

Pilgrimage to Iona Scotland

Central Presbyterian Church Atlanta

Sept 29 - Oct 9, 2026



Pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place

Our pilgrimage will take us to sacred spaces across Scotland, as we travel to Iona. We will worship with local congregations and explore the bold legacy of the Scottish Reformation and the Presbyterian tradition. We will trace the stories that have shaped our faith and listen for God's voice.

Pilgrimage is a spiritual discipline. Through prayer practices, reflections, and group gatherings we will stay rooted in the rhythm of pilgrimage. This is a journey of spiritual inheritance—claiming the truths that shape our faith and discovering how we are being formed for this moment in time.

*We invite you to take this
sacred journey with us.*

*Come with your questions,
your prayers, your weariness,
and your hopes.*

*Come as you are and return
renewed, refreshed, and reconnected to
the One who calls you by name.*



**IONA
2026**

Scotland Itinerary

(b, l, d indicate meals included in the tour)

Tue, Sept 29: Fly overnight to Edinburgh.

Wed, Sept 30: (l) Arrive in Edinburgh and transfer to our hotel, The Apex City Hotel, centrally located in the Grassmarket district of the Old Town. Lunch at the hotel, followed by a tour of St. Giles Cathedral. Dinner on your own with many local eateries close to the hotel.

Thurs, Oct 1: (b) We begin the day with a tour of the 12th century Edinburgh Castle. You'll enjoy its history and the views from this highest point in the city. After the castle you'll walk along the Royal Mile, stopping for lunch, followed by a visit to Greyfriars Kirk, a historic Presbyterian church. We'll attend their mid-week worship and meet with members of their staff to learn about their innovative ministry in the local community. Later in the afternoon you can explore on your own or take an optional tour of the Holyroodhouse Palace, which has served as the principal royal residence in Scotland since the 16th century. Evening on your own to enjoy Edinburgh.

Friday, Oct 2: (b, d) This morning we drive to St. Andrews for a tour of the castle and cathedral ruins, learning about the role this community played in the Reformation. We'll also have a tour of Holy Trinity, an historic Presbyterian church, meeting with the pastor to learn about the life of this church today. After lunch we'll continue into the Highlands, stopping for a demonstration of the famous Scottish sheep dogs. Dinner at our hotel, the Morlich, in Aviemore.

Sat, Oct 3: (b, l) Today we tour the Highlands with a cruise on Loch Ness, lunch and tour at Cawdor Castle, and a drive past the Culloden battlefield. We'll return to Aviemore through the Spey River Valley, ending our day with a quiet walk around one of the lakes in the Cairngorms National Park. Dinner on your own at the hotel or in town.

Sun, Oct 4: (b, l) This morning we'll drive to Inverness and walk along the River Ness before attending Sunday worship at the Ness Bank Presbyterian Church. There will be an opportunity to meet with the pastor and church members before worship. After church, we'll drive to Oban for the night at the Oban Bay Hotel. Oban is a delightful harbor town with excellent seafood restaurants near the hotel.

Mon, Oct 5: (b, l, d) This morning we travel by ferry and motor coach to Iona, staying two nights at the St. Columba Hotel. We'll have lunch at the hotel followed by a tour of the Iona Abbey. Later we'll gather for a guided spiritual growth session with the pastors and our first Iona walk. After dinner we'll return to the Abbey for the evening worship service.

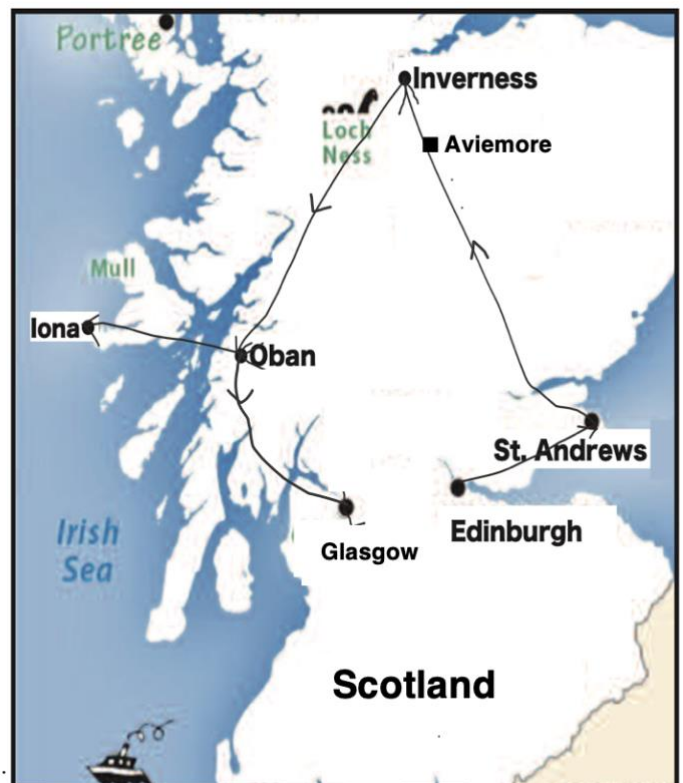
Tues, Oct 6: (b, d) Today we'll have guided spiritual growth exercises led by the pastors, along with a presentation on the Iona Community. There will also be opportunities for walks on the island. Dinner at the hotel with evening worship at the Abbey.

