

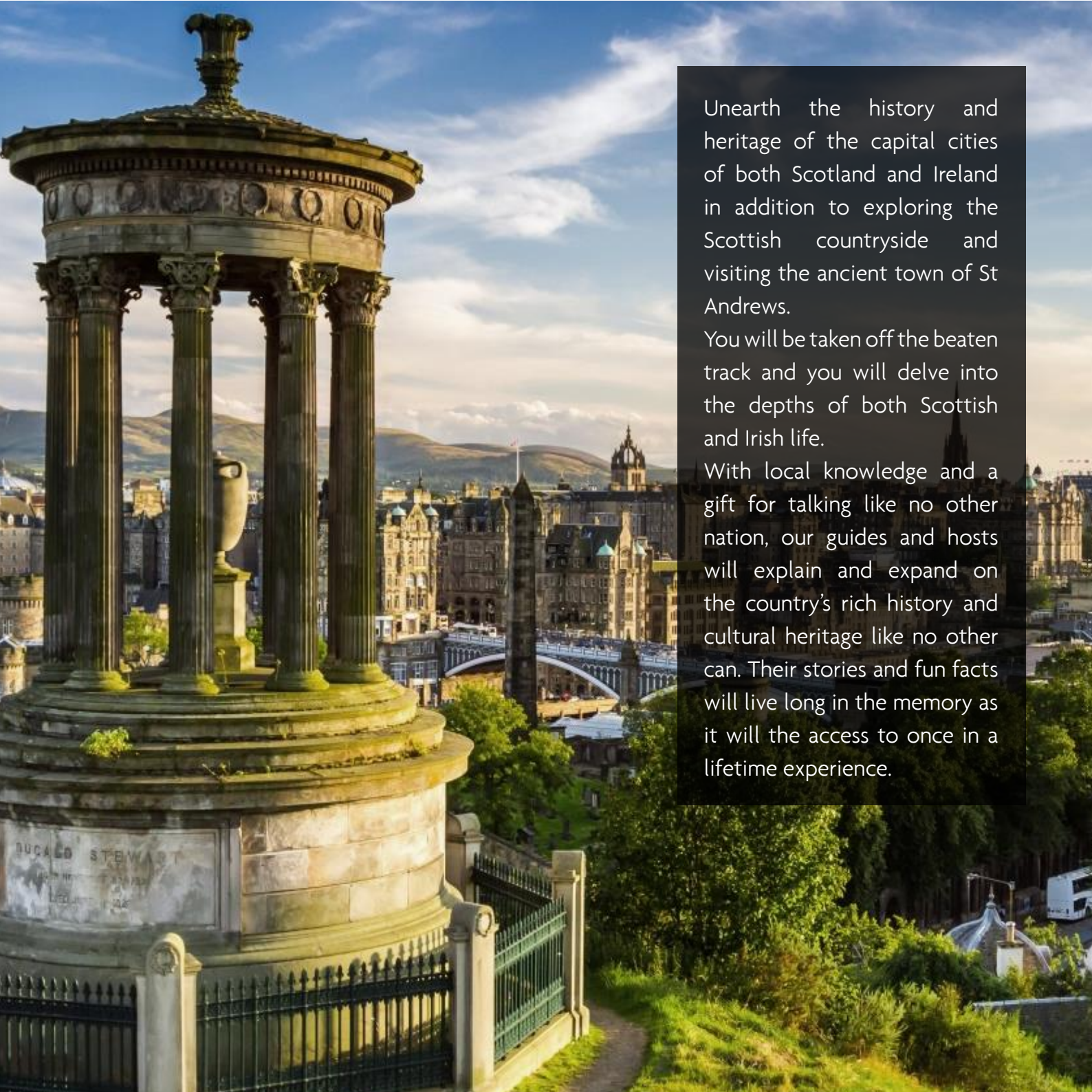
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

INTO THE DEPTH OF THE SCOTTISH AND IRISH LIFE



VISION GROUP

LUXURY
EXPERIENCES



Unearth the history and heritage of the capital cities of both Scotland and Ireland in addition to exploring the Scottish countryside and visiting the ancient town of St Andrews.

You will be taken off the beaten track and you will delve into the depths of both Scottish and Irish life.

With local knowledge and a gift for talking like no other nation, our guides and hosts will explain and expand on the country's rich history and cultural heritage like no other can. Their stories and fun facts will live long in the memory as it will the access to once in a lifetime experience.

