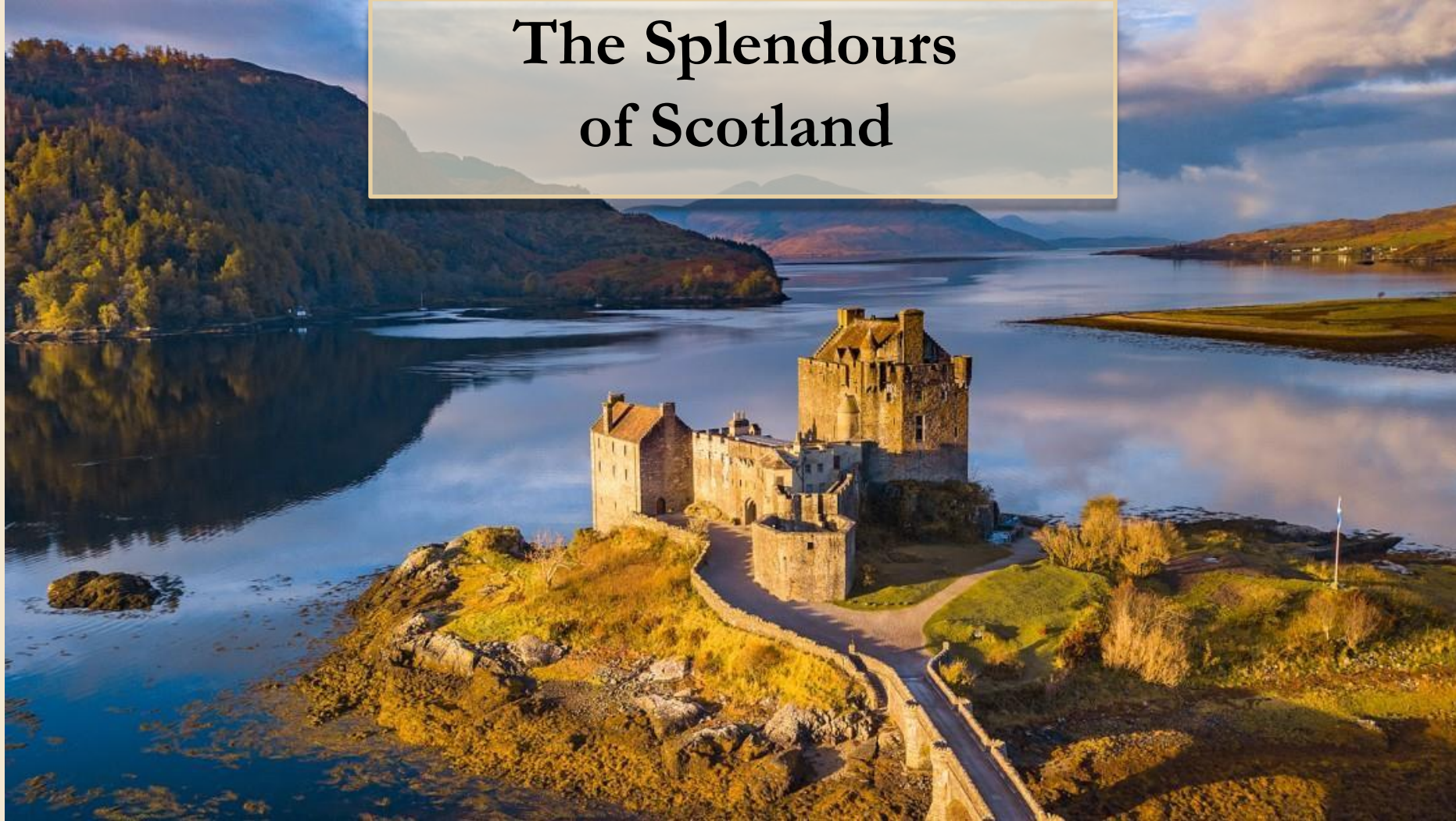


The Splendours of Scotland



The Splendours of Scotland:
Edinburgh, the Highlands, and the Western Isles
Designed and Led by Eddy Downpatrick
Sunday, June 1st to Tuesday, June 10th 2025





