

2026 Travel Pilgrimage

A Contemplative Experience

Holy Island to Holy Isle: Lindisfarne and Iona



Itinerary and Registration Information

Itinerary

Day	Date	Where We Sleep	Travel Info	Notes
1	September 25	In flight	Take flights to Edinburgh	
2	September 26	Edinburgh Holiday Inn Express- Royal Mile		Free day to rest and explore
3	September 27	Edinburgh Holiday Inn Express- Royal Mile		Free morning and afternoon Opening Dinner Gathering
4	September 28	Lindisfarne Manor House	Charter bus to Lindisfarne	Depart for Lindisfarne after breakfast
5	September 29	Lindisfarne Manor House		
6	September 30	Lindisfarne Manor House		
7	October 1	Lindisfarne Manor House		
8	October 2	Oban Premier Inn	Charter bus to Oban	Bus departure is tide dependent
9	October 3	Iona St. Columba Hotel		
10	October 4	Iona St. Columba		
11	October 5	Iona St. Columba		
12	October 6	Iona St. Columba		Optional boat trip to Staffa
13	October 7	Iona St. Columba		
	October 8	Edinburgh Holiday Inn Express-Royal Mile	Ferry/bus/ferry to Oban Charter Bus to Edinburgh	Celebration Dinner in Edinburgh
	October 9	Flying home		

Basic Information

Dates of Travel: September 25 to October 9, 2026

We have 13 in-country days with two travel days on either end for flying to and from Scotland. We start with two nights in Edinburgh, four nights on Lindisfarne/Holy Island, one night in Oban, and five nights on Iona, and a final night back in Edinburgh.

Costs

The cost of the trip is \$4000 per person. This does not include airfare to and from Scotland. You will be responsible for arranging and paying for your flights to and from Edinburgh. Please note the total cost of the trip may be less as we finalize the final number of pilgrims participating and as we get closer to the date of departure. It will not be more than \$4000.

What *is* included in the \$4000

- ❖ All accommodation for the dates of travel
- ❖ Breakfast each morning
- ❖ Evening meals with the exception of the first night in Edinburgh
- ❖ A celebration dinner on the final night in Edinburgh
- ❖ Transport from Edinburgh to Holy Island
- ❖ Transport from Holy Island to Oban
- ❖ Transport from Oban to Iona
- ❖ Transport from Iona to Edinburgh

What *is not* included in the \$4000

- ❖ Airfare to and from Edinburgh, including any parking expenses incurred
- ❖ Cost of transport from Edinburgh airport (EDI) to the hotel. There are taxi and rail transport options.
- ❖ Cost of transport back to EDI on the day of departure.
- ❖ Daily lunches and the first night dinner in Edinburgh (these will be on your own and not scheduled).
- ❖ There may be a few a la carte options arranged for which you would be responsible for paying if you chose to go. A trip to Staffa from Iona is one such possibility.

Items to be completed prior to travel

- ❖ Completion of the Celtic Spirituality course
- ❖ Completion of The Way of the Pilgrim course
- ❖ Valid passport (expiration date at least 6 months past travel dates)
- ❖ Electronic Travel Authorization- United Kingdom (apply at ETA UK at GOV.UK)
- ❖ Any additional requirements as determined by your Guides Team or by Paul

What is a Contemplative Pilgrimage?

It is important that you recognize that this is a pilgrimage and not a tour of Scotland. This pilgrimage will not include many of the “travel-tour” elements that are frequently a part of, even religious travel experiences. While there will be opportunities to visit some tourist sites on your own in Edinburgh and for a brief time in Oban, you will not be sightseeing. Our main experiences will be on Holy Island/Lindisfarne and Iona. Neither location is rich in entertainment opportunities, both are steeped in the Christian history of Northumbria and Scotland and are holy places where we fully expect you will feel the presence of God. Your days will be spent in simple practices of prayer, worship, and enjoyment of these remarkable places. It is also important to note this is not a guided course. You will be provided guidance for how to make good use of your time on both holy locations, as well as a few locations you may wish to visit in Edinburgh and Oban, but other than brief small group and worship times you will be left largely on your own to respond to the Spirit’s prompting to go where your heart leads you.

