

## ULTRA ACCESS St. Andrews Day

### Scotland's National Day, and in celebration of Scottish Culture

St. Andrew's Day, observed annually on November 30th, commemorates Scotland's patron saint, St. Andrew, who was one of Jesus Christ's apostles and brother to St. Peter.

A humble fisherman from Galilee, Andrew preached Christianity across Greece and Asia Minor before his martyrdom around 60 AD, crucified on an X-shaped cross in Patras, Greece...  
... a symbol that later inspired Scotland's national flag, the Saltire, with its distinctive white diagonal cross on a blue field.



The historical ties between St. Andrew and Scotland stem from medieval legends.

In the 8th century, his relics were purportedly transported by a monk named Regulus to the Pictish kingdom, landing at the site now known as St. Andrews.

This event, amid turbulent times of Viking raids and territorial disputes, helped solidify Andrew as a protective figure.

By the 10th century, he was officially adopted as patron saint, bolstering Scottish identity during struggles for independence, such as the Wars of Scottish Independence against England in the 13th-14th centuries.

The legendary vision of an X-shaped cloud formation before the Battle of Athelstaneford in 832 AD further cemented this bond, interpreting it as divine favor from Andrew.

Culturally, St. Andrew's Day weaves Scottish Christian heritage with a profound sense of national patriotism.

It celebrates resilience rooted in faith, communal bonds forged through centuries of shared worship, and the enduring legacy of Scotland within the United Kingdom.

Festivities reflect this fusion: spirited ceilidhs (Scottish folk music) echo psalm-singing gatherings, blending Gaelic hymns with folk reels; parades in Edinburgh and Glasgow honour both national saints and the Union; feasts of haggis, neeps, and tatties accompany grace and toasts to Crown and country.

Highland games display physical vigour tempered by strong Christian discipline.

Declared a Bank Holiday in 2007, the day inspires global Scots - many in Commonwealth nations - to reaffirm their dual loyalty through church services, whisky blessings, and reflections on shared British values.

St. Andrew's Day stands as a testament to Scotland's Christian soul and unwavering contribution to the United Kingdom's collective identity.

Gu cridhe na h-Alba!