SCOTTLAND



EXPLORE

- Together with an art historian visit to the National Museum of Scotland, will take you back in time and into a world of Jacobite plots, royal feuds and ancient loyalties, the perfect introduction to Scotland's fascinating and varied past.
- Visit Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most famous castles – whoever ruled here often ruled the nation. It towers over some of the most important battlefields in Scottish history and was the favoured residence of the Stewart kings and queens for generations. Today it is meticulously restored to its original Renaissance glory.
- visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse - the Official Residence of HM, The Queen and The Royal Family in Scotland. Accompanied by an expert guide, enjoy a private tour which provides a unique and special opportunity to 'go behind the ropes' in selected rooms, including the West Drawing Room. This is used by members of the Royal Family as a private sitting room and is not normally open to the public. This baroque palace stands against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat and is closely associated with Scotland's rich history.
- Visit Glamis Castle, which is famed for its connections to the British royal family and many myths and legends in British history and literature. It was the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of HRH The Princess Margaret.



EXCLUSIVE

- Exclusive access to Rosslyn Chapel in a candlelit visit. Built between 1446 and 1484, it has been described as an “Architectural Wonder” and a “Bible in Stone”. It is without a doubt a masterpiece of craftsmanship. Architecturally it is unique, as are the chapel’s stories and legends that connect it to Free Masonry, the St Clair family and, more recently, Dan Brown’s Da Vinci Code.
- Discover the Traquair House, Catherine Maxwell Stuart, 21st Lady of Traquair, will conduct an exclusively guided tour of her home. Dating back to 1107, the house claims to be the oldest continually inhabited house in Scotland and was originally a hunting lodge for the kings and queens of Scotland. It has hosted 27 Monarchs including Mary, Queen of Scots.
- For the first time since it was built more than 300 years ago, Broomhall House, the ancestral seat of the Earls of Elgin and the Fife home of the family of King Robert the Bruce has opened its doors. A private guided tour conducted by Lord Bruce, the heir of the 11th Earl of Elgin will showcase this remarkable and fascinating property plus bring his extraordinary family history to life. The Bruce family has been at the heart of Scotland’s story for centuries.
- Exclusive and VIP visit the Royal Yacht Britannia, by to the historic docks of Leith. Formerly the Queen’s floating royal residence, it belonged to Her Majesty and the Royal Family for over 40 years, transporting them over 1,000,000 miles around the world. Board via a red carpet on the Royal Brow, a practice previously reserved for members of the Royal Family and visiting dignitaries.



PASSIONS

- Antiques – In Edinburgh unearth unique treasures, from fine jewellery and art to furniture and curios as your private guide takes you to some of the city's best antique shops. Perhaps visit a shop that offers the largest selection on antiques in Scotland; their fantastic team of cabinet makers, French polishers, porters and dedicated sales staff are always on hand to offer advice and suggestions.
- One of the most unique visits is to Anteaques, a traditional tea house and antiques store in Edinburgh. As well as a unique collection of antique tea accompaniments, furniture, silver and curios, they also offer in a wide selection of fine loose teas. Peruse their wares and soak up the ambiance while enjoying classic tea and scones among the antiques.
- Together with its director visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh – Founded in the 17th century, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is now internationally-renowned as being home to one of the world's largest collections of plants. Highlights include the world-famous rock garden and the magnificent glasshouses including one of the tallest palm houses ever built. See also the Scottish Heath Garden which recreates the landscape of the Scottish Highlands, the world-famous Rock Garden and, reflecting the RBGE's international research, the largest collection of wild-origin plants outside China.
- The Scottish National Portrait Gallery - Visit the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, one of Edinburgh's most remarkable buildings. It is a great red sandstone neo-Gothic palace which sits proudly on the city's skyline. Enjoy a private tour of the gallery led by an art specialist, and come face to face with iconic figures of our history.
- Golf - Spend a day in St Andrews which has its place firmly in the history books as being the home of golf. Enjoy a privately guided walk on the famed fairways of the Old Course. Based around the 1st, 17th and 18th holes of the course, the walk follows in the footsteps of golfing greats, allowing you to experience a player's eye view of the fabled links. Commonly known as The Old Lady, it is one of the world's greatest courses.



ENTERTAINMENT

- In a candlelit exclusive visit to the Rosslyn Chapel, a musician will play the clarsach, a traditional Celtic harp, to provide an incredible musical accompaniment in one of the most mysterious places on Earth.
- A private cruise in one of Scotland's most famed stretches of water, Loch Lomond, on board a gleaming 46ft luxury motor cruiser. Set off from the marina and relax on the upper deck with a glass of champagne in hand. The glorious surrounding scenery is breath-taking regardless of the time of year, and your cruise provides a wonderfully memorable way to take it in.
- Experience the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, often billed as the "most famous show in the world". Your VIP evening commences behind the ancient walls of Edinburgh Castle itself. It is a fortress that dominates the county's capital city & its story has helped shape the nation's story. Join the Salute Taker, and dignitaries with a VIP seat in the covered Royal Gallery to watch the Tattoo performance from the 'best seats in the house'.

