



OASIS MINISTRIES

For Spiritual Development

Presents

A Celtic Pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona with Edinburgh, Rosslyn, Lindisfarne, and Scottish Borders

May 13-24, 2012

Hosted by Rev. Cindy Garis and Rev. Kathleen L. Roney



Join OASIS MINISTRIES
on this meaningful
Pilgrimage to Scotland



In conjunction with

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MTS  **TRAVEL**
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124 E. Main St., 4th Fl.
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Your Tour Hosts:



Rev. Cindy Garis is the Executive Director of Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development. Cindy is a retreat leader and understands her call to ministry as helping others deepen their relationship with God. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a trained spiritual director. While this is Cindy's first trip to Iona, she has a deep love and interest for Celtic spirituality.



The Reverend Kathleen Roney has been an ordained American Baptist minister for 26 years, as well as a trained spiritual director. She is associated with the Iona community. She is a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry degree (DMin) in Spirituality from the Theological School of Drew University. Kathleen is very widely traveled and has led pilgrimages to many places throughout the world, including Iona for both Oasis Ministries and Kirkridge.



Celtic Pilgrimage 2012

www.oasismin.org



As we journey between Iona and Lindisfarne, we become like the Celtic saints of the 6th-13th centuries who were travelers. Their love of travel was motivated by their love of God; their journey was undertaken in order to come closer to God.

While we will have historic, sacred destinations, we will also be in what is called a "thin place"...a place where there is little distance between past, present, and future, and little space between heaven and earth.

As we experience the Iona Community and are "guests of the world," pilgrims with each other, we bring to light what shapes our lives and our spiritual journeys today, journeys inward as well as outward. Celtic monasticism is a world in which journey and stability of place are not at odds at all, but expressions of one spiritual ideal.

*Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
Make me an island, set apart,
alone with you, God, holy to you.*

*Then with the turning of the tide
prepare me to carry your presence
to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me
till the waters come again and fold me back to you.*

Prayer attributed to St. Aidan

An Oasis spiritual pilgrimage is not your typical tour. Our pilgrimages offer the “Oasis experience” of contemplative prayer and reflection (in addition to whatever the particular goals and destination may be) with a prevailing spirit of community, inclusion and personal safety. The nature and quality of the experience sets us apart from “spirituality tour groups,” as pilgrimages are one more way Oasis seeks to create contemplative community. We are committed to providing pilgrimages for seekers not simply tourists. We don’t just want to visit sacred sites, but enter the place in a way that deepens our prayer and our

sense of presence. We want to continually return participants to pilgrim status. Continual attention will be paid to the prayerful nature of the pilgrimage both in the planning and the implementation. As we orient our Celtic pilgrimage around sacred sites in the contemplative tradition, we affirm that there are places worthy of experiencing—places where reverence flows naturally and where prayer and place seem to deepen one another. We understand that it is vital to your experience for us to remain focused on pilgrimage and maintain an experience rooted in community and contemplation.

Sunday, May 13 Departure

Depart for Glasgow this evening on an overnight transatlantic flight.

For Assistance with Air Travel . . .

Each tour member is responsible for their own airline arrangements. If you would like assistance with airline reservations, please contact Trinda Lim, MTS TRAVEL, at trindal@mtstravel.com or call 800-418-2929, extension 81302.

Monday, May 14 Oban, Scotland

Arrive in Glasgow this morning. Transfer to Oban for dinner and overnight accommodations at the Caledonian Hotel.



(FREE group transfer from Glasgow Airport to Oban. If you would like to take advantage of this transfer, your plane must arrive in Glasgow no later than 8 a.m. The coach will leave Glasgow Airport at 9 a.m. Persons not using the group transfer must find their own way to Oban, at their own expense.)

Tuesday, May 15 Isle of Mull

Arise early this morning to begin the journey to the Isle of Iona. This journey includes two ferries and a drive across the Isle of Mull. While crossing Mull, enjoy a tour of the standing stones and stone circles, as well as a visit to Moy Castle. Late in the day, board the ferry for transport to Iona for overnight at the St. Columba Hotel.



Wednesday, May 16–19 Retreat on the Isle of Iona

The Isle of Iona is a beautiful part of the Western Hebrides of Scotland, with pristine beaches, rocky cliffs, and wild iris-filled pastures where lambs graze.

The Isle of Iona has a very special history—from formation of the monastic community by Irish priest St. Columba in the 5th century, without wiping out the influences of the religion of the Celtic druids, to the founding of a Benedictine monastery in the 14th century. Iona was revived as an international, interdenominational Christian community during restoration of the Abbey during the 1930’s to the present.

This pilgrimage will expose participants to the rich history and the remarkable poetic Celtic spirituality that is identified with the Iona Community—a commitment to the integration of deep and creative spiritual practice with an equal commitment to justice for the peoples of the world.

Daily morning and evening prayers will be offered at the Abbey. Anglican and Roman Catholic retreat houses on the Island also offer daily worship open to the public. Our group will hold morning sessions on Celtic spirituality and our afternoons will be free for hiking, walking the beaches, prayer, painting, journaling, boat rides to nearby island sites and more.

