

GENERAL INFORMATION – Feb 17, 2008

Map – Area map.

<http://www.multimap.com/maps/#t=l&map=56.44237,-5.26648|2|4&loc=GB:56.41041;-5.46973:14|OBAN|Oban,%20Argyll%20and%20Bute,%20Argyll,%20Scotland,%20PA34%204>

Weather – Possibilities: warm or cool, wet or dry, cloudy or sunny. Hope and pray for “just right”.
None of the unpleasant options lasts for very long. www.weather.com

Travel Tips

- What can you afford to spend (total)?
- How long do you want to stay?
- Do you want the Gathering to be at the beginning, middle or end of your trip?
- What are your priorities, i.e., what are you willing or unwilling to sacrifice?
 - Seeing other parts/places in Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales, Europe
 - Lodging quality or convenience
 - Transportation quality or convenience
 - Not seeing or doing everything you want to on this trip.
 - Flexibility of driving vs. comfort of a pre-planned bus tour

These questions must be answered before making travel and lodging arrangements. This is especially true for reservations where part or all of your pre-payment is not refundable. These decisions are difficult for one person to make and are more difficult when coordinating groups e.g. families and family groups. From a decision standpoint, a pre-planned tour is the easiest. While it sacrifices flexibility it keeps daily decisions (arguments?) to a minimum.

Do you think you will be able to return to Scotland in the foreseeable future? If so, then make this a special trip for the Gathering with some of your other desires on hold for a future trip. If you think this may be your only trip, then make it worthwhile within your physical and financial ability. You'll have no regrets and many lasting memories.

Cost Estimates Per Person

- Major
 - 1. International transportation. Approx. average \$1000 - 1300 round trip from US.
 - 2. Room and Board – Min. \$1000 for 10 days (camping and self-catering less)
 - 3. Transportation – Minimum \$600 / 10 days / small car + gas @ \$6 /US gal.
 - 4. Post-Gathering tour - \$1,400 per person for six days and six nights (optional)
- Minor
 - 5. 4-day Gathering events @ \$200 per adult \$100 per child 6 and older.
 - 6. Gifts, incidentals, unexpected costs Min. \$100 (but your decision)

The first two items can be significantly adjusted to reduce the total cost or you can increase one while reducing the other. For example, what are you willing to do to meet your goal?

- 1. low cost airfares on a discount airline that require early decision and no flexibility?
- 2. low cost lodgings e.g. camping?.

Six days is probably the absolute minimum for overseas visitors unless you have a private jet. You should leave one day at each end for traveling. Ten days or two weeks would make it more relaxing and allow you to see some other sites or visit relatives.

Events – Check the Application Form for estimated fees for each event. It is \$180 – \$300 per adult, depending on which events and mode of transportation you choose.

Accommodation Estimate - **Daily Per Person**

- a. \$25 – e.g. camping www.crunachy.co.uk (per night with \$5 per add'l person).
- b. \$35+ – Self-catering (assumes one week and four occupants = \$800+)
- c. \$55 – \$65 B&B (a room in a private residence)
- d. \$75 – guest house (usually a large home converted into a lodging)
- e. \$60 – \$100 standard hotel (quality varies greatly. Check www.tripadvisor.com)
- f. \$160+ – luxury accommodations

TOTAL ESTIMATED AVERAGE COST PER PERSON FROM THE UNITED STATES.

\$2,500 per person for a 10 day trip (Airfare-\$1000, Lodging-\$600 Gathering-\$200, \$700-Food/Other

\$3,400 per person (double occupancy) for 10 days including the Post-Gathering Tour of Scotland

Current currency exchange rates WWW.XE.COM Presently about \$2 per 1 British Pound

Cost of Living - Items you purchase in stores will cost about 1.5 to 2 times more than in US.

Don't Put It Off – Locate your passport and be sure it is good through September 2008 to have plenty of leeway. If you plan to do any hiking check your tetanus booster status.