



**IRISH TILLAGE AND
LAND USE SOCIETY**

FOREIGN STUDY TOUR 2025

SOUTH-EAST SCOTLAND

24 – 26 JUNE 2025

ITINERARY

Tuesday 24 June 2025

The group will meet early in Cork airport in time for the 5.55am flight to Edinburgh.

On arrival in Edinburgh we will assemble in the airport arrivals hall (outside the Black Sheep coffee shop) and after a stop for breakfast, we will transfer by bus directly to Montrose (approximately 2.5 hours) to visit the Origin Fertiliser Plant where we will hear about the Origin Nutri – Match prescription fertiliser. This blending gives local farmers the ability to order tailor made fertilisers that match their specific needs.

After lunch we will make our way back toward Edinburgh, visiting the James Hutton Institute and the Arable Scotland site in Invergowrie, on the edge of Dundee on the way. At the James Hutton Institute we will be given an insight into some of the latest arable research happening in Scotland and a tour of the vertical farm facility.

On arrival back Edinburgh we will check in to our hotel and have an included group dinner. This dinner will be attended by guest speaker Adrian James from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). Adrian will give us an overview of the Scottish arable industry and will touch on current issues and challenges facing the sector locally, allowing time for a short Q&A.

Wednesday 25 June 2025

After an early breakfast the group will once again travel by bus (approximately 1 hour) to the Scottish Agronomy Summer Trials Open day in Balgonie Estate. While visiting the Scottish Agronomy site we will be given the chance to see some of the research being carried out for the local industry in trials and in the field. Some of this work will include new varieties, and fungicide and herbicide evaluations among other technologies.

During the afternoon we will take the opportunity to visit St. Andrews, a seaside town northeast of Edinburgh that is known for its many golf courses, the ruins of St. Andrews Castle with its medieval bottle dungeon, and the University of St. Andrews.

On our return to Edinburgh the day will wrap up with another included group dinner.

Thursday 26 June 2025

After breakfast, we will check out of the hotel and transfer by bus to the Wester Braikie Farm, a 275Ha arable farm run by Amy Geddes and family near Arbroath. Here Amy will give us an overview of her operations on the farm and will outline her involvement in the Voluntary Initiative (VI) for Integrated Pest Management.

We will then visit the Arbikie Estate and Distillery where, following an included lunch we will be given a guided tour of the distillery and hear from the farm manager about their tillage operation and value adding of their own barley.

Following our visit to the distillery we will make our way back to Edinburgh airport in time for dinner and the 9.25pm return flight to Cork.

Essential trip information

Cost and how to book and pay

- The trip will cost between €1,100 and €1,250 per person with the final price depending on the numbers travelling.
- The price includes all items noted below and is calculated based on two people sharing – a single supplement of approximately €100 will apply for those who require a single room.
- You must complete and return the attached booking form and pay a non-refundable deposit of €300 per person by no later than **Wednesday 19 March 2025**.
- The final payment will be due by 30 April 2025. Once deposits are paid, and numbers travelling are confirmed the final price of the tour will be fixed and communicated to all who have booked.
- The deposit (and final balance) can be paid securely online by using the following payment link <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QZ1U2RSK>. Alternatively, you may send a cheque, together with your booking form to Sinéad Ryan, C/O ITLUS, Ballycarroll, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32T884.
- Places are limited (40 maximum) and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

What is included?

- Return flights from Cork to Edinburgh (including checked baggage).
- Three breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners.
- Transfers to and from the airport in Edinburgh and bus transfers to all sites visited throughout the tour.
- All entry fees for sites visited throughout the tour.

What is not included?

- Flights and airport transfers in Edinburgh for those choosing to book their own flights (see Q&A below).
- Transfers to and from Cork airport.
- Meals, snacks and drinks outside of the breakfasts, lunches and dinners noted on the itinerary, and any other out of pocket expenses incurred (e.g. shopping, optional activities).
- Travel insurance.

Joining point

- Cork airport at the entry to Ryanair baggage drop off area.

Where will we be staying?

- Centrally located 3-star hotel – exact hotel will depend on numbers travelling.

Tour WhatsApp group

- To facilitate coordination, and communication with the group regarding the tour, we propose to use the WhatsApp platform to set up a dedicated tour WhatsApp group. We will require your permission to add you to such a group – please confirm your agreement on the booking form.

Travel insurance

- Travel insurance, which covers medical expenses including emergency repatriation, is required for this trip. It is also recommended that you have a policy that covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects.
- Please bring details of your travel insurance with you, including your travel company's 24 hour emergency contact number.

Physical rating and health details

- This trip can be enjoyed by just about anyone with a reasonable level of fitness.
- We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medication that you may need.
- If you have any allergies or intolerances, these should be made known at the time of booking.

Passports, visas and entry requirements

- You will need a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months remaining validity, so remember to check the expiry date.
- We need your passport information to get everything ready for your trip so it is important that the information on your booking form matches your passport exactly. Please take care to provide the correct details. We recommend carrying a copy of the photo page of your passport while travelling and leaving a copy at home with family or friends.
- We will need you permission to photocopy/share your passport details with the travel agent for flight and hotel bookings – please confirm your agreement on the booking form.
- Irish citizens do not need a visa to enter Scotland.

Money matters

- The local currency in Scotland is the British Pound (GBP).
- While debit/credit cards are widely accepted, we recommend you carry some cash to cover instances where cards cannot be used.

Climate and clothing

- Like home, the climate in this region is extremely varied. It is always a good idea to bring a warm windproof jacket, a hat and waterproof footwear and a waterproof pouch/bag to protect your phone and documents. Comfortable footwear is essential.

Itinerary disclaimer

The information contained in this itinerary is based on the current provisional arrangements with the airline, hotel, and sites we intend to visit. While we hope that changes will not be required, depending on numbers travelling and other factors such as weather, local conditions, transport schedules etc. some amendments to the itinerary may be necessary after you have booked your place. Every effort will be made to keep such changes to a minimum.

Other questions and answers

Question: Can non-members travel?

- **Answer:** Priority will be given to members of ITLUS, however spouses and partners travelling with members are welcome to join the tour.

Question: Can I fly from an airport other than Cork airport?

- **Answer:** The tour has been organised as a package based on return flights from Cork. However, if it is more convenient to you, you are free to make your own arrangements to travel from a different airport at your own expense. In this case you will be responsible for booking your own flight and organising your own transfers between Edinburgh airport and the hotel. You will also be responsible for travelling to a pre agreed meeting point in Edinburgh on Tuesday morning. You will not be charged the cost of the flights from Cork in this instance.

Question: I want to spend some extra time in Edinburgh – can I extend my stay?

- **Answer:** The tour is a package based on return flights from Cork and accommodation for the dates shown. You are free to extend your stay at your own expense. In this case you will be responsible for booking your own return flights and additional accommodation and you will be responsible for your own transfers between Edinburgh airport and the hotel. You will not be charged the cost of the flights from Cork in this instance.

Question: Can I get a room on my own?

- **Answer:** There are some single rooms available. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. A single supplement of approximately €100 will apply if you choose this option.