

Pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland Monday, May 12, 2025 – Saturday, May 24, 2025

Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy. Spirituality is not about perfection; it is about connection. The way of the spiritual life begins where we are now in the mess of our lives. Accepting the reality of our broken, flawed lives is the beginning of spirituality. - Trevor Miller, The Northumbria Community

Join the Trinity community for a contemplative pilgrimage to the Scottish Island of Iona, which focuses on deepening intimacy and connection with God. Together, on this ancient Celtic pilgrimage site founded by St. Columba in 563, we will explore and practice prayer that is rooted in Celtic spirituality -- affirming the unity of all Creation, the value of hospitality, and the joy of soul friendship.

Day 1: Monday, May 12 – Depart from New York City

Depart NYC for an overnight flight to Edinburgh, Scotland

Day 2: Tuesday, May 13 - Edinburgh/Sterling

Arrive in Scotland, clear customs, and immigration, and meet your driver and guide. Board your motorcoach for outdoor activities. Stop at Stirling Castle (strong historical tie to Robert Bruce and William Wallace, along with Mary Queen of Scots and King James) for a tour and a visit to the Church of the Holy Rude (site of the coronation of King James). Continue to Edinburgh and check into your overnight accommodations. Enjoy a group dinner and a group reflection before bed.

<u>Day 3: Wednesday, May 14 – Lindisfarne/Edinburgh</u>

Following breakfast, depart for the holy island of Lindisfarne arriving at low tide. You will have the chance to walk or ride your coach across the 1.1-mile causeway onto the island. While there, learn the history of the site and tour the ruins of the Priory. In the afternoon, return to Edinburgh for overnight.

Day 4: Thursday, May 15 – Loch Lomond/Oban

Check out and board your motorcoach for the West coast of Scotland with a stop along the way at Loch Lomond (large natural area) or Inveraray Castle (seat of the Duke of Argyll). Continue to Oban for overnight. Dinner and overnight in Oban.

Day 5: Friday, May 16 – Isle of Mull/Iona

Travel via ferry to the Isle of Mull. Next, drive across the island to Fionnphort and a foot-ferry that will take you onto the island. Arrive on Iona and settle into your accommodation at the St. Columba Hotel. Group dinner at the hotel.

Days 6-11, Saturday, May 17 – Thursday, May 22 - Iona

Pilgrims will gather in the morning and afternoon for sessions on Celtic spirituality, history, and contemplative practices. We will follow the worship schedule at Iona Abbey and have group meditation each day. There will be ample free time to explore, read, pray, and walk. The group will gather for breakfast and dinner at the St. Columba Hotel. Lunch is on your own. On Tuesday, May 20, we will make the traditional pilgrimage walk around the island.

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Day 12: Friday, May 23: Iona/Isle of Mull/Edinburgh

Depart hotel after breakfast and take the ferry back to the Isle of Mull. Continue across the island and ferry back to Oban, then on to Edinburgh for some free time to explore. Dinner on own.

Day 13: Saturday, May 24: Flight Home

In the morning, check out of your accommodations and return to the airport for your flight home to the United States.

<u>Fees</u>: This pilgrimage is arranged by Faith Journeys. The price, including airfare from New York City, is \$6,845 share; \$7,935 single. Breakfast and dinner included on most days. Deposit: \$700 due May, 17.