

Scotland Itinerary September 8-18, 2025

Sept. 8 Arrive Edinburgh and transport to hotel Overnight Edinburgh at <u>Market Street</u>

Sept. 9 Edinburgh to Inverness

We head North to view the magnificent Forth Bridges from South Queensferry before making our way to Culross - Scotland's most complete example of a burgh of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Heading further into Perthshire, we can have a comfort break in the pretty own of Pitlochry, before continuing into the stunning Cairngorms National Park. We can have an optional visit to Scotland's highest distillery - Dalwhinnie, for a tour or tasting.

Heading up country, we stop at the Newtonmore reconstructed village from the 1700's (Outlander filmed here). At the Highland Folk Museum, you can step back in time and experience life in the Highlands from 1700s to the 1950s.

Ruthven Barracks were built by George I's government between 1719 and 1721 following the Jacobite rising of 1715. They were to house garrison infantry to police the area and enforce the Disarming Act of 1716.

Our last stop today is Culloden Battlefield...last stand for the Jacobites, and defeat for Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1746. Ancient history now with a visit to the amazing tombs and standing stones of Clava Cairns (4500-5000 years old).

Overnight: Inverness Glen Mhor

Sept 10 Circumnavigate Loch Ness

Today we will circumnavigate the worlds most famous lake, Loch Ness.

Firstly, we will journey down the Southern Shore where we can visit some of the small beaches of the loch. At Foyers we can visit the Falls of Foyers (lots of steps but really worth the effort). Continuing south we will visit Fort Augustus and can take an hour long boat trip on the loch. We now turn north and travel the North Shore.

At Invermorriston we can take a lovely river side walk along the River Morriston. Next the magnificent ruins of Urquhart Castle, once one of the most important castles in the country. following the castle you may wish to take in the Loch Ness Exhibition.

2nd night in Inverness at Glen Mhor

Sept 11 Inverness to the Isle of Skye (Via Torridon)

A stunning drive North and a short hike to the lovely Rogie Falls through some of Scotland's ancient and rare pine forests.

Heading west we head on the most beautiful of roads in wild 'Wester Ross'. Through the 4 billion year old Torridon Mountains (give or take a year or two).

A wee break in the beautiful village of 'Sheildaig' before heading up to the **Bealach Na Ba**, the steepest road in Scotland.

View the stunning **Eilean Donan Castle** (backdrop for 27 movies)

Overnight: Skye/Lochalsh Plockton Inn

Sept. 12 Skye Day Tour

There are so many thing to see and do on the Isle of Skye that it would be impossible to see all of the great sites. The island has a coastline 400 miles long, highlights include, the Fairy Glen, Old Man of Storr, The Fairy Pools, Neist Point and much more... Hughs Castle Your guide will chat to you on tour about how to get the best from your time there. 2nd night on Skye/Lochalsh at Plockton Inn

Sept. 13 Skye Day Tour - Exploring the East Coast

There are so many things to choose from today...

- * Neist Point Lighthouse The most Westerly point on the Isle of Skye, giving excellent views over Moonen Bay to Waterstein Head and out over the Minch to the Western Isles. The point is regarded as the best place on Skye to see whales, dolphins, porpoises and basking shark.
- * Dunvegan Castle the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and seat of the Clan McLeod.
- * Giant Mackaskil Cottage (Excellent) Set in a restored Highland croft, the museum shows off the greatness of Angus MacAskill, who was born in 1825 and grew to a mighty 7'9" tall. In 1981 he was recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as the tallest "true giant".
- * Al Fresco Seafood lunch or Pub Lunch in Carbost (Weather dependent)
- * Talisker Whisky Distillery for a tour or tasting (Optional)
- * The Fairy Pools linked to tales of selkies. These legendary water creatures disguised themselves as seals during the day, but at night they came ashore at Glenbrittle beach where they shed their seal skins. Then in human form, they would bathe in the Fairy Pools under the magical glow of a full moon. The pools are a vivid aqua blue and are a popular place for wild swimmers. Quite a walk but worth the effort!

 3rd night on Skye/Lochalsh at Plockton Inn

Sept. 14 Isle of Skye to Oban (Via Jacobite Express route)

We take the ferry from Armadale (Skye) to Mallaig back on the mainland.