Registration and Payment Schedule

We will begin taking registration and deposits on September 25, 2025. Please note this is open to several congregations and individuals. This will be an open registration and when all slots are filled, we will take a waiting list, if applicable. Overnight accommodation on both islands is limited. Our max number of participants will be 18.

Schedule for Payments:

- ❖ **Payment #1: \$500** At time of commitment, but no later than November 1, 2025. This secures your place among the pilgrims for this travel pilgrimage.
- ❖ **Payment #2: \$1500** due February 1, 2026
- ❖ **Payment #3: \$1500** due May 1, 2026
- ❖ **Payment #4: \$500*** due August 1, 2026

Total: \$4000

*The final amount may go down if we are able to lower any costs prior to our departure.

You are welcome to make larger payment or pay in full if you prefer. However, please ensure the payment schedule is adhered to as we have large fund transfers going out at specific times for our travel and accommodation.

Itinerary in Brief

September 25

Pilgrims depart for Scotland

You may schedule your flights at your convenience. If you would like to arrive in Edinburgh before this date, please make your own hotel plans for any additional nights pre-pilgrimage.

September 26

Arrival in Edinburgh

Depending on your arrival times, this will be a day of rest and recovery. We will do our best to arrange for an early check-in, but you need to plan on having time on your hands prior to check-in. Dinner tonight is on your own.

September 27

Free day

Today is built in to rest but also to explore some of Edinburgh. You may wish to spend some time in prayer and contemplation at St. Giles Cathedral. Edinburgh Castle is also a good place to visit. St. Margaret's Chapel is a peaceful spot for quiet reflection. There is a fee for entering and it is advised to purchase tickets ahead of time.

We will gather for dinner (location and time will be announced) and an opening gathering.

September 28

Depart for Lindisfarne/Holy Island

We will gather in the lobby after breakfast to depart via charter bus to Lindisfarne/Holy Island. Please have your bags in the lobby prior to coming down for breakfast. Holy Island is a tidal island and we will need to adhere to the schedule for the bus to make the passage. It is roughly a two-hour journey to Lindisfarne. We will likely make one "tea" stop along the way. We will have four nights on the island and will have plenty of time to immerse in the landscape of the small but important island in the Christian history of northern England.

<https://manorhouseholylisland.com>

Sept 29- Oct 1

Lindisfarne/Holy Island

For the next few days, we will be on this island. Each day will include a bit of time together for meals, small group and worship, but the majority of time will be for you to feel the presence of God with you and to explore the prompting of the Spirit. There are numerous places for this: a walk around the perimeter of the island, a walk to Aidan's cell, a visit to the church, etc. Each day your Peregrination Primer will include:

- ❖ Prayer and Journaling Prompts
- ❖ Highlighting of a particular saint connected to the region
- ❖ Suggestions for ways to engage in contemplative photography, if interested
- ❖ Liturgy for corporate worship
- ❖ An Examen process for helping you to look for God in events of the day
- ❖ Information about points of interest you might explore

October 2

All morning travel to Oban

We will depart Lindisfarne as determined by the coach driver and it is dependent on the tide chart; our departure time may vary by several hours. Please have your bags downstairs prior to breakfast. We will travel by charter bus from Lindisfarne to Oban. We will have a tea/rest stop along the way. We plan to arrive in Oban in time for lunch, if possible. Lunch will be on your own. We will gather for dinner at the Olive Garden (not the US chain) at a time to be announced. You may find their menu here: <https://theogoban.co.uk/>

