

Great Minds and Innovations



Your Detailed Itinerary *Great Minds and Innovations*

Day 1

Explore **Edinburgh**. It was here during the 18th-century Scottish Enlightenment that the King's chemist, John Amyat, summed up this intellectual flowering by stating that he could stand on the Royal Mile, by the Mercat Cross, and "in a few minutes take fifty men of genius by the hand". Near the foot of today's Royal Mile is Our Dynamic Earth, which tells a story directly linking to just one genius: James Hutton, 'the Father of Modern Geology'.

Day 2

Travel east, towards Musselburgh to visit **Newhailes**. This grand house was the former home of the Dalrymples, an influential family in law and politics at the time of the Scottish Enlightenment. Guided tours of the interiors, also walks and trails in the extensive grounds. Overnight Edinburgh.

Day 3

Leave Edinburgh by the M9/A9 'The Highland Road', crossing into the Highlands at Dunkeld. Here the Dukes of Atholl, known as 'The Planting Dukes', held enlightened views on developing their estates with new forestry techniques. See the last surviving original tree, 'The Parent Larch', by Dunkeld Cathedral. It was planted by the 2nd Duke in the 1730s – and was the parent of many of the estimated 14 million trees planted in Perthshire in the following century! Further up the A9, turn west at Dalwhinnie for more magnificent scenery, reaching the Great Glen at Spean Bridge. Fort Augustus (overnight) lies to the north.

Day 4

Fort Augustus is a good place to see the 19th-century engineering of the locks on the **Caledonian Canal**. This coast-to-coast link was originally intended to assist the navy, but naval vessels soon became too big for passage! It nevertheless became

important for fishing boats and, today, for recreational craft. Its sound construction has stood the test of time. Travel south down the Great Glen (even more spectacular locks at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie near Fort William) for overnight at Fort William.

Day 5

The **West Highland Railway** which runs from Fort William to Mallaig is one of Scotland's great travel experiences, especially in summer when vintage steam locomotives ('The Jacobite') haul some of the trains. As well as the Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous through its appearances in the Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets movie, look out for Borrodale Bridge, east of Arisaig, in its day a sensation in the engineering world for the size of its single concrete arch. (Look out, too, for the superb views of the Small Isles beyond Arisaig.) Return to Fort William then depart for Glasgow. The road south from Fort William leads through the mountain spectacle of Glencoe and on to

Rannoch Moor. Continue to Crianlarich, reaching Glasgow (overnight) via the beauties of **Loch Lomond**.

Day 6

Explore Glasgow's Charles Rennie Mackintosh connections – a special **Mackintosh Trail Ticket** is available to use on public transport. The Glasgow School of Art, The Lighthouse, Scotland Street School and House for an Art Lover are just some of the venues. The Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society has its headquarters in the Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross. Overnight Glasgow.

Day 7

Travel south-east from the city to the town of Lanark, from where it is easy to find **New Lanark** in the steep valley of the Clyde, below the town. As well as a visitor centre, preserved dwellings and mills from the time of this experiment in workers' welfare, there are attractive walks along the wooded river banks

to see the 'lincs' or waterfalls. It was the force of this water that was originally harnessed to supply power to the mill community. From Lanark, continue east and north for Edinburgh.

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Great Minds and Innovations

The first paddle-wheel steamer, the first commercial exploitation of oil, the steam hammer, the postage stamp, the vacuum flask, logarithms, radar, pneumatic tyres and even the concept of a bank overdraft – the inventions and innovations of Scottish minds appear in many fields of endeavour. During an early flowering of this intellectual talent, called the Scottish Enlightenment, Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, was considered 'a hotbed of genius'. And this tradition of innovation continued far beyond its 18th-century origins. This tour visits the surviving works of some of the creative individuals, both from the time of the Enlightenment and beyond it.



1
EDINBURGH WALKING TOURS – With a historic centre that is compact and easy to get around, Edinburgh offers a variety of walking tours with heritage, literary and even ghostly themes – a great way to encounter the city's past.



2
THE GEORGIAN HOUSE – Owned by the National Trust for Scotland this is a showcase re-creation of life in the New town of Edinburgh c.1796 at 7 Charlotte Square, centrepiece of the architect Robert Adam's palace-fronted block.



3
SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY – Come face to face with portraits of Scots who helped to shape the nation, including philosopher Dugald Stewart and geologist James Hutton.



4
NEWHAILES – An extraordinary survival of early 18th-century decorative art and collections, set within a late 17th century 'villa', and surrounded by an 18th-century designed landscape. Now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland.



5
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND: SCOTLAND A CHANGING NATION
Reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of Scottish culture during the past century, this new permanent gallery within the museum traces the way events and achievements have shaped the Scottish nation.



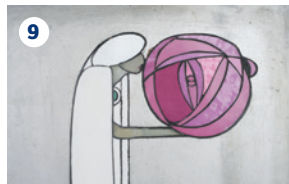
6
CALEDONIAN CANAL – Linking the east and west coasts of Scotland, the Caledonian Canal took 19 years to complete, starting in 1803 under the innovative Scots engineer, Thomas Telford.



7
THE WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY – The West Highland Railway's extension from Fort William to Mallaig (opened 1901) saw pioneering use of mass concrete for bridges and viaducts, including the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct. Sometimes described as Britain's most scenic rail journey.



8
LOCH LOMOND AND TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK – This national park of 720 sq miles (1,865 sq km) includes some of Scotland's finest upland scenery and is a reminder that the modern conservation movement and the national parks system was originally founded by a Scot, John Muir (1838-1914).



9
MACKINTOSH TRAIL, GLASGOW – The legacy of the architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) can be seen today in and around Glasgow, the city of his birth, both in individual buildings, for example, the Glasgow School of Art, and in museum displays such as the Hunterian.



10
NEW LANARK – Now a World Heritage Site, this village in a sylvan setting by the River Clyde became an 18th-century innovative social experiment in workers' care and welfare – an initiative of enterprising Scottish merchant David Dale.