The Splendours of Scotland

Here you will find the home of the famed Scottish Enlightenment, the period between the 18th and 19th Century characterised by a spate of intellectual and scientific achievements, including those of the great Adam Smith, a capital city set amidst mountains and against sea. On this expedition you will discover the true brave heart of Scotland, her line of clans, kings, and queens, alongside her most celebrated heroes. The land of *Outlander*, *The Highlander*, *Outlaw King*, and *Braveheart* themselves brought to life. Here you will uncover lost ways of life, traditions and relics many thousands of years old, and the source of one of the great migrations to what was to become the United States of America.

In short, this is a land storied in song, fabled in history, replete with natural beauty. What you are about to see in these photos reflects the world inhabited by all those famous songs and stories, but it is only a teasing glimmer of what actually lies in wait.

Meet us in Edinburgh, Scotland for **The Splendours of Scotland from 1st to 10th June 2025**.

We're happy to discuss anytime: edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com and jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com

Alba gu Bràth! (Scotland forever!)

Eddy Downpatrick



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The Splendours of Scotland

Scotland was a country that not even the Romans could conquer. The English tried and tried again to subdue her, perennially larger in fighting force and superior in equipment. For the Highland way of life, only musket, canon, and a series of calamitous events led to the defeat which would set her on the path of submission to the kingdom in the south.

This is a land that at its narrowest point is but 25 miles wide. She is a land of bounteous wildlife, natural beauty, hundreds of islands, thousands of lochs (lakes), and consequently, rarefied light. A land of druids, warriors, saints, and brilliant minds, she is imbued with a magic hitherto undimmed.



Day 1 - Arrival Day - Edinburgh – Sunday 1st June 2025

Arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland by Sunday, June 1. Some will fly into Edinburgh via Chicago or New York and others via London. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Our welcome dinner will be that night.

We'll find ourselves at the Kimpton Hotel by Charlotte Square's pretty park in the heart of the city.



Day 2 - Edinburgh – Monday 2nd June

Our expedition begins in Scotland's capital, a city dominated by volcanic hillscape, a castle scratching the skyline, and iconic monuments, some of which looks remarkably similar to that of ancient Greece. The heart of the Scottish Enlightenment, where the likes of Adam Smith left his mark on the world, this is one of the finest cities anywhere to be found.



We will explore the city's historic heart, centred around sights which will look familiar to all those who glimpsed Her late Majesty the Queen's final procession through Edinburgh. Alongside the Royal Mile, St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh Castle, and Holyrood Palace, where we'll enjoy a rather special private tour, we will head to the city's symbolic heights, Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat, guided by a Shakespearean actor expert in Scotland's history.



Day 3 – Edinburgh to St. Andrews – Tuesday 3rd June

Today we daytrip northeastwards to the symbolic home of Christianity in Scotland, also the home of golf and meeting place of the future King and Queen. In St. Andrews we will be met by a character of great local repute, replete with stories, who will show us around the old Abbey ruins, walk us the final two holes of the storied course, above which we'll have lunch, and take us around the old buildings and gardens of one of the world's most famous universities, the oldest in Scotland.

On our return to Edinburgh we will explore the most picturesque of villages of the East Neuk of Fife, Anstruther, famed for her fishing heritage and colourful houses, and Elie, complete with her film-set-ready beach and dramatic cliffs.



Day 4 – Edinburgh to Inverness – Wednesday 4th June

Today we travel northwards towards the hallowed realm of the Scottish Highlands. We will stop at the historic Battle of Bannockburn, the site of a fabled victory for the Scots. Thereafter we visit Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish kings, whose owners, the Earls of Mansfield, are old friends of Eddy's, for a private tour.

