visit the historic apartments in which Mary, Queen of Scots once resided
- Enjoy an exclusive private dining experience on The Royal Yacht Britannia, the former official yacht of Queen Elizabeth II.
- Edinburgh offers some wonderful shopping areas. Princes Street and George Street form the boundaries of the main shopping areas in the city centre.

## **Possible activities to include:**

### **1. Private Ghost Tour & Vault Entry in the city's Old Town**

By day Edinburgh is a bustling metropolis – but at night the old buildings and narrow closes take on a more sinister air. A long history of murder, torture, hangings and plague has left a haunting legacy on the city's Old Town and ghostly apparitions now walk its streets.

Enter the underground vaults, whose walls, are said to have absorbed the memories of those who once lived and worked there. Finish the tour with a drop of whisky to calm the nerves in an underground cellar.

### **2. Edinburgh Castle Private Tour**

Enjoy exclusive access to explore the highlights of Edinburgh Castle before the doors open to the general public. Early this morning, during this very special visit, you are welcomed in to the castle by an official castle guide, before being shown St Margaret's Chapel (Edinburgh's oldest building), the Great Hall, Royal Apartments and the stunning Honours of Scotland (or Scottish Crown Jewels). If you wish, you can complete your private tour with breakfast in the Queen Anne Room or the Glazed Courtyard.

### **3. Enjoy exclusive access to Winton Castle for a BBQ lunch and activities**

Whether your event is for team building or to thank your clients or colleagues, enjoy the exclusivity of Winton Castle, a 16<sup>th</sup>-century building situated a short drive from Edinburgh. At Winton Castle, activities are designed to be a little bit different. You can customise activities to suit your needs, with a wide range that includes:

- Clay pigeon shooting
- Archery
- Hovercraft time trial
- 4 X 4 Driving and Quad biking
- Highland games
- Whisky and Champagne tastings
- Along with a few uniquely Scottish surprises

#### **4. Treasure hunt on the Royal Mile, solving puzzles whilst taking in historical sights**

Take in the historic sights of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, Arthur's Seat and the castle, while solving a range of puzzles centred on the centuries of architecture and history in Edinburgh. Explore, learn and compete whilst you and your teams delve into historical happenings, identify famous people from the area and learn amazing new facts along the way. The streets of Edinburgh are your playground for this team event. Armed with a tablet as your guide, this event includes:

- Local content based around landmarks, interesting features and facts
- Cultural trivia about local celebrities, the music scene, film locations etc.
- Great photo and video challenges that will have you working as a team

#### **5. Out-of-hours private tour of Stirling Castle**

Enjoy the magnificence of an out-of-hours private tour of Stirling Castle. With its grand apartments and Great Hall, the majestic Stirling Castle was once the most important residence of the Stuart kings, and it was here, in the Chapel Royal, where the infant Mary was crowned Queen of Scots in 1542. With the help of your private guide, take the opportunity to explore the many halls and corridors without public crowds, learning of the castle's place in the fascinating history of both Stirlingshire and Scotland. From the grounds, observe how the castle dominates the land around it. Similar to Edinburgh Castle, it sits on a crag and tail rock formation with the Old Town stretching down from its ramparts.

#### **6. Private whisky dinner & tasting at Scotch Malt Whisky Society**

Set in a private room at this prestigious address, you are welcomed by an expert on Scotch Whisky, who guides you through a tutored tasting of up to 3 malt whiskies chosen from distilleries across various regions of Scotland. The whiskies are paired with an exquisite four-course dinner, made entirely from local ingredients. In addition, listen to the unique sound of bagpipes, played by your own private piper. This experience is a truly authentic way to indulge in Scottish culture.

#### **7. Private meeting with Head Designer and Owner of one of Edinburgh's most famous cashmere shops**

Experience an upscale shopping experience at Edinburgh's most famous cashmere boutique, *Epitome*. The head designer and store owner greets you with champagne and explains the production process of their highly-prized Carmen Taylor cashmere. The store will be closed for the public for a set amount of time to ensure a luxurious experience. Feel the quality of the garments first-hand as you explore the store.

## **8. Day experience visiting St Andrews & Loch Lomond**

Visit the town of St Andrews, home to Scotland's oldest university. Spend time exploring the quaint streets and browse through the charming stores. Afterwards, visit the ruins of the castle and the cathedral; St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and, significantly, the cathedral was the largest in Scotland before being destroyed during the Reformation.

Later today, explore St Andrews further from a culinary perspective. Learn about the rich history of the town whilst enjoying gastronomic treats along the way. During the tour, you have the opportunity to taste local specialities, wine, whisky and crafted beer. With any remaining time this afternoon, explore the East Neuk of Fife, where some quaint traditional fishing villages in Scotland are located. Crail, in particular, is considered by many to be one of the most picturesque villages in Britain.

### **Suggested Hotels**

- The Glasshouse - 5\* - 77 rooms
- The Caledonian Waldorf - 5\* - 241 rooms
- The Balmoral - 5\* - 188 rooms
- The George Hotel - 4\* - 249 rooms

### **Suggested Restaurants**

- Tower Restaurant and Terrace \*
- The Witchery, By The Castle \*
- Castle Terrace \*
- Rhubarb Restaurant \*
- Number One \*
- The Kitchen \*
- The Scran and Scallie
- The Grain Store

\* - Michelin starred