Wed, Oct 7: (b, d) After our final morning together on Iona, we'll travel by ferry and motorcoach to Glasgow, with a scenic stop at Loch Lomond, as well as the enchanting lakeside church, St. Conan's Kirk. We'll have dinner at our Glasgow hotel, the Grand Central.

Thurs, Oct 8: (b, l) Our Glasgow tour includes the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and lunch at the Willow Tea Rooms—designed by Rennie Mackintosh, Scotland's Art Nouveau architect. We will also meet leaders of the Church of Scotland. There will be an optional tour and tasting at one of Scotland's famed whisky distilleries. Dinner and evening on your own as you prepare for the trip home.

Fri. Oct 9: (b) After breakfast with parting blessings, we'll fly from the Edinburgh airport, arriving home the same afternoon.

Note: On days with extensive walking, alternative transportation and assistance will be provided for those who need it.



The IONA Experience

The island of Iona is both our destination and our teacher. It was here, in the year 563, that St. Columba brought the Christian faith to Scotland. For centuries, pilgrims have crossed seas and continents to walk this holy ground, seeking what we also long for: a deeper sense of where we come from, who we are, and who God is calling us to be.

Daily contemplative practices. Pastors Shannon and Kate will lead us in spiritual formation sessions designed to help us listen deeply: to scripture, to creation, to one another, and to the Spirit stirring within. Through daily worship at the Abbey, guided meditations, reflective walks across the island, silence, and small group conversations, we will engage our whole selves—body, mind and spirit.

Pilgrimage invites openness and commitment.

It asks us to slow down, pay attention, and travel lightly... not only with our belongings but with our assumptions and distractions. It calls us into community, even as it invites personal renewal.



Our Pilgrimage Leaders



Rev. Shannon Kershner serves as the Pastor at Central Presbyterian church of Atlanta. Previously, she served as the Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. While in Chicago she led the spiritual underpinnings of a choir trip to South Africa, including singing with South African choirs from Soweto to Cape Town. She has been to Scotland twice, including a study trip with other Presbyterian pastors.



Rev. Kate Culver serves as the Associate Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. A longtime spiritual practitioner rooted in the contemplative Christian tradition, Pastor Kate integrates movement and mindfulness into spiritual leadership, including meditation, silent retreat, and pilgrimages. Kate's international experience includes study in India and walking portions of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage.

Registration

The cost of the Scotland Pilgrimage is \$2,975/person, double occupancy (Single Supplement \$950). Airfare not included. To reserve your place, complete the registration form and return with your \$300 deposit. The Scotland Pilgrimage is operated by **GTB Travel LLC**, a travel services company owned and operated by George Brown. Since retiring as President of Friendship Force International, George organizes customized tours, including a tour to Scotland in 2024. He is a long-time member of Central Presbyterian Church.

Central Presbyterian Church, Scotland Pilgrimage Registration

The Scotland Pilgrimage (September 29-October 9, 2026) is organized by **GTB Travel LLC**, a travel services company owned and operated by George Brown. The cost of the pilgrimage is **\$2,975 per person, double occupancy. Single supplement \$950. Airfare and travel insurance not included.** The price includes all tours, lodging and meals as described in the itinerary. When you register you will be provided information on insurance and travel options, including the possibility to travel to Scotland early or to remain in the UK after the tour. **Mobility:** We are not able to accommodate persons confined to wheelchairs. In places where walking may be difficult, alternative transportation and assistance will be provided. Consult with George Brown if you have questions about your situation.

Registration: To reserve your space on the Pilgrimage, send your registration form to George Brown, GTB Travel, 553 Ridgecrest Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307 with a deposit of **\$300/person**. Payment can be by check to **GTB Travel** or by Venmo: @george-brown-467, or Zelle: 404-583-7730. You can also take a photo of the signed registration form and email or text to George Brown, 404-583-7730, or george@gtbtravel.com. All but \$100 of the deposit is refundable until April 15, 2026, when the balance for the trip will be due, with no refunds after that date. You will need a passport valid through Feb. 1, 2027. **Space is limited to 25 participants so don't delay!**

Financial Assistance: If you would like to be considered for financial assistance, check the box on the form and you will be contacted, confidentially, by one of the pastors to discuss your situation.

Optional Scholarship Gift: If you are able, please consider an additional donation to help provide scholarships for members who need financial assistance.

Terms and Conditions: As with any travel there are inherent risks of loss, damage and injury to person and property. In joining this travel program, you agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless **GTB Travel and Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA** along with staff, officers and agents associated with the program of all claims, actions, and causes of action based upon or by reason of any loss, damage or injury connected with the travel program. Itinerary is subject to change.

For More Information Contact:

George Brown, george@gtbtravel.com or Kate Culver, kculver@cpcatlanta.org

Central Presbyterian Church, Scotland Pilgrimage Reservation Form

Name(s): _____
Print name(s) as on the passport, and date(s) of birth.

Full mailing address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

If registering for one person, name of roommate: _____
or ____ I will pay the \$950 single supplement.

Financial Assistance:

____ I would like to be considered for financial assistance.

____ I will donate \$_____ for financial assistance for the Scotland Pilgrimage
(this can be paid later as a separate donation to Central Presbyterian Church)

I (we) agree to the terms and conditions for this trip _____
Signature(s)