A walk onto the white silky sands of Camusdarroch beach before heading south following the magificent route of the Jacobite Express steam train. See Glenfinnan, where the clans rose for the last time in 1745. This is also the location of the Glenfinnan viaduct, used in the Harry Potter movies.

We will then have a detour to marvel at the magnificent scenery of Glencoe (to see where Skyfall was filmed) before we head around coast to **Oban.** We can end the day with a tour or tasting in Oban Distillery if you wish.

Overnight Oban Manor House

Sept. 15 Kilmartin Tour from Oban

We head to the wonderful Slate Isles, the islands that roofed the world. Ancient Scotland awaits us at the amazing Kilmartin Glen, many tombs and standing stones. Climb Dunaad Fort (Ancient seat of the Scoti Tribe, first rulers of all Scotland)

Head around the coast to the pretty town of Inveraray, you may want to visit the Fairytale Castle of Inveraray, ancestral home of the Clan Campbell.

A final walk for the day to the ruined, but imposing Kilchurn Castle.

A full but flexible day.

2nd night Oban at Manor House

Sept. 16 Oban to Callander

A mornings' climb up to McCaigs Tower, a giant colosseum type folly overlooking Oban out to the islands beyond.

Moving East, our first port of call would be the hidden gem of St. Conans' Kirk in it's picture perfect lochside setting. Many different styles of architecture represented here.

A lovely low level walk is next to the 'picture postcard perfect' foreboding Kilchurn ruined Castle.

Afterwards we head into the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park to the historic conservation village of Killin, where we can view the Falls o' Dochart and sample some smoked salmon at their tasting house.

We can stop at Balquhidder Glen to visit Rob Roy McGregor's grave - the Scottish outlaw, who later became a folk hero.

We end the day in the pretty town of Callander Overnight Abbotsford

Sept. 17 Trossachs Trail & Whisky

Today, we venture into the the amazing Trossachs Trail and all of its treasures including the wonderful **Dukes Pass**, mountain drive. This day may be as relaxing or as busy as you wish.

At **Loch Katrine**, you may wish to hire bikes for a very safe ride on a traffic free zone around stunning Loch Katrine, there are all sorts of bikes from Electric to tandem. We then head back to **Callander**, here you may partake in a very entertaining **'Whisky Tasting Masterclass'**. If you don't like Whisky, it's just because you haven't found yours yet. You do not choose the Whisky...the Whisky chooses you! 2nd night in Callander at Abbotsford

Sept. 18 Trossachs to Edinburgh

After Breakfast we have a short walk to the **Bracklinn Falls** (Think Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom!)

Doune Castle now awaits, used for many TV & movie scenes including Outlander, Game of Thrones, Outlaw King and a very silly film called Monty Python & the Holy Grail.

On to Stirling to visit the Castle and paying our respects to one of Scotland greatest heroes, Sir William Wallace ("Braveheart") at the magnificent Monument.

Visit the amazing **Kelpies.**..a symbol of Scotland rich industrial heritage. (Best selfies ever!)

We head back to Edinburgh for late afternoon.

Overnight Edinburgh at Market Street

Cost: \$5500

Inclusions:

- Arrival & departure airport transfers.
- Private Guide/Driver/Concierge throughout your tour.
- Use of a quality vehicle to suit your party size
- Plenty of luggage space.
- Hotel accommodations (including breakfast).
- All excursions, entry fees for castles/museums/visitor attractions on your itinerary.
- 50% off your evening meals (to allow for flexibility). We can reserve the other nights for you at our recommended restaurants.
- Any ferries required to complete your tour

Exclusions:

- International airfare
- Lodging and meals not included in the itinerary
- Gratuities
- Transfer Edinburgh to London
- Add-on days in London

Terms:

\$1000 per person refundable deposit (minus administrative fees) Final payment due June 1, 2025 Prices are in US dollars, per person and based on double occupancy

London Add-On

Sept. 19 Transfer to station for LNER train to London. Train to Goodge Street Station and walk to hotel
Hotel: The Academy

Sept. 20

Hotel: The Academy

Sept. 21

Hotel: The Academy

Sept. 22 Depart for home