October 3

Travel to Iona

We will depart for Iona on the noon ferry (will verify time closer to departure). Please be at the ferry terminal no later than 45 minutes before departure. You will be given a ticket for the ferry at the terminal. The first ferry is to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Upon arrival in Craignure, we will board a bus for the trip across Mull to Fionnphort. This is approximately a 45-minute bus ride. Once in Fionnphort, we will board a small ferry for the 15-minute cross to Iona. You will be responsible for loading your baggage on the ferries and buses. It is a short walk from the bus to the ferry to Iona. Upon arrival on Iona, you will walk up the ramp and a van from the hotel will greet us to take your luggage to the hotel. It is an uphill walk to the hotel. (<https://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk/>)

October 5-7

Iona

We will have 5 days total on Iona. This will be time to immerse yourself in the holy landscape of Iona. This island has been known to be a “thin place” for pilgrims for more than fifteen hundred years. There is just something about Iona which captures many pilgrims and makes them feel as if they are coming home to God when they arrive. John Phillip Newell, Celtic theologian, says Iona is a place to come to recover, to rest, and to restore.

Again, the Peregrination Primer will provide daily guidance for you as you seek to make the best of your time in the holy place. We will have daily gatherings for small groups, brief worship and evening meals. The hotel provides breakfast. Lunch will be on your own and there are several lunch spots around the island. We will work to provide an optional boat trip to the small island of Staffa. You would cover the cost of this trip yourself if interested in seeing the wonder of nature there. Whether you worship in the Iona Abbey, explore the island on your own, walk the seven-mile pilgrimage path around the island, trek to visit Columba's Bay, or simply find a place to sit and take in the landscape, Iona will not disappoint.

October 8

Return to Edinburgh

We will make the necessary connections to get us back to Oban to meet our charter bus for the drive back to Edinburgh. We will take one of the morning ferries (time to be determined) from Iona. Please bring your bags to the lobby when you come for breakfast.

Our motor coach will take us back to Edinburgh. We will meet at a determined restaurant for a celebration dinner to close our time of pilgrimage together.

October 9

Departure and return to the U.S.

You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements from the hotel to the airport in Edinburgh. You also are responsible for making your reservation for the return flight to the U.S. If you would like to remain in Scotland and further explore on your own, feel free to book a flight that will facilitate extra time in Scotland.

Registration: Travel Pilgrimage 2026: Holy Island to Holy Isle

September 25-October 9, 2026

Steps for registering:

- Please register using the following link:
- The initial deposit is \$500. You will be prompted to make payment using your credit or debit card information.
- Please register each individual but note “roommate preference” when prompted. Currently all rooms are double occupancy. If we have fewer than 18, there will be an option for a single occupancy rooms. These may be at a higher rate.
- Please make note of the payment schedule. We will send a reminder for payments prior to due date but we ask you to be timely with your payments.
- If you have to cancel, we will determine reimbursement based on the cancellation policy of the lodging locations.

Terms and Conditions of Pilgrimage Travel

1. **We strongly advise you to take out travel insurance to cover personal injury, medical costs, loss of baggage, cancellation charges and repatriation costs.** If you do not have adequate insurance and require our assistance whilst on tour, we reserve the right to reclaim from you any expenses that we may incur on your behalf that would have otherwise been met by insurers.
2. **Dates, program details and tour costs,** although given in good faith, are based on tariffs, exchanger rates and other information current at the time of printing and are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its features included are anticipated, but we reserve the right to make any changes with or without notice that may become necessary with mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger.
3. **Your baggage and personal effects are your sole responsibility.** Baggage is limited to one bag or case per person plus one piece of hand luggage. You may also have a backpack or camera bag.
4. **You agree to be present at the time and location set by us as the starting point for the tour (add location, date and time)** and to abide by all schedules that we set. Failure to be present, for whatever reason, may result in the tour departing without you and we will not be liable for your expenses in this respect.
5. **Passports and visas are your sole responsibility,** and we will have no liability whatsoever should you be refused entry into the country being visited or be required to pay fees, taxes or custom fees.
6. **We will not be held liable** for any interruption to a tour, inconvenience or delay due to inclement weather, strikes or industrial action, acts of war or terrorism.