



SENT ON: WEDNESDAY, DEC 18 2024

Hello, Everyone!

When we come back from winter break, the Scotland tour is going to feel like it is just around the corner...because it is! This is when the flow of information ramps up and the attention paid to details is paramount. Thank you for reading carefully every email we send and paying special attention to time-sensitive reminders and action items. This email contains a few!

Tour Payments Schedule Reminder

The tour fee total is \$3,500. After the \$200 deposit, unless you have an alternate payment plan due to tour assistance, four monthly payments of \$825 are due January 10, February 10, March 10, and April 10. Late payments impact our ability to hold contracts, so huge thanks in advance for paying your installments early or on time. Your payment history is detailed below.

Tour Payment History for {{first}}

Deposit Paid: \${{deposit}} {{method}} {{date}}

Payments Made: \${{PAY 1 DUE JAN 10}} {{p1 method}} {{p1 date}}

Amount Due by January 10: \${{Amount Due January 10}}

Total Paid to Date: \${{total paid}}

Balance Remaining: \${{total due}}

Please let us know if you have any questions. Payments can be made by check payable to MYC (no fees) or via the [Scotland payment portal](#) (additional fees).

TIME SENSITIVE: Valid Passport

Please check that your passport will be valid beyond your travel dates next summer.

The general recommendation is six months of validity beyond your return date. **If you need to renew your passport because it's not valid through your travel dates, PLEASE BEGIN THAT PROCESS NOW.**

If you need to apply for a passport for the first time, **PLEASE PRIORITIZE THIS OVER WINTER BREAK.** [US State Department Passport page](#)

We will need your valid passport number prior to ticketing by early MARCH. **Please start your passport application / renewal process NOW.** Note: if you are renewing your passport, you will be issued a NEW passport number. The passport number we submit for ticketing needs to match the passport you will be carrying on travel day.

UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)

NEW: Starting January 8, 2025, all passengers entering the UK from the United States are required to have an ETA. The ETA is obtained through an electronic application on the gov.uk website and must be requested individually. MYC cannot do this on your behalf. (But we are available to help facilitate this process--please reach out if you need assistance or have questions.)

To apply for the ETA, you will need:

- the physical passport you will travel with--do not apply for the ETA until you have your valid passport in hand
- access to your emails

- a credit card, debit card, Apply Pay or Google Pay (the ETA costs £10, approximately \$13, and is valid for 2 years)

You will need to upload or take photos of the:

- passport
- face of the person applying

You do not need to enter your travel details.

To get started on the ETA:

1. Read about the [ETA here](#)
2. Use the online application or (recommended) download the App from the [App Store](#) or from [Google Play](#). You can delete the app after submission. Expect to use about 10 mins to complete the application (including time to find your passport!)
3. Save the email you receive confirming your ETA is approved. MYC will be asking for this along with the picture of your passport prior to ticketing. We will provide a form for this early next year.

BEWARE of spoof sites. The cost of the ETA is £10. If you see a higher fee, you are not on a GOV.UK site. If you have any questions about this new requirement, please reach out to us. If the cost of the ETA is beyond your means, please reach out to us.

Tour Member Deviations

Tour participants planning additional time in Europe and not returning with the tour group on June 27, will want to coordinate their return travel arrangements through our air handler. This is called a “deviation” and involves additional steps with the airlines but allows the tour participant’s return ticket, purchased through the tour fee, to be “traded in” for an alternate return itinerary.

Submit the [Deviation Request Form](#) directly to Gateway per the directions on the form. Requests must be submitted, completed, and paid in full prior to March 15, 2025. There are a limited number of deviation requests available, and they will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Reminder: Families desiring to travel together after the tour will need to plan their itinerary to include picking up their singer in Edinburgh late Thursday evening, June 26, around 10PM. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate earlier pick ups.

Helpful Items

Be on the lookout for these items as they go on sale. Some will be necessary, others are just nice to have. We'll have a complete packing list next spring.

Necessary

- Comfortable walking shoes—we walk a lot and most of it is on uneven ground (think hiking, cobblestones, beach). There are many all black athletic shoes available that might also work for concert black, saving room in your luggage.
- [Adaptor plug](#) for Scotland (and other countries if you are traveling after the tour)
- Luggage. This is a short trip—only six days plus two travel days. Our packing list will not be very long and so many of us may be successful in packing light with just a carryon. Some of us will need to check our baggage. KLM baggage allowance: 1 checked bag, 62 in maximum (length+width+height). Maximum weight of 50 lbs; 1 hand baggage maximum 22 in long, 10 in wide, and 14 in high, no more than 26 lbs; 1 personal item (handbag, camera, or other electronic device) maximum 16 in long, 12 in wide, 6 in high.

Nice to have

- Shower / dorm hallway shoes (flip flops)
- Passport holder / travel wallet with RFID blocking protection (very optional, but nice). The main point here is to be thinking ahead about passport

security—where will you be keeping your passport on travel day? It needs to be accessible but secure and each passenger needs to be responsible for their passport.

- Packing cubes. These are super helpful for keeping your packed items organized!
- Sunglasses / hat (despite its reputation, Scotland can be very sunny, especially when we are there. :)

Burns Supper 2025!

This is a beloved tour tradition. On January 25, 2025, from 6-9PM, we will throw a Burns Supper party to honor the birthday of Robert “Rabbie” Burns, Scotland’s most famous and beloved poet. People all over the globe celebrate Rabbie Burns with a Burns Supper in January and we will, too, with toasting, eating, and dancing! This serves as our official tour kick-off event. Watch for a sign up in early January. Reservations will be required and this is always a “potluck”.

Tour Roster

Finally, we are pleased to introduce the entire [Scotland 2025 Tour Roster](#)--including singers, chaperones, and staff! We are looking forward to traveling together next June!

There is still room on this tour for singers--if you know a fellow MYC singer who might be interested, send them our way.

What happens next?

- Everyone who needs a passport or a passport renewal will be working on this ASAP.
- Everyone who has a valid passport will be obtaining the required ETA via the instructions above

- We look forward to our festive official tour kick-off event on **Saturday evening, January 25, at MYArts**. More details after winter break!
- Thank you for paying attention and reading everything we send! (Scotland emails will always start with Scotland 2025 in the subject line.)

You made it to the end of this very long digest of important information--congratulations!

As always, please contact us with any questions!

Happy winter break,

Lynn and Mike