Sunday, May 20 Oban – Edinburgh

This morning, return to Oban by ferry and drive south to Kilmartin which sits at the heart of Kilmartin Glen. Within six miles of Kilmartin are at least 150 prehistoric sites and 200 other ancient monuments which include burial cairns, rock carvings, standing stones and the remains of the fortress at Dunadd. We will visit The Temple Wood stone circles and the Dunadd Hill Fort on our way to Edinburgh for overnight at the Point Hotel.



Monday, May 21 Edinburgh

The morning in Edinburgh will be on your own for rest and reflection, sightseeing, and souvenir-shopping. No visit to Scotland is ever complete without a visit to Edinburgh to tour the Edinburgh Castle and walk the Royal Mile which leads from the town to the Castle.

Gather in the early afternoon to head to Lindisfarne. On our way, just south of Edinburgh, we stop to visit Rosslyn Chapel.

Travel to Lindisfarne Holy Island for overnight at the Lindisfarne Inn.



Tuesday, May 22

Lindisfarne

This small, windswept island, is only accessible by causeway at low tide, and is one of the holiest sites in the U.K. It was founded by St. Aiden, an Irish monk who came from Iona and who is credited with converting Northumberland to Christianity. Our time here will be devoted to retreat, prayer, and having space and time for reflection. Remain in Lindisfarne for overnight.

Wednesday, May 23

Scottish Borders Tour

On our way from Lindisfarne back to Edinburgh, travel through the Scottish Border lands and see the Four Abbeys of Melrose, Dryburgh, Kelso and Jedburgh.



Return to Edinburgh for overnight at the Holiday Inn Edinburgh Airport.

Thursday, May 24

Return to USA

Transfer to the Edinburgh Airport for the flight home.

Learn more about any of our stops at our website:
www.oasismin.org

\$100

Early Bird Discount
if deposit is received by
September 1, 2011

Tour Price: \$3,499, land only, based on sharing a double room

Single Room Supplement: \$990

This tour price reflects special group rates. Deposits received after February 6, 2012, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

The following items are included in the tour price

- Accommodations: 1 night Oban, 5 nights Iona, 2 nights Edinburgh, 2 nights Lindisfarne
- Meals: Breakfast and dinner daily
- Ferry and Motorcoach transfers as listed throughout
- Sightseeing entrance fees: Rosslyn Chapel, Jedburgh Abbey Visitor Centre, Melrose House, Kelso Abbey, Dryburgh Abbey
- Tips to guides, drivers and hotel staff



For more information, contact:

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Travel Arrangements by:
Since 1955

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mtstravel.com

124 East Main Street, 4th Floor
Ephrata, PA 17522

Tel: 800-874-9330

Fax: (717) 733-1009

E-mail: info.tours@mtstravel.com

Tour Features and Conditions

*Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully.
Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.*

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily. Opportunity will be given for participants to purchase lunches on their own. Beverages with dinners are not included.

Baggage: *Due to limited luggage storage space on motor coaches, it is **important** that each person bring only **ONE piece** of checked baggage. In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times.*

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motor coach or other conveyance, with local guides as indicated.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations are included. Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for personal services are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

Not Included: Airfare, passport fee, travel protection insurance, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$500 per person. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due March 14, 2012.

MTS Cancellation Conditions: Refund of full deposit (less \$100 administrative fee) will be made up to February 6, 2012. If cancellation occurs between February 7 and April 13, 2012, a fee of \$500 plus unrecoverable airline, hotel and tour operator payments. There is no refund after April 13, 2012, or for unused tour services.

Protect Your Investment: MTS TRAVEL strongly recommends purchasing insurance coverage. If you purchase the protection plan upon enrollment with your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. If protection plan is purchased after the deposit is received, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage, which you will receive upon receipt of deposit. You will have ten days to review coverage and cancel your policy.

Following is a brief description of coverage:

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Medical Evacuation: \$150,000
- Medical Expenses: \$15,000
- Baggage loss/delay: \$750 / \$100

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until November 25, 2012. A visa for Scotland is not required for U.S. citizens.

All rates and fares are based on current information and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 20 persons traveling together.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred.

The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

In the ever-changing world situation, MTS TRAVEL recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit www.mtstravel.com and click "U.S. State Department Travel Warnings" in the middle of our home page.

Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire in advance about whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility

Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/A MTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserve the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

Reservation Form
A Celtic Pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, Scotland
May 13–24, 2012
hosted by Rev. Cindy Garis & Rev. Kathleen L. Roney

This tour price reflects special group rates.

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**To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this form, along with your deposit of \$500 per person to:
MTS TRAVEL, 124 E. Main St., 4th Fl., Ephrata, PA 17522**

Please reserve space as follows:

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$_____ (\$500 per person.)

Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL or complete the credit card payment information below.

(Please Print)

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthdate: _____

Birthdate: _____

Passport Copies: Please provide a clear photocopy of the photo and signature page of your passport. This is required for all international tours.

Room Type: Twin/Double
 Single

Rooming With: _____

Credit Card Information:

Please Charge: My Deposit of \$_____

Mastercard

Visa

Discover

American Express

Name as it appears on card (printed): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

I have read the Tour Features and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____