We carry on north toward Inverness, stopping at the stunning Falls of Bruar, and for a whisky tour and tasting at Tomatin, whose 36-year old is currently the world's number one ranked. Our resting place tonight is the Highland idyll of Newhall Mains, belonging to Eddy's friend, Euan Ramsay, complete with its own airfield and asado.



Day 5 – The Scottish Highlands – Thursday 5th June

Eddy will give us a tour of Culloden Battlefield and explain the dynamics behind the Jacobite uprising, Bonnie Prince Charlie, and the end of the ancient Highland way of life.

To earn our sumptuous lunch, we will take a gentle walk up to Fyrish Monument, an amazing stone structure atop a ridgeline with stunning views over the Cromarty and Moray Firths (a firth is an estuary).

That afternoon we will enjoy a private tour of Castle Leod from The Earl of Cromartie, Chief of Clan Mackenzie and a wonderful storyteller. Eyes to the sky for giant redwoods too!



Day 6 – The Scottish Highlands – Friday 6th June

Eddy will take us through beautiful Highland scenery via the Highlands' famed outfitters, Campbells, situated in the charming village of Beauly, an ideal spot to procure gifts and keepsakes, before heading up the eastern flank of the Great Glen to the vertiginous, Plodda Falls.

We'll have lunch along the banks of Loch Ness, a beautiful spot to behold one of the world's most famous 'lakes'. We'll take the afternoon to enjoy the comforts and spoiling splendours of Newhall Mains and her glorious grounds, with any luck taking one of their phenomenal cocktails under the evening sun on their croquet lawn.



Day 7 – the road to the Isle of Skye – Saturday 7th June

On our way Skywards, we visit Urquhart Castle, spectacularly situated on the flanks of Loch Ness and among the more significant Highland fortifications of Robert the Bruce, the outlaw King of Scotland.

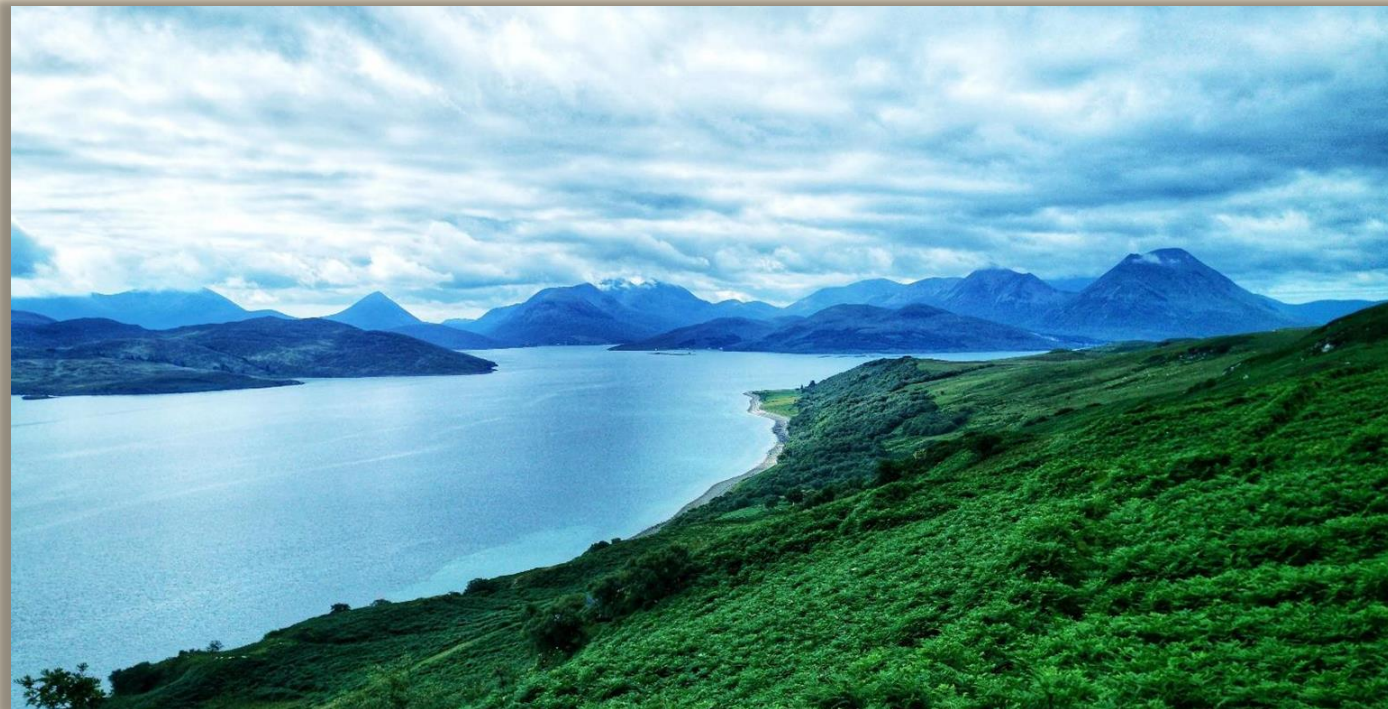
After a water's edge lunch, we come to Eilean Donan Castle – a sea-lochside gem, one of the most picturesque sites in the world, surrounded by the Kyle of Rhea (Rhea being a Celtic mythological hero and a kyle being a strait or sound).