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EPICUREAN

- An exclusive and private dinner served in the 18th Century Dining Room in Traquair House. Complete with period tableware and silver candelabras, it will create an atmosphere of elegance and intimacy in this truly historic setting.
- Visit the Old and New Towns, unusual or hidden restaurants, shops and bars on a culinary walking tour. At each location you will have the opportunity to taste dishes specially prepared for you, and to sample individually selected wines and malt whisky. Along the way, you will be entertained with stories on the history of Scottish food and the city. The locations chosen are unique or off the beaten track, and many have a story to tell in their own right.
- Enjoy a private visit to Glengoyne Distillery. Located on the Highland Line, the division between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland, the stills are in the Highlands while the maturing casks of whisky rest across the road in the Lowlands. It has been in continuous operation, producing Highland single malt for over 175 years.
- During the Military Tattoo, dine in the Edinburgh Castle in the historic grandeur of the Queen Anne Room, get invited to The Producer's Champagne Pommery Reception when you will be able to mingle with other guests and performers whilst taking in the view from this unique location.
- Dine in Fonab Castle, at the property's fine dining restaurant which holds 3 AA rosettes. In the intimate Castle Dining Room, enjoy an excellent gourmet experience accompanied by expertly matched wines.

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IRELAND



EXPLORE

- Set on Ireland's east coast, Dublin is an essential stop for any visitor to the Emerald Isle. With a history that stretches back over 1,000 years, from Viking rule to the 18th century, regarded as the "Age of Elegance" and the battle for independence a century later, there is much to be discovered. Today, the city is regarded as one of the liveliest and most atmospheric in Europe.
- At EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum Dublin, step through 20 themed galleries with a private tour guide who will give you a unique insight into the compelling story of how Irish emigrants and their descendants helped to influence and shape the world.
- Visit the Kilmainham Gaol, the haunting former Country Gaol for Dublin which today symbolises the tradition of militant and constitutional nationalism, from the rebellion of 1798 to the Irish Civil War of 1922-23. The guided visit gives both a dramatic and poignant insight into what it was like to have been imprisoned here between 1796 and 1924, the year of its decommissioning.

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EXCLUSIVE

- Pre-opening exclusive guided tour of Trinity College in Dublin, which was founded on the site of an Augustinian monastery in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. The highlight is viewing the priceless “Book of Kells”; the manuscript contains the four gospels written in Latin, its lavish decoration, the extent and artistry of which is said to be incomparable.
- Trinity College’s Old Library which is said to be one of the most impressive libraries in the world. The main chamber of the Old Library is the Long Room; at nearly 65 metres in length, it is filled with 200,000 of the Library’s oldest and rarest books.

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PASSIONS

- National Gallery of Ireland – A privately guided tour of the National Gallery of Ireland will allow you to see the highlights of the home to the National Collection of European and Irish fine art. The Masterpieces from the Collection is a special presentation of some of the museum's finest works and includes a stunning selection from the early Renaissance to the mid-20th century. Highlights include work by Caravaggio, Monet and Rembrandt.
- Literary City - The home of literature greats – Oscar Wilde, James Joyce and William Butler Yeats to name a few – it is no surprise that Dublin was named a UNESCO City of Literature. Accompanied by your guide, explore some of the city's great literary links. Visit Dublin Writers Museum; situated in a magnificent 18th century mansion in the north city centre, the collection features the lives and works of Dublin's literary celebrities over the past three hundred years.
- National Botanic Gardens - Founded in 1795, they are Ireland's foremost centre of botany and horticulture. Highlights include the restored glasshouses, in particular the Turner Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House which are recipients of the Europa Nostra award for excellence in conservation architecture. The gardens are also home to hundreds of endangered plant species, including six that are already extinct in the wild.

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ENTERTAINMENT

- Discover the origins of Irish dancing and visit some of the landmarks of Irish cultural history in the city. Explore underground Gaelic bars, see where people from across the Emerald Isle took over the mayor's residence to dance and sing, and listen to some live traditional music. Your personal guide, who comes from a family of Irish dancers, will entertain and educate throughout the experience, ensuring you have fun and learn a few dance steps along the way.
- Enjoy a performance of Riverdance, the phenomenal show which fuses Irish and International music and dance. Feel the energy, view the spectacle and experience the passion as the sensational music and astounding performers put on this historic show of immense proportions.

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EPICUREAN

- Your personal culinary guide will give you the opportunity to discover some of the Dublin's culinary highlights on a walking tour of the city. At each stop, a specially prepared treat will be waiting for you to try and you will have the opportunity of meeting the local purveyors and makers who will be more than happy to share their stories and experience.
- Dine at Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud in Dublin, a fine dining restaurant with seriously elegant surroundings, awarded with two Michelin star, claims to be Ireland's most award-winning restaurant. It was established by Mr. Guilbaud in 1981, was the first in Dublin to receive two Michelin stars and has been praised by The New York Times.

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