

ENGLAND & SCOTLAND "ANNIVERSARY" MUSIC TOUR AUGUST 6 - 21, 2017

Celebrating Fairport Convention's 50th Anniversary!

This will be Festival Tours' LAST England & Scotland Tour that includes Fairport ... because this year is the BIG one! Fairport Convention turns 50! Festival Tours turns 35 and the Edinburgh Festival is in its 70th year. So I'm going to make it the best trip ever. No scrimping!

We start our tour in the heart of Mayfair, down the road from the Ritz and Buckingham Palace. Mayfair was also the favorite London location of the Crawley family, from the beloved series Downton Abbey. You will note a lot of Downton connections on this trip! You will be jet-lagged so you deserve a nice place to lay your head. Like everything on this tour our very special hotel is handpicked by me, Nancy Covey. I chose the Chesterfield Hotel not only because the hallways are a deep blue (my favorite color) or that there is a "C" on all the towels (and sheets). Chesterfield has the the right British feel and is the perfect place for us to gather, explore, sleep, drink or have a luxurious spot of afternoon tea. All nice hotels in Central London, where square footage is at a premium, are expensive these days. So we might as well have a good one.

The tour starts on a Sunday in London with a boat trip that cruises down the Thames. However I have held additional nights at our London hotel because we strongly encourage you to arrive on Friday and/or Saturday in order to have some time to visit the city, get over jet lag and visit with your fellow tour members.

The first week of our tour ("England Only") is based in London and Oxfordshire. The trip will be Fairport Convention centric! By joining us you will have access to the band in ways that no one else does. You will have first dibs on the very limited tickets for Fairport's Warm-Up nights. These "rehearsal" concerts are a chance to see Fairport Convention in a room that holds 200 instead of the Festival that holds 20,000! Both have their own great ambiance. Midweek Fairport joins us for a private BBQ in an atmospheric Cotswolds pub where we'll share lunch and drink local ales with Fairport and also have a chance to play the traditional Cotswolds game of "Aunt Sally" with the band. At Fairport's Cropredy Festival you will have tickets to all 3 days and more importantly private transportation to and from the Festival with a warm bed in our hotel at the end of the night ... unlike the majority of Festival goers who are camping!

The second week of the trip ("Full Tour") has limited attendance as we head up north to Scotland where hotel sizes, as well as our coach, is extremely limited. We will explore Northumberland, Inveraray on Loch Fyne (the site of Downton's Ghillie's Ball), unique distilleries in the Scottish Highlands, private castles in Argyll and Aberdeenshire and finish up our trip at the fabulous Edinburgh Festival which has over 2,000 shows throughout the city every single day! As in the beginning of the tour, we encourage you to add on a day in Edinburgh as there is so much to do.

We have chosen great accommodation in each place we visit that captures the feel of that region. We will visit musicians who will host unique evenings of authentic traditional music. This is a completely hand-curated tour ... and it will be FUN!

Due to the very limited nature of the trip and the extraordinary demand, we encourage you to sign up early! Join our mailing list by emailing me at <u>festtours@aol.com</u> so we can keep you posted!

ENGLAND & SCOTLAND MUSIC TOUR AUGUST 6 - 21, 2017 (ENGLAND ONLY TOUR AUGUST 6 - 13, 2017)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 - LONDON Mayfair Optional Arrival



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 - LONDON Mayfair Optional Arrival

SUNDAY AUGUST 6 - LONDON Mayfair Tour officially starts tonight with a Dinner & Boat Trip down the Thames with special guest musicians

MONDAY, AUGUST 7 - BANBURY Drive to Banbury via picturesque Cotswolds villages

Fairport Warm Up Concert



TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 - BANBURY Day free Fairport Warm-Up Concert (tix optional)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 - BANBURY Private pub lunch in the Cotswold countryside with Fairport Convention! Play a traditional game of "Aunt Sally" with band members and local villagers. Concert in Banbury (tix optional)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 - BANBURY Morning free

Fairport's Cropredy Festival starts!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 - BANBURY Fairport's Cropredy Festival, featuring Richard Thompson

SATURDAY AUGUST 12 - BANBURY Fairport's Cropredy Festival. Music all day culminating with Fairport Convention and special guests, including Richard Thompson and former Fairport members



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 -(England Only Tour ends) Travel to NORTHUMBERLAND

Night free in Northumberland at the luxurious Doxford Hall Country House Hotel & Spa

After a sumptuous dinner join an Informal jam session around the fire with Alistair Anderson



MONDAY, AUGUST 14 - NORTHUMBERLAND Free day to visit the market town of Alnwick as well as the magnificent Alnwick Castle (featured in Downton Abbey and Harry Potter). Enjoy a relaxing day at Doxford Hall strolling the gardens, exploring the Maze, swimming, massage or afternoon tea.

Evening buffet dinner & ceilidh with Alistair Anderson and the best Northumbrian traditional musicians

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15 - INVERARAY, SCOTLAND Cross the border into Scotland!

Gourmet dinner on scenic Loch Fyne

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 - INVERARAY, SCOTLAND Day free to visit Inveraray Castle and the charming Inveraray village

Buffet dinner and evening concert with Phil Cunningham & Aly Bain

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 - ABERDEENSHIRE Travel through the stunning Scottish Highlands!





Visit a Highland distillery for a whisky tasting and feast on a dinner of fine traditional Scottish fare



FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 - ABERDEENSHIRE / EDINBURGH Travel to Edinburgh via the privately owned Towie Barclay Castle



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 - EDINBURGH Free Day and Evening to enjoy The Edinburgh Festival!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 -EDINBURGH Day free

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Farewell Afternoon Tea at the elegant Balmoral Hotel



MONDAY, AUGUST 21 - EDINBURGH Full Tour Ends Depart ... or optional extension in Edinburgh (highly recommended)

To sign up for the 2017 England & Scotland "Anniversary" Music Tour:

PRICES (Complete details are on the linked Booking Form):

ENGLAND & SCOTLAND MUSIC TOUR 16 Days, August 6-21, 2017 \$4699 (plus optional extensions in London and Edinburgh)

ENGLAND ONLY August 6-13, 2017 \$2499 (plus optional extension in London)

BOTH Land Package Tours include:

All hotels and internal transportation, all breakfasts, welcoming dinner & cruise down the Thames with special guest musicians, private pub lunch with Fairport Convention, ticket to Fairport's Monday "warm up" night concert (optional ticket to second night), all 3 days of Fairport's Cropredy Music Festival and more!

FULL TOUR (England & Scotland) also includes: All 4 dinners in Northumberland and Inveraray, concert tickets to Northumbrian Night with Alistair Anderson, concert with Phil Cunningham & Aly Bain in Scotland, private distillery tour in the Scottish Highlands, formal farewell afternoon tea at the Balmoral in Edinburgh... and much more!

Download, print and fill out our 2017 booking form and booking conditions.

Mail those along with your \$500 deposit check OR full payment made out to "Festival Tours" to:

Nancy Covey / Joey Thompson FESTIVAL TOURS INTERNATIONAL 22283 BUENAVENTURA ST WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364

Also email us your scanned Booking Form to: <u>festtours@aol.com</u> and <u>merlingr@ix.netcom.com</u>.

Sorry, we do not yet take credit cards although this option may be available soon for balance payment.

Hope you can join us in August!

Nancy Covey