Our next resting place is another friendly refuge, the beautiful home of Eddy's friends Jimmy and Stella, just a few miles down the shoreline from Eilean Donan.



Day 8 – Isles of Skye, Rona, and Raasay – Sunday 8th June

Today we take to the waters along the spectacular Jurassic coastline of Isle of Skye then into the Sea of the Hebrides to look for sea eagles, puffins, and insular stags. After a short, scenic walk to a stunning viewpoint, having moored up on the barely-inhabited but utterly charming Isle of Rona, we have a freshly-caught seafood lunch, courtesy of our captain in the tranquility of the harbour. On our return via the Isle of Raasay and her picturesque distillery we will keep a keen eye out for dolphins. We return to our lodgings to sundown an evening of stirring Highland music.



Day 9 – Knoydart Peninsula – Monday 9th June

Knoydart holds the least accessible areas on the British mainland. Estuaries hidden to all but the very most knowledgeable and skillful, mountains to mesmerise the mind, and wildness to stir spirits and senses alike. We'll be in the care of Billy the boatman and ne'er a soul had more riveting stories to tell. Should his young apprentice be in tow (he will be), there'll be treats for the ears as well.

Billy will skirt us around the beautiful northern shore of the peninsula, leading us to a coastal enclave reachable only by boat, home to a restaurant the rarefied likes of which so few of us have the joyous privilege to know.



Day 10 – Departures – Tuesday 10th June

Having had a sumptuous farewell dinner in our seaside roost, watching the sun come down over Rhea's mystical waters one last time, we'll have our breakfast and make for Inverness for our onward connections.

Inverness Airport has six direct flights a day to London and Inverness Railway Station has fifteen trains to Edinburgh and another 15 trains to Glasgow every day for those flying back to the US or elsewhere from those two airports.



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THE SPLENDOURS OF SCOTLAND DETAILS

Dates: Sunday 1st June to Tuesday 10th June, 2025

Led by Eddy Downpatrick

Register: [The Splendours of Scotland June 1-10, 2025](#)

All Inclusive per person: \$14,250 Deposit \$4,500 to register; 2 payments with balance by April 20

The Splendours of Scotland was personally designed by Eddy Downpatrick exclusively for Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions. It is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value.

Price Includes:

- *All accommodation as specified in itinerary are Double Occupancy. Solo Travelers have a private room at no extra charge.
- *All 3 meals with group (B-L-D), including bottled water and soft drinks, throughout the itinerary. Wine served at dinners.
- *All transportation: internal transportation and airport transfers.
- *All activities and excursions with the group in the itinerary. All entrance fees to museums and monuments.

Price does not include:

- * International air travel.
- * Meals, snacks, services, and activities not with group or in itinerary.
- * Personal expenses for incidentals, laundry, internet, gratuities, and alcoholic drinks, aside from wine served.
- * Visa fees. Note: We provide all support documents required for visas.

To apply for your participation in this wonderful adventure, please contact us immediately. Trip is limited to a small number of adventurous, curious, and open-minded travelers.

Contact to discuss: edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com or jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com

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Deposits, Payments, Cancellations and Refunds

*Non-refundable deposit of US\$ 4,500, with two payments and balance due by April 20.

*Balance in full must be received by April 20, 2025.

*Refund of deposit and balance in full on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you.

* *Note:* We strongly advise you consider trip cancellation insurance. Your travel agent can assist.

International travel. If you do not have your own travel agent, please contact us for a referral.

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Important Caveat: Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the vagaries of weather in this region, typically beautiful at this time of year, and of adventure travel in general, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. You agree that if a trip cannot be run for any reason out of the control of the company, it will be rescheduled as needed. We kindly request that participants accept this and that they maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.

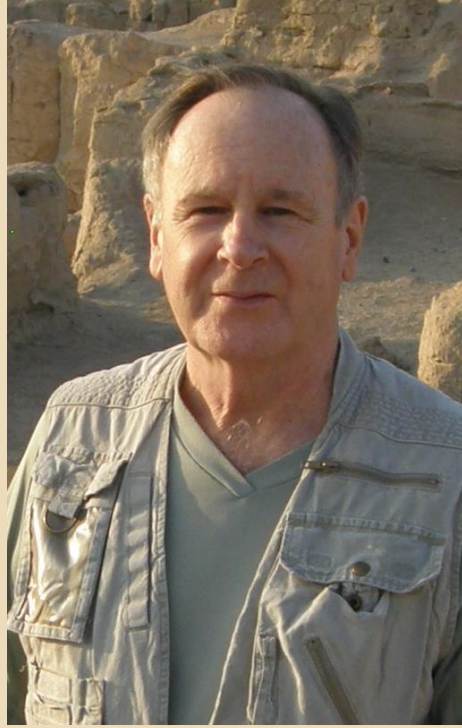
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Brandon Wheeler



Jack Wheeler



Edward Windsor

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Meet Our Expedition Leadership Team - WWX

Welcome to our world of exploration and adventure! We look forward to sharing extraordinary expeditions with you. We know that these experiences deepen our lives in countless ways and create lifelong memories to treasure and share. Join us to experience it for yourself!

Jack Wheeler has traveled to every country in the world. He started out as the youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer's Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole.

Jack founded **Wheeler Expeditions in 1976**, which has conducted exclusive and bespoke expeditions to unusual destinations across the globe for over 40 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married **Ms. Rebel Holiday** in St Tropez, France, who is a partner in the business. Wheeler Expeditions was a classic family business, working with their two grown sons: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler.

Brandon Holiday Wheeler, has traveled to over 90 countries on 6 continents for the past 32 years and has been leading international expeditions for over a decade. He has summited 13 mountains, along with his many adventures skydiving, scuba diving, and flying. He has lived, studied, worked, and volunteered in multiple countries and participated in their diverse cultures, finding value in learning about their distinct worldviews.

Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick, (“Eddy Downpatrick”) Eddy is an explorer and adventurer who takes great pleasure in designing and guiding exclusive expeditions. Eddy’s experience, intellect, and great passion for exploring our wondrous planet and sharing it led to the formation of **Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions (“WWX”)**. In addition to extensive travel, Eddy is a mountaineer, avid hiker, skier, cold-water swimmer, linguist, and is adept on a horse. This opens an even wider range of travel experiences for WWX Client-Members, with “invitation-only,” exclusive events from Eddy’s uniquely broad network.

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Our mission is to guide you to live an adventurous life by designing and leading unique, engaging journeys integrating culture, history, and adventure.

Contact